

Bunch welcomed to deliver 2018 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture



Bunch

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, was the 2018 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series speaker. The free event was held April 19 at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

“Lonnie Bunch has orchestrated the building of the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African-American life, history, and culture,” said Kane Ditto, president of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. “We are honored and excited to welcome him to our state to see the Two Mississippi Museums and to deliver the 2018 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture.”

As director, Bunch is the lead administrator and senior curator of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Since opening in September 2016, the museum has welcomed more than 3.5 million visitors. Bunch was named director in 2005 after serving for four years as the

president of the Chicago Historical Society, now known as the Chicago History Museum, from 2001 to 2005.

The Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series was established in 2003 to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, one year after Myrlie Evers made an extraordinary gift to the people of Mississippi when she presented the Medgar and Myrlie Evers papers to the Department of Archives and History. Previous Evers lecturers include Henry Louis Gates Jr., Bob Moses and Manning Marable. The series is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“We are grateful for the generosity of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which allows us to expand and enhance such signature MDAH programs as the Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series,” said MDAH director Katie Blount.

In 2014, the Kellogg Foundation awarded \$2.3 million to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to support programming at the Two Missis-

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‘Right Stuff, Tiger Tuff’: 50th anniversary pays tribute to past, present ROTC cadets



The audience stands at attention during the posting of colors, national anthem and invocation for JSU Army ROTC’s 49th Annual Spring Gala. The event was held in the Old Capitol Inn in downtown Jackson.

By L.A. Warren
Jackson State University

During the 50th-year celebration of JSU’s ROTC program, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Reuben D. Jones reminded JSU Army ROTC cadets they would live uncommon lives under a common banner while fighting wars, preserving peace and defending the U.S.

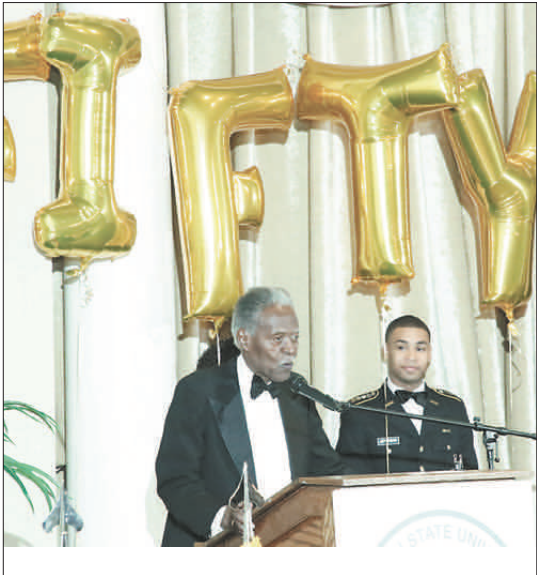
Jones delivered the keynote address April 7 at the 49th Annual Spring Gala by the Department of Military Science in Liberal Arts. The event was held at the Old Capital Inn in downtown Jackson.

“Each of you is part of a proud legacy and must be prepared to serve with honor and dignity,” Jones said. “Each year we set aside this season to celebrate and pay tribute for your devotion, patriotism, selfless service and sacrifice as you prepare for a bright future.”



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Reuben D. Jones was the keynote speaker for the gala. He said, “Each year we set aside this season to celebrate and pay tribute for your devotion, patriotism, selfless service and sacrifice as you prepare for a bright future.”

Jones continued, telling the 127 cadets of the Tiger Battalion that “it is our loyalty to our country and your great courage



John A. Peoples Jr., president emeritus at JSU, founded ROTC at Jackson State University a half-century ago. “Bringing ROTC to Jackson State University was not an easy thing. There was so much opposition,” he said.

that makes us what we are today and what we have been for over five decades: beacons of hope in an increasingly complex word.”

Meanwhile, JSU saluted

ROTC
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Trump gives peace a chance in deciding to meet with North Korea’s leader

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

President Donald Trump’s decision to meet with North Korea’s leader Kim Jong -un opens new possibilities.

Trump’s critics suggest Trump has given Kim a major concession – the recognition that would come from a first meeting with a U.S. president – in exchange for nothing. But talking is far preferable to issuing threats and insults; exchanging proposals for peace far better than exchanging bombs in war.

This diplomatic initiative began when South Korea invited the North to take part in the winter Olympics. This week, Kim and the South Korean president will meet in an inter-Korean summit. They already announced the installation of the first-ever



Jong-un

COMMENTARY

hotline between the two leaders. There are even beginning discussions, pushed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, toward a treaty to finally bring the Korean War (which ended in an armistice agreement in 1953) to a

formal close.

Kim has also made unilateral gestures – what diplomats call “trust-building measures” – toward the U.S. He’s announced that North Korea would no longer insist on the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Korean Peninsula as part of any settlement.

(The U.S. considers the troop presence not negotiable). He’s announced the end to all nuclear and missile testing, and pledged to close the country’s nuclear test site “to guarantee transparency in suspending nuclear tests.”

He pledged that North Korea would never “use nuclear weapons nor transfer nuclear weapons or nuclear technology under any circumstances unless there are nuclear threat and nuclear provocation against the DPRK.”

In a tweet, Trump hailed this as “very good news for North Korea and the World – big progress!”

Some suggest that this opening is simply a ruse. The harsh economic sanctions enforced on North Korea by the United Nations are starting to hurt. China has cooperated, reducing its trade with North Korea dramatically

(about 90 percent of North Korean trade goes through China). Kim, they argue, is maneuvering in order to reduce the pressure, hoping to get food and other aid.

Economic sanctions may be a factor pushing Kim to negotiate. But we should understand that harsh economic sanctions have limits. Neither China nor the international community will enforce starvation on the North Korean people simply because of the folly of their dictator. Trump is right to seize on the possibility of negotiation.

If the Trump-Kim summit does take place, the discussions will be immensely difficult. Kim considers himself the head of a nuclear power, with a tested arsenal, sitting down to negotiate as a peer with the United States. North Korea could end testing because, he stated, they

have successfully achieved their goals.

Trump, on the other hand, acts as if Kim has already agreed to surrender and unilaterally give up his nuclear arsenal in exchange for lifting sanctions and better relations with the U.S.

The problem here is trust. American hawks see the Korean nuclear arsenal as an existential threat that must be eliminated. Deterrence is not sufficient. Korean officials will have good reason to doubt U.S. promises. Iran has adhered to the nuclear weapons deal it made with the U.S. and its allies, but now Trump says he plans to tear it up.

The danger of a failed summit is that Trump’s “war cabinet” – the hawks like national security adviser John Bolton – would use

Trump
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Jackson native serves with the U.S. Navy half a world away



Harriet Gets Carried Away



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Jones “Bruh” Brown celebrated his 100th birthday

April 21 (born April 17, 1918) • Farmhaven, Miss.

PHOTOS BY AYESHA K. MUSTAFAA

Bruh's wife Ada invited family and friends to gather in the Farmhaven campground dining hall to wish him well. His Crossroads Church of God family was joined in fellowship by his brothers, nephews who traveled from Chicago and other places, cousins, family and friends from the Farmhaven community. Heartfelt and humorist remarks were offered in his honor. His brother, 'Erby' (John E. Brown) who turned 98 years old in February, sitting by his side, paid his tribute by singing "What A Mighty God We Serve" as all joined in. Bruh and his happy guests enjoyed catfish, chicken, salads, vegetables and desserts. Crossroads' Pastor Mark Jackson was the program guide and instructed all elders to be served first with the rest to follow him in the line. It was a Happy Birthday party indeed.



Stephon Clark remembered by loved ones as activists call for justice

By Genoa Barrow
Trice Edney News Wire

Having come together to mourn Stephon Clark, the 22-year-old black father killed by Sacramento police officers March 18, many funeral goers voiced the common refrain, “that could have been my son.” Veteran activist Rev. Al Sharpton echoed the sentiment in a rousing eulogy delivered at the Bayside Boss Church service on Thursday.

“This brother could be any one of us,” Rev. Sharpton said. The civil rights champion says he stands with Clark’s family as they take on local law enforcement. “That’s what we’re here for,” Rev. Sharpton said. “We’re here for the family to get justice and to get answers.”

Clark was fatally shot in his Meadowview area back yard Sunday, after two Sacramento Police Department (SPD) officers shot at him more than 20 times. Officers says they believed Clark, a graduate of Sacramento High School, was pointing a gun at them, and “fearing for their safety,” they fired their duty weapons. One officer shot 10 times, another at least 11 times. Police admit they only found a cell phone, not a gun or a “toolbar,” on the scene.

Clark’s death has sparked protests in Sacramento and beyond. After his funeral, protesters again took to the streets of downtown Sacramento, stopping at the Federal Courthouse and the District Attorney’s Office.

“Stephon Clark woke up the nation,” Rev. Sharpton said. Stephon Clark’s brother Ste’Vante Clark interrupted the funeral proceedings as he had done earlier in the week at a community dialogue session with the Sacramento City Council. Like on Tuesday, Ste’Vante Clark again led people in a call



Rev. Al Sharpton, center, and attorney Benjamin Crump, left, address the media and call for justice following the funeral of Stephon Clark who was killed by Sacramento police officers March 18. PHOTO: ANTONIO R. HARVEY



Stephon Clark, 22, was laid to rest Thursday in Sacramento as hundreds of people attended his memorial service. Clark’s body is surrounded by members of the Islamic community as they perform a special ceremony in his honor. PHOTO: ANTONIO R. HARVEY

and response chant of “I am ... Stephon Clark.” He hugged Sharpton and kissed him on the cheek while he spoke.

Sharpton said you can’t kill someone’s loved one and then tell them “how” to grieve.

Ste’Vante Clark also kissed his brother’s casket and invited other family members to come to the microphone and share positive memories. One friend recalled asking Stephon Clark what he wanted to be in life and him answering that he simply wanted to be a good father.

Clark’s two young sons, Aidan, 3 and Cairo, 1, attended the services, lovingly held in the arms of relatives.

“We will make sure that his kids grow up knowing there

is an entire community that stood behind them,” shared speaker Imam Omar Suleiman. Ste’Vante Clark spoke of naming a library or community center in his brother’s honor, a place where young people can go to learn and be safe.

“Stephon is going to live for generations and generations,” he said.

The funeral also included moving performances by the Boss Church Praise Dancers, a group of youth that included Stephon Clark’s little sister, Cai’Lyn Clark; and a poem, “I, Too, Have a Dream,” written by his cousin, Se’Quette Clark.

Genoa Barrow is a senior staff writer for the Sacramento Observer.

ROTC

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Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and others salute the accomplishments of Peoples, who is credited with helping JSU ROTC to become officially activated in December 1968.



Cadet Keith Rowan, left, extends honors to Jones. They’re joined by Lt. Col. Dexter Brookins, right, commander of the JSU Tiger Battalion.

John A. Peoples Jr., president emeritus at JSU, for founding ROTC at Jackson State University a half-century ago.

“Bringing ROTC to Jackson State University was not an easy thing. There was so much opposition to it on the part of the powers that be. ... We were told we did not have enough men for a volunteer unit. So, I had to get crossovers from the local colleges,” Peoples said.

He was turned down by every school expect Hinds Junior College and Tougaloo College.

“This was during the Vietnam War. We had to get support from the men on the campus during a time when there were protests all over the country against the war, even at Jackson State. As a matter of fact, the Army ROTC building was set afire by protesters.”

Peoples said he’s proud of today’s cadets and wish he could have been a part of such a program. Unfortunately, for Peoples, opportunities did not exist then in such a limited and segregated climate.

Joining in the celebration, Lt. Col. Dexter Brookins, commander of the JSU Tiger Battalion, paid homage to Peoples for his resolve to start the program, which was officially activated in December 1968.

Brookins also gave special recognition to supporters, including sponsors, alumni and the Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. As well, he presented scholarships to cadets and welcomed the installation of Mister and Miss ROTC 2018-2019.

Brookins’ remarks also captured the theme of the spring gala, as he declared JSU cadets as being the “Right Stuff, Tiger Tuff.”

Further shining the spotlight on ROTC, Jones explained why JSU must reflect on the sacrifices of the nation’s service members. To accomplish this, he invoked the words of Calvin Coolidge,

who would later become the 30th president of the U.S.: “The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”

Jones told cadets they would forever make a positive impact no matter where they go. “You will inspire future generations.”

In observance of JSU ROTC’s golden anniversary, Jones and the Tiger Battalion shared a laundry list of accomplishments about the history of the program:

JSU ROTC has commissioned more than 800 second lieutenants

Four General Officers have been produced through the program

By December, the program will have commissioned 22 new second lieutenants

Tiger Battalion is credited with producing 99 percent of first-generation officers

JSU serves as the host school under the umbrella of the Tiger Battalion. Participants include Belhaven University, Delta State University, Hinds Community College-Utica Campus, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Mississippi College School of Law, Mississippi Valley State University, Tougaloo College and the University of Mississippi Medical Center Nursing School.

Jones also admonished cadets about the Army’s values (loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity and personal courage). “We don’t leave these behind when we take off our uniforms. We take them back to the communities that we grew up in and the communities that we serve.”

He ended his remarks by offering cadets the same “gift” that shaped his leadership and command over soldiers and civilians:

“Before you speak, listen; before you write, think about it; before you invest, investigate; before you lead, learn to follow; before you teach, do learn; and before you die, live.”

Trump

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a failure to goad Trump into confrontation, even war against North Korea. Lowering expectations publicly, while remaining open to new possibilities privately, is the best course, but one Trump seems simply unable to follow.

Surely it is time to give peace a chance. The summit this week between Kim and South Ko-

rean President Moon will set the stage. A later meeting between Trump and Kim could help lower tensions, even if it doesn’t produce a dramatic resolution.

War on the Korean peninsula would be catastrophic. Finding a way out peacefully is surely worth both time and effort.

Bunch

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issippi Museums and fund a partnership between MDAH and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute.

The Museum of Mississippi History explores the entire sweep of the state’s history. The Mis-

issippi Civil Rights Museum explores the period from 1945 to 1976, when Mississippi was ground zero for the Civil Rights Movement nationally.

See pictures page 19.

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MVSU celebrates the inauguration of its eighth president, Jerryl Briggs Sr.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) capped off its 2018 Founder’s Week by marking another important milestone in the legacy and advancement of the University – the installation of its eighth president, Jerryl Briggs Sr.

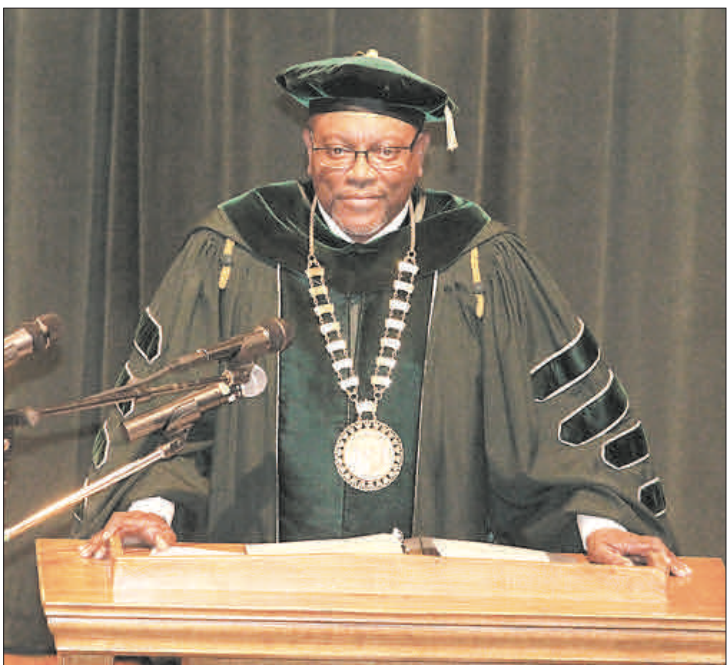
Faculty, students, alumni, community members and higher education officials from across the state and nation gathered in MVSU’s Walter Roberts Auditorium Friday morning for the historic occasion.

During the investiture ceremony, Briggs was formally invested with the responsibility and authority as president of MVSU by Commissioner of Higher Education Glenn F. Boyce and president of the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning C.D. Smith Jr.

“This is a special moment in the history of this outstanding institution,” said Boyce. Briggs is a man with a wealth of experience in higher education and truly understands students and the services and support they need to be successful both on campus and in life.”

Reflecting on the institution’s transformation from a cotton field into a flourishing institution of higher learning, Boyce said Briggs has the skillset needed to continue moving the university forward.

“His experiences throughout his career have prepared him



MVSU eighth president, Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr., gives his inaugural address following the investiture ceremony formally installing him as president.

perfectly for this moment,” he said. We’re fortunate to have a leader of his caliber to guide us and take us to a new point in history.”

During his inaugural address, Briggs accepted the charge and said he considers it a privilege to serve the university.

“It is indeed a blessing for me and my family to be here standing before you as the eighth president of Mississippi Valley State University,” he said.

“I’d like to thank Commissioner Boyce, Board President C.D. Smith and other board members here today for entrusting in me this opportunity

and having the confidence in me to serve. I also want to thank the Valley family for sharing that confidence as well ...You all have embraced me from day one, and it has truly been a blessing.”

Noting the university’s humble beginnings in 1950, Briggs said he plans to continue building upon the university’s commitment and dedication to academic excellence.

“This is our Founder’s Week, and to have this ceremony now just shows, for me, that I’m standing on some very tall shoulders,” he said. There are some individuals who toiled

and really worked to make sure that this institution was successful, and I owe a lot to them. I’m just really blessed to be a part of this great institution.”

Briggs then shared his vision for the university, explaining the meaning behind his addition of “...IN MOTION” to the university’s mantra, “ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY.”

Using an acronym, Briggs said “motion” stands for: Motivation, Optimistic, Time, Inspiration, Outspoken and “No” is not the answer.

“I have a love for higher education, and I really have a true love for HBCUs,” he said. We’re doing some great things. We’re going to continue to support each other, and we’re going to continue to give...someone gave back to me, and it’s my responsibility to assure that others have those same chances.”

During the ceremony, family and friends shared reflections of Briggs and the special moments they’ve shared with him.

Among them were Briggs’ older sister, Gizele Briggs Leon, who fought back tears as she shared what the moment meant to their family.

“He’s a great inspiration to us, and we’re very proud of him,” she said. I am so proud to call my brother President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, but the proudest person who would be here today is my mother.”

Briggs, a self-proclaimed “mama’s boy,” also gave a special tribute to his mother, Varna Briggs, who passed away in 2005.

“I have to give all my credit to my mother. I know that although she’s not here physically, she’s looking down on her son with tears in eyes,” he said. Her love for us was just unwavering, and she sacrificed everything to make sure that we had what we needed in order to be successful. I will always give my mother all the glory.”

Others giving salutations during the ceremony included Carolyn McAdams, mayor of Greenwood, Miss.

“We’re very excited that Dr. Jerryl Briggs was chosen to take the lead at Mississippi Valley State University,” she said. The Valley has a tremendous impact on the economy of Greenwood, roughly \$13 million. Not only does it contribute to the tax base, but it provides us with an educated workforce that impacts the entire Mississippi Delta.

Briggs’ mentees, Brandon Bigelow and Brittany Stephens, said that he played an instrumental role in their growth and development both personally and professionally.

Stephens, who met the then Dean Briggs on the campus of Lincoln University, said that Briggs is the reason why she pursued her education and is currently working in higher

education administration.

Bigelow said he’s also currently pursuing a Ph.D. because of the support he received from Briggs, who stepped in like a father-figure.

“I like to say that I went from a juvenile facility to receiving a Master of Divinity and it’s because of (Briggs),” Bigelow remarked. He instilled hope and confidence in a young black male from the hood of Philadelphia and told him that he could.”

Those in attendance also had the opportunity to learn more about Briggs’ personal side with reflections from long-time friends, mentors and fraternity brothers (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.).

“I know him to be solid, fair, courageous – he’ll step out on a limb, he’ll ask for input, and when he makes a decision, he’ll stand by it and make it happen,” said Rod Batiste of Atlanta, Briggs’ friend of 37 years.

“Valley faculty and staff, you all are in great hands,” he added.

The ceremony concluded with Briggs assuring he would continue moving the institution forward on an upward trajectory.

“I promise you that this university will remain ‘in MOTION,’” he said. We will remain committed to our history, our past. But we’re also going to continue to grow and we’re going to be successful.”



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Trustee Smith passes gavel to Trustee Hooper

Mississippi Link Newswire

Trustee C.D. Smith passed the gavel to incoming President Shane Hooper at the meeting of the IHL Board of Trustees held recently in Jackson. Hooper will officially take office May 8.

“Through both university-specific initiatives and collaborative efforts, Mississippi’s public university system advances the state and provides an excellent return on investment for the taxpayers,” said Hooper. “For every dollar the state invests in Mississippi public universities, the Mississippi economy grows by \$3.21. I am excited to take on this new role as we continue to meet the needs of our students, serve all Mississippians and move the state forward through education, research and outreach.”

Hooper served as vice president of the board during Smith’s term. Trustee Hal Parker will serve as vice president during Hooper’s term.

“I have enjoyed working with my fellow trustees, the commissioner and the universities,” said Smith. “The university system is making great strides, awarding a record number of degrees last year and providing \$2.46 billion in economic impacts around the state. It has been a privilege to serve as president of the Board of Trustees.”

Mississippi Public Universities served more than 95,000 students in Academic Year 2017 and awarded a record number of degrees, 17,760, in 2017. Over the past five years, there has been an 8.9 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded and a 37.9 percent increase in the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduates. Last year, there were 2,849 healthcare graduates, including nurses.

The university system has a tremendous economic impact on the state, supporting



Outgoing Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning Board President C. D. Smith of Meridian (left) passes the gavel to incoming Board President Shane Hooper. Hooper will begin serving his term as president May 8.



Trustee Shane Hooper of Tupelo (left) presents a plaque of appreciation to Board President C.D. Smith of Meridian in recognition of his year of service as board president at the Board Meeting held today in Jackson.

59,258 direct and indirect jobs in 2015.

Trustee Shane Hooper of Tupelo was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Governor Phil Bryant in May 2012 to represent the Third (Northern) Supreme Court District for a term to expire May 7, 2021.

Hooper is a graduate of Itawamba Agricultural High School and David Lipscomb

University in Nashville, Tenn. After graduation, he served his country as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

He has enjoyed a career in the insurance and financial services industry for 16 years. Hooper is president of Success Learning Corporation Inc., a training provider for the insurance and financial services industry.

Jackson native serves with the U.S. Navy half a world away

By Theodore Quintana
Navy Office of Community Outreach

A Jackson, Mississippi, native and 2008 Bailey Magnet High School graduate is serving in the U.S. Navy forward-deployed aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS Curtis Wilbur.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jasmine Hodges is a culinary specialist aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer operating out of Yokosuka, Japan. The ship routinely deploys to protect alliances, enhance partnerships and be ready to respond if a natural disaster occurs in the region.

A Navy culinary specialist is responsible for operating and managing Navy messes and living quarters established to subsist and accommodate Navy personnel.

Hodges is proud to serve in the Pacific and fondly recalls memories of Jackson.

“Growing up in Jackson they teach you the importance of taking care of your family and community,” said Hodges.

With more than 50 percent of the world’s shipping tonnage and a third of the world’s crude oil passing through the region, the United States has historic and enduring interests in this part of the world. The Navy’s presence in Yokosuka is part of that long-standing commitment, explained Navy officials.

“I feel like I am really doing my best to serve my country right now,” said Hodges.

Destroyers are warships that provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. They are 510 feet long and armed with tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles, Standard Missile-3 and newer variants of the SM missile family, advanced gun systems and close-in gun systems.

Destroyers are deployed globally and can operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups or amphibious readiness groups. Their presence helps the Navy control the sea. Sea control is the precondition for everything else the Navy does. It cannot project power, secure the commons, deter aggression or assure allies without the ability to control the seas when and where desired.

Curtis Wilbur has anti-aircraft capability armed with long range missiles intended for air defense to counter the threat to friendly forces




Hodges

posed by manned aircraft, anti-ship, cruise and tactical ballistic missiles.


As a member of one of the U.S. Navy’s most relied-upon assets, Hodges and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes providing the Navy the nation needs.

“Serving in the Navy means teaching the younger sailors their job and how to be adults, being the example of what you want in the world,” said Hodges.

Seventh Fleet, which is celebrating its 75th year in 2018, spans more than 124 million square kilometers, stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan border; and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South. Seventh Fleet’s area of operation encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50 percent of the world’s population with between 50-70 U.S. ships and submarines, 140 aircraft, and approximately 20,000 sailors in the 7th Fleet.



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Outstanding JPS educator headed to NASA for the summer

Mississippi Link Newswire

Veshell Lewis, subject area supervisor for Middle School Science in JPS, has been selected for an internship with NASA. She will spend her summer at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. This is a rare opportunity afforded to only one in five individuals nationwide.

Lewis’ contributions to the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program is a primary factor in her selection. As a GLOBE intern, she will complete a course of work designed to develop her role as a GLOBE Teacher.

GLOBE is an international science and education program that gives the public worldwide an opportunity to participate in data collection. Part of its mission is to help scientists understand the Earth and the environment.

Lewis has a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Southern Mis-



Lewis

issippi and a Master of Science in biology from Jackson State University. She is currently a doctoral candidate in science education at the University of Southern Mississippi.

In 2015, Lewis was recognized as a Master Teacher in GLOBE. In 2017, she was named Teacher of the Year at Callaway High School.

Adult Education Center Fashion Extravaganza draws community support

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson community held a Fashion Extravaganza to raise money for the Morrison Adult Education Program. Men’s Warehouse sponsored the event that took place at the Jackson Medical Mall. Valerie Lindsey of Men’s Warehouse in Jackson and Thessalonía Bingham of Designs by T were the mistresses of ceremonies.

The communitywide affair included models from every sector of the metro area. Students representing all metro area school districts also turned out to model for the benefit fashion show.

The Adult Education Center provides academic programs and skills training to adults. Many of its clients are pursuing positive life and career changes. These services are available to the entire community. In 2017-2018, the Center provided services to nearly 200 clients. Its services benefit individuals, families, local businesses and



Fashion Extravaganza fashion scenes included career wear, casual wear, sportswear, church wear, and formal wear. The event was held as a benefit for the JPS Adult Education Center.

the general public.

Isaac Norwood is director of the Morrison Adult Education Center.

“We are grateful for the generous donations and support of our sponsors and community,” said Norwood. “We look forward to your continued support of the Adult Education Center.”

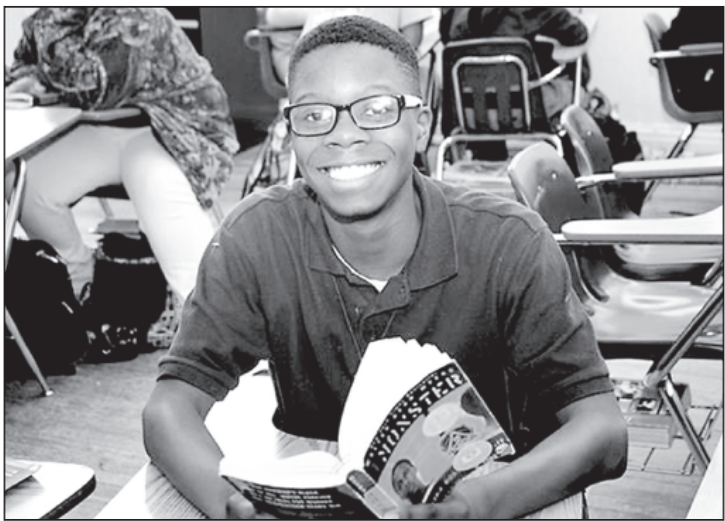
Besides Men’s Warehouse, more than 40 other sponsors gave generously to the effort.

Callaway alum, author, actress headlines summer reading pep rally

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools and its partners in the Read On Jackson initiative kicked off the 2018 Summer Reading Program with a celebration at Forest Hill High School April 12. The theme of this year’s initiative is “Developing and Inspiring College and Career Ready Readers.”

Designed to draw more high school readers, the kickoff was a pep rally featuring performances from all seven JPS high schools. Students performed step routines, songs, and cheers, all aimed at inspiring each other to read this summer.



Read On Jackson promotes a culture of reading. JPS requires students to read three books over the summer and to complete a short reading assignment.

“When I was growing up, I used to love to read and write,” said Coleman-McGee. “Even now as an author, I try to impart that same love of reading in my own three children and in the next generation. As an actress, reading and paying attention has really helped me to be a better person and a better professional.”

The JPS Curriculum Department coordinated the Summer Reading Kickoff. Bobby Brown, executive director of the department, was also a speaker during the program. He and other speakers urged high school students to take the lead this year and read lots of books.

Among those joining him

creating a culture of reading extends to the entire Jackson community.

In addition, Read On Jackson sets a target of engaging 30,000 readers with 100,000 books.

Reading enhances academic gains and future success for students. By contrast, when students don’t read during the summer, they can experience summer learning loss that can lead to academic declines.

Read On Jackson is a summer reading movement that encourages and supports JPS students and their families with their summer reading assignments. The district requires all students to read three books over the summer, one assigned title and two of the student’s choosing. They also must complete a short writing assignment for each book they read.

Partners with Jackson Public Schools in the Read On Jackson initiative include:

- 99 Jams
- City of Jackson
- Jackson Council PTA/PTSA
- Jackson Friends of the Library
- Jackson Hinds Library
- Jackson Zoo
- LeFleur’s Bluff Chapter of the Links, Inc.
- Mississippi Children’s Museum
- Mississippi Public Broadcasting
- United Way of the Capital Area.

Spring Registration Begins

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year begins April 11, 2018. This begins the enrollment period for new kindergarten and first-grade students and students admitted to Advanced Learning Programs (International Baccalaureate, Academic and Performing Arts, Montessori, and Arts Access.)

Parents/legal guardians must schedule an appointment to complete registration using the Appointment Management System. Once the appointment has been scheduled, they should report to the Office of Enrollment Services and Records at their scheduled time to complete registration. Visit the Online Registration page to schedule an appointment.

Registration Information

The following documents are required at the time of registration for all students:

Valid photo ID. (No copies will be accepted.)

Certified copy of student’s long form birth certificate.

State of Mississippi Certificate of Immunization Compliance (Form 121) or Certificate of Medical Exemption (Form 122).

Two Proofs of Residency documents. For a list of acceptable documents, visit the Registration Requirements page.

For more information, call the Office of Enrollment Services at (601) 960-8852.



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MVSU announces Sean Suggs as 2018 commencement speaker

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Sean Suggs, president of Toyota Mississippi, will address Mississippi Valley State University's 2018 graduating class during the 66th Commencement Exercise Saturday, May 5.

The ceremony is slated for 8 a.m. at the Rice-Totten Stadium and will recognize students receiving both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Responsible for all manufacturing and administration functions of Toyota's Blue Springs assembly plant that produces the Corolla, Toyota's highest volume selling vehicle in the world, Suggs was named to his current position in Jan. 2018. In this role, he is also dual-capped as the vice president of admin-



Suggs

istration.

Prior to his promotion to president, Suggs served as vice president of manufacturing from 2016 to 2017 and vice president of administration

from 2014 to 2016 at the Mississippi vehicle assembly plant.

Suggs earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Auburn University in 2010 and a Bachelor of Science degree from Oakland City College in Oakland City, Ind. in 2000.

Prior to rejoining Toyota in 2014, Suggs served as director of strategy, administration and human resources from 2011 to 2013 at Nissan's North American headquarters in Franklin, Tenn. During his five years with Nissan, he also directed production quality at the company's manufacturing and assembly plant in Canton, Miss.

In addition to helping shape Toyota Mississippi's future, Suggs is also building on the

advancement of the Toyota Way in the community through personal service.

Suggs was appointed by Mississippi House Speaker Phillip Gunn to the State Board of Education, a nine-member board responsible for setting state education policies and standards, in 2017; he also serves on the Mississippi Economic Council's executive committee and serves as a board member for the Mississippi Manufacturers Association.

Suggs supports several other nonprofit and economic development boards in Northeast Mississippi.

He and his wife, Janet, reside in Saltillo, which places him close to his six children and their families.

Hinds CC nursing students assist at diabetes conference

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Associate Degree Nursing students from Hinds Community College Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center assisted recently at a diabetes conference geared to those in the community that have diabetes as well as parents of diabetics.

"Students had a very enjoyable time learning about diabetes as well as assisting adults and children with diabetes. There were educational meetings and vendors – so it was a wonderful community service for our students," said instructor Yvonne Cain.



Pictured kneeling from left, Brittanie Towes of Clarksdale and Mary Caldwell of Clinton; in the row directly behind them, Bailey Russell of Canton, Haley Herrod of Vicksburg and Nickeysha Nathanie of McComb; at the table, Cain and Kimberly Jones-Brewster of Pearl; back row, Sabrina Givens of Madison, Paul Coe of Jackson, Daemion Cooper of Jackson, Mya Brown of Jackson, Myra Hayes of Byram, Kyisha Mayfield of Vicksburg, Raegan Pope of Houston, Texas, Breland Sullivan of Brandon, Stephanie Roach of Vicksburg, Johnathon Lowery of Louisville, Elizabeth Easterling of Tupelo, Sarah Chandler of Utica, Kennedy Wellington of Vicksburg; back right, Jessica Perry of Vicksburg.

Winstead named dean of College of Arts and Sciences at USM

The Mississippi Link Newswire

University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Steven R. Moser has announced the appointment of Chris Winstead as the founding dean of the University's College of Arts and Sciences. The appointment is effective July 1, pending approval from the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning.

Winstead, who currently serves as interim dean of USM's College of Science and Technology, emerged from a national search of candidates that included visits to the university's Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses from three finalists.

"As the founding dean of the new College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Winstead will lead remarkable faculty and staff in charting the course of the new college," Moser said. "Over the last year he has proven himself to possess strong abilities to lead a complex academic organization with great insight."

The College of Arts and Sciences is being formed as part



Winstead

of a university-wide academic reorganization that aims to enhance the distinctiveness of the university's academic programs and to create a sustainable model for academic programming. Among other efficiencies, the reorganization reduces the number of academic colleges from six to four, including the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve as founding dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi," Winstead said.

"This new college will foster our efforts to work across disciplines to provide unique and transformative experiences for our students. I look forward to working with the faculty and staff of our new college to facilitate an environment that prepares our students for their future and puts them on track to meet their goals and aspirations. I appreciate the support of the university community, the search committee, Provost Moser and President (Rodney D.) Bennett in allowing me this once in a lifetime opportunity."

A native of Hattiesburg, Winstead earned bachelor's degrees in physics and mathematics from USM in 1988 and a Ph.D. in physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1995. He then served as a postdoctoral researcher, assistant research professor and associate research professor at the Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory at Mississippi State University.

In 2002, Winstead joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at The University of Southern Mississippi as an associate professor and was pro-

moted to professor in 2009. At Southern Miss, he has served as principal investigator and director of the Signal Research Center, interim associate dean of the College of Science and Technology and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Winstead's research focuses on the application of optical, laser, and computational physics to improve radiation detection and investigate the effects of radiation on the atmosphere. His work has been supported by agencies such as the Department of Defense, NASA and the Department of Energy.

"I believe that the best days for our academic enterprise are ahead of us," said University President Bennett. "I am delighted to welcome Dr. Winstead to this new role, and I am confident his demonstrated ability to be effective as a senior academic leader will not only position him well to lead and inspire growth through our new College of Arts and Sciences, but will also help move The University of Southern Mississippi into our bright future."

Tuition increases approved for first reading

FY 2019 Resident Tuition				
Institution	Approved FY 2018		Requested FY 2019	
				Change
ASU	\$	6,878	\$	7,084
DSU		6,739		7,076
JSU		7,501		7,876
MSU		8,208		8,540
MLW		6,514		6,840
MVSU		6,402		6,530
UM		8,190		8,550
USM		8,108		8,514
SYSTEM AVERAGE		7,318		7,626
USAC		8,268		8,433

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning approved for first reading tuition increases for the state's eight public universities at its meeting held recently in Jackson. The proposed increases average \$309 per year. The matter will be brought back to the board for second reading, and possible final approval, at the board meeting in May.

"Students come to Mississippi public universities with expectations of receiving a quality education that will prepare them well for the future," said Glenn Boyce, commissioner of Higher Education. "It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken to meet those expectations. Universities must have the resources necessary to provide quality programs, faculty, services and facilities."

Mississippi students will still pay less than their fellow students in neighboring states. With the rates approved, the average in-state tuition and fees at Mississippi public universities for FY 2019 is \$7,626, compared to the FY2017 average in-state tuition and fees at public universities in neighboring states:

- Alabama: \$ 9,201
- Arkansas: \$ 7,596
- Louisiana: \$ 8,102
- Tennessee: \$ 8,806

[Source: IPEDS FY 2017 In-State Tuition]

"Investing in higher education is still the best investment a student can make in his or her future," said Boyce. "Tuition is an investment that has the potential of increasing earning potential every year for the rest of their lives. A college degree opens windows of opportunity that otherwise would be closed forever."

Tuition represents one facet of the universities' budgets,

comprising 67 percent of the overall budget. State appropriations make up 24 percent of the overall budget. Over time, the reduction in state appropriations has been significant.

"We greatly appreciate our legislature and state leaders for providing a small increase in our appropriations," said Boyce. "The proposed tuition increases will be used to help fill the gap left by reductions sustained by the universities over the past several years as state revenue has lagged. Universities are exploring all avenues for reducing costs, while maintaining the quality of education students receive."

Universities have reduced spending. Cost-saving measures include outsourcing some services, merging academic departments and schools, reducing travel, implementing energy efficiency measures, not filling unfilled positions and analyzing facility usage.

While reducing expenses, universities serve more students than ever before, enrolling more than 95,000 students during an academic year and offering 891 degree programs. In addition to having our highest enrollment in history, Mississippi public universities are graduating more students than ever before, with 17,760 degrees awarded in 2017. Over the past five years, there has been an 8.9 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded and a 37.9 percent increase in the number of STEM graduates. In 2017, there were 2,849 healthcare graduates, including nurses.

"Students must continue to receive a quality education that will prepare them to compete successfully in a global economy," said Boyce. "Universities must have the resources necessary to provide the quality education our students expect and deserve."

Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds CC inducts new members for Spring 2018

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Gamma Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College held a ceremony March 30 on the Raymond Campus to induct members for the Spring 2018 semester.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to students who have

a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on 12 or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

New members included Marva Jennings, Taylor Blue, Jordaine Piernas, Xavier Heard, Valanez Hopson, Everett Craft Sr. and Priscilla Greer, all of Jackson.

For information about advertising in The Mississippi Link please call: 601-896-0084

Presidential Recruitment Tour: JSU amps up high school crowds in Meridian, Greenville

Jackson State University

Meanwhile, at Meridian High School, more than 300 seniors gathered inside its auditorium. Juniors were permitted to attend JSU's organizational fair, where information was distributed and questions answered about the urban institution.

Steven Smith, associate dean for JSU's Enrollment Management and director of Admissions and Recruitment, spearheaded the tour. Areas strategically selected were because of past relationships with leaders there.

JSU's trip to Meridian, for example, resulted from Smith's previous association with the high school's principal, Victor Hubbard. In addition, Greenville Mayor Erick D. Simmons, who had been recruited by Smith to JSU on a full scholarship, strongly supported the visit to the Delta by the HBCU.

Smith said visits such as these are vital to JSU and to thousands of students statewide.

"We want to ensure that every corner of the state has an opportunity to view JSU up close and personal and to provide them access to areas within the university community they wouldn't have ordinarily. Our visit allows students to see various aspects of recruitment: financial aid, academic areas of study, the Sonic Boom of the South and other student organizations," he said.

During the event, Smith said students are amped from the very start when the band ushers in JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. and a parade of others representing the university.

After video highlights of JSU, Bynum's rousing speech energizes the crowd, Smith said. "Dr. Bynum takes them through the trials and tribulations of his personal life, giving them points of reflections and advising them on what they should and shouldn't do."

Following Bynum, there are introductions and appearances by the MADDDRAMA performance troupe, cheerleaders and staffers representing academic colleges, financial aid and admissions. Afterward, the legendary Sonic Boom rocks the room again.

There are other key players, too, Smith said.

The JSU Blue Ambassadors is a

central recruiting tool because members are close to the ages of the spectators and can "speak their language." The mission of the Ambassadors is to share the "True Blue Tiger Experience with prospective students, their families and community members." During their tour visits, Blue Ambassadors captivates the crowd with high-impact dance moves and other pep-rally styles.

After all the electrifying appearances, students prepare for the organizational fair by speaking to JSU representatives armed with vast knowledge and material. Staffers and others addressed dozens of questions posed by prospects. Inquiries included scholarships, academic programs, admissions requirements and about everyday life on the JSU campus.

Because of the success with the prospective students, event hosts described JSU's appearance as "unmatched" when compared to other visiting universities. Smith credited their accomplishments in Greenville and Meridian to its army of students, faculty and staff who converged on their host cities with dazzle and flash. He also praised Bynum for "skillfully" catering his message to the environment of his audience.

As for the end result, Smith said, "We were able to close deals with students who were up in the air as to where they wanted to go to continue their education. They got a chance to see and touch the president."

Smith said JSU expects to expand its tours. The university aims to travel to northeast and northwest Mississippi, venturing to Tate and Itawamba counties, Tupelo, then back south to Hattiesburg.

As a graduate of JSU, Smith said the tour unleashes memories. He recounted his first experience at JSU when he was recruited to play football.

"Everything was new to me then. This tour allowed us to go into those communities to show what we offer and provide information to those who know absolutely nothing about JSU. That was me back in the day," Smith said.

"We are really planting seeds that are going to grow exponentially in the future. So, we want to make sure every year we capture juniors and seniors."



Greenville students are hyped by the Sonic Boom and other JSU performances during a recent Presidential Recruitment Tour in the Delta. About 1,000 students from more than a dozen schools assembled inside the Washington County Convention Center.



JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. is welcomed to Greenville by Mayor Erick Simmons and wife Dr. Temika M. Simmons.



Leaping into action, the Sonic Boom shakes up Meridian High School during a stage performance.



JSU's Arron L. Richardson, interim director of JSU's Disability Services, provides information to inquisitive students. PHOTOS BY SPENCER L. MCCLENTY/JSU

JSU surpasses Day of Giving goal of \$100,000

Jackson State University

Students, faculty, alumni and community supporters united for JSU's fourth annual Day of Giving recently. The 24-hour online challenge aims to ignite the love and support from the JSU family in an effort to increase funds for students.

Monica Lewis, director of Annual Giving, says the funds from the online challenge will directly impact students with great financial needs.

"The Day of Giving funds will assist students with economic barriers, financial hardships and any type of unforeseen emergencies that interrupt their education here at Jackson State.

Urging donors to provide financial support within a 24-hour time frame, the unique online challenge allows anyone to give in any area that is important to them.

"Social media assists with giving supporters bragging rights. It has created a buzz that has caused friendly competition among each Greek organization, the Jackson State University National Alumni Association (JSUNAA) local



Director of Annual Giving, Monica Lewis expresses excitement towards alumni who showed up eager to contribute their financial support for the Day of Giving challenge.

chapters and even the different graduation classes. This momentum is ignited with the help of crowd-funding real-time donations," Lewis said.

Because of loyal alumni, friends, faculty/staff and students, the financial goal of \$100,000 was reached and surpassed within the 24-hour time

limit allotted.

"I feel that the JSU family is becoming more and more familiar with the culture of giving back, and they want to remain connected to JSU through their gifts and their time. It is exciting to see a win for JSU and everyone feels that they have played a role," Lewis said.



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Obama to deliver 16th Mandela lecture in South Africa

TriceEdneyWire.com

Former president Barack Obama will deliver the annual Nelson Mandela memorial lecture at a 4,000-capacity arena in Johannesburg in July.

Obama met with Mandela in 2005 and eulogized him at his death five years ago, saying “(Mandela) makes me want to be a better man.” The lecture marks 100 years since the birth of the anti-apartheid icon.

Under the title “Renewing the Mandela Legacy and Promoting Active Citizenship in a Changing World,” Obama’s speech will focus on working across ideological lines and resisting oppression and inequality.

Obama is likely to address growing intolerance in a world where extremist views are finding a mainstream platform in western countries including the United States, France and Germany.

Sello Hatang, head of the Nelson Mandela Foundation,



Obama

Madela

said the foundation had been seeking someone with “an Africa heritage” to deliver an address that will “deal with issues of democracy” facing the world today.

“We thought who can (better) represent the legacy of Madiba than the person who we believe took the baton when he became president of

his own country,” Hatang said.

Hatang told the AFP news service that Mandela was “elated” when Obama was elected in 2008 “because he saw it as a moment in American history.”

Benjamin J. Rhodes, a former speechwriter for Obama who still advises him, said the former leader views this as his most important speech since

leaving the White House, one that will set the tone for his post-presidency.

“Mandela was a beacon to Mr. Obama, inspiring what he once said was his first “act of political activism” – a speech he gave as a student at Occidental College for the anti-apartheid movement,” Rhodes said.

Observed the online news site Quartz, “Where the current administration seems to have forgotten about Africa (or just insulting it), Obama is still looking to the continent as a key future player.”

He will also use his visit to South Africa to launch his new program, Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa.

“The five-day program will begin after the lecture and include 200 young Africans,” the Obama Foundation said.

Obama’s lecture will be held at the Ellis Park Arena July 17, a day before Mandela’s birthday.

Three case studies: blacks seeking help often risk their lives

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com

Fourteen-year-old Brennan Walker, a black high school student, knocked on a stranger’s door to ask directions to school after oversleeping and missing the bus. He was walking to school in Rochester Hills, Michigan, a Detroit suburb, when he became lost.

He was greeted by a hysterical white woman screaming, “why are you trying to break into my house?”

She roused her husband, Jeffrey Ziegler, who ran to the door with a loaded shotgun. Ziegler, a retired fireman who is white, fired one shot, missing Walker who ran away, hid and cried. Police arrested Ziegler, charging him with assault with intent to murder and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

This was a traumatic experience for Walker, but he’s lucky to be alive based on past cases of blacks seeking help. In at least two instances, blacks who knocked on the wrong white person’s door seeking assistance ended up dead.

One of the victims was Jonathan Ferrell, a former Florida A&M student and football player, who was involved in a one-car accident in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Randall Kerrick, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, police officer, shot to death Ferrell, 24, who was seeking help following the accident.

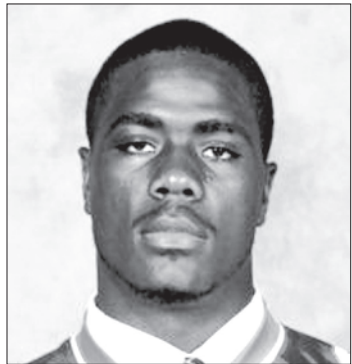
Ferrell knocked on Sarah McCartney’s door for help. She called police claiming Ferrell, a black man, was trying to break into her house. She said the same exact words as the woman who screamed at Walker. Kerrick arrived on the scene and shot the unarmed Ferrell 10 times, instantly killing him September 14, 2013. Kerrick claimed he feared for his life. Police often say this when they confront a black man. Kerrick walked.

The next day, police discovered Ferrell’s wrecked car in a nearby ditch, and they realized he was seeking help.

Another victim was nineteen-year-old Renisha McBride. She was shot to death November 2, 2013, when she knocked on the windows and the door of a house owned by Theodore Wafer in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, seeking help after crashing her



Walker



Ferrell



McBride

car. Wafer fired through the door, killing McBride after claiming he thought she was a burglar, a common reason whites find to shoot blacks.

Wafer is now serving 17 years in prison after being convicted of second-degree murder, manslaughter and weapons violations.

We as blacks have a list of things that put our lives in danger. They include driving while black, shopping while black, walking while black, breathing while black and now seeking help while black.

Blacks risk seeking help from whites because we look at ourselves and see nothing threatening, forgetting that many whites, including police and women, don’t see us that way. The way they view blacks is startlingly similar as if they all have attended the same class.

Examples are when women clutch their purses when they see a black man and security guards only follow only blacks in stores.

Police officers who shoot and kill black men say they feared for their lives.

Former First Lady Barbara Bush laid to rest



TriceEdneyWire.com

First Lady Barbara Bush was laid to rest April 21. Former Presidents George H. W. Bush, her husband, George W. Bush (her son); Bill Clinton and Barack Obama attended the services, held at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston. First Lady Melania Trump and former first ladies Laura Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Michelle Obama

also attended. President Donald Trump did not attend he said, to prevent the distractions of a presidential presence, such as security.

The group posed for a photograph, released by the White House after the funeral.

Upon the death of Mrs. Bush, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Cedric L. Richmond (D-La.), released

the following statement on the passing of former First Lady Barbara Bush:

“Barbara Bush was not only the matriarch of an American political dynasty but the matriarch to many throughout the country – one who raised a family of national leaders, including a president and a governor. As First Lady, Barbara Bush championed the cause of literacy and understood, as the

members of the Congressional Black Caucus understand, that education is the pathway out of poverty. The Congressional Black Caucus sends our thoughts and prayers to the Bush family as they mourn the loss of a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We join the nation in our appreciation of Barbara Bush’s public service.”



Black male hero disarms man who murdered four with AR-15 rifle

TriceEdneyWire.com

After watching WGN television news in Chicago Sunday show mugshot after mugshot of black men either under arrest or wanted by police, it was exciting to see a photo, not a mugshot, of James Shaw Jr., a 29 year-old black man who successfully wrestled away an automatic rifle from a nearly naked white man after he had shot to death four individuals, including three African Americans, Sunday at an Antioch, Tennessee, Waffle House restaurant.

The killer, later identified by police as Travis Reinking, 29, who was raised in Morton, Illinois, ran away but police captured him without incident in the woods behind the restaurant Monday.

Reinking shot to death two people outside Waffle House before walking inside and firing his AR-15 rifle, then pausing to reload.

The dead were identified as Taurean



Shaw

C. Sanderlin, Akilah Dasilva, Joe R. Perez and DeEbony Groves. Police charged Reinking with four counts of murder. No bond was set.

Reinking also wounded two others. When Reinking paused his firing,

Shaw rushed him and wrestled the gun away from him before throwing it over the restaurant’s counter.

Shaw had been hiding in the bathroom when Reinking fired a bullet through the bathroom door.

“I think that’s when I became alert about the situation and was like, there’s kind of no running from this. Kind of like a fish in a barrel type thing and I’m going to have to try to find a flaw or a point in time where I can make this work for myself,” Shaw Jr. explained on Good Morning America Monday morning.

“I was completely doing it just to save myself,” Shaw Jr. told reporters at a news conference, the BBC reported. “I did save other people, but I don’t want people to think that I was the Terminator or Superman or anybody like that. I figured if I was going to die, he was gonna have to work for it.”

Reinking and Shaw then ran in opposite directions.

Shaw created a GoFundMe campaign to help the Waffle House victims and their families. The fundraising page, which GoFundMe verified for MONEY as legitimate,

says simply:“My name is James Shaw Jr. I am creating this page to help the families of the victims from the shooting that took place at Waffle House in Antioch, TN. Please take the time to donate as all of the proceeds will be given to the families. Thank you again for your generosity and blessings!

Thus far, the website has raised more than \$109,000.

Shaw, who works for AT&T, is being hailed as a hero. The Tennessee Legislature honored him, but President Donald Trump hasn’t called him although the White House in a press briefing praised his courage.

Shaw did what Trump said he would have done in another situation.

Trump claimed he would have rushed into Marjory Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida and disarmed Nikolas Cruz who fired an AR-15 rifle, murdering 17 students February 14.

Wade named employee of the month at Mississippi State Hospital

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Annika Wade has been named Mississippi State Hospital’s April Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Wade, a Utica resident, is a staffing coordinator on male receiving. A Jackson State University graduate, Wade began working at MSH in 1995.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

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.



Wade

Discovery U Day



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Discover a world of biomedical science with students from the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s (UMMC) School of Graduate Studies Discovery U program at the Mississippi Children’s Museum.

When: Friday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Mississippi Chil-

dren’s Museum, 2145 Museum Boulevard, Jackson, MS 39202

Led by Dr. Michael Ryan, Discovery U is a program at UMMC that oversees and promotes K-12 and undergraduate outreach and research.

Bring your junior scientists, doctors and nurses to MCM to explore the functions of the body with real experiments.

All activities are included with general admission (\$10 per person) and museum membership.

For any questions, please contact Monique Ealey, assistant director of Programs, at monique@mcm.ms or at 601.709.8351.

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Congressman Bennie Thompson announces \$804,262 awarded to healthcare centers in the MS Second Congressional District

The Mississippi Link Newswire

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced The United States Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices through the Health Center Cluster Program has awarded \$804,262 in discretionary funds to the MS Second Congressional District.

Grantee	Amount	Contact
Jefferson Comprehensive Health Center, Inc.	\$223,587	Shirley Ellis- Stampley 601-786-3475
Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center	\$267,698	Aurelia Jones-Taylor 662-624-4292
G. A. Carmichael Family Health Care Clinic	\$312,977	James Coleman 601-859-5213

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Mississippi’s counties, municipalities commit to Census

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi and other states across the Nation are entering the first major phase of the 2020 Census: comparing local address information received from states, counties and municipalities to address information housed at the U.S. Census Bureau.

This address update initiative, dubbed the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program, is the first step in the 2020 Census process. LUCA is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state and local governments to review and help revise the U.S. Census Bureau’s residential address list, which has been the most effective way to contact, survey and count individuals across the country.

All of Mississippi’s counties and municipalities have committed to participate in LUCA. In 2010, the last time a decennial census was conducted, only 35 Mississippi counties (48 percent) and 97 cities (32

percent) participated in sharing updated address data with the U.S. Census during LUCA.

Addresses are the only information implicated in LUCA. Names of residents and other personal information is not at issue.

“Census data is used in almost every facet of our lives – research, economic development initiatives, aid and grant distribution and so on,” Governor Phil Bryant said. “If we are going to get an accurate count, we had to start with a commitment to help from our counties and municipalities. They quickly answered the call.”

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, designated chair of the Census LUCA Committee by Governor Bryant, agreed.

“We are already ahead of where we were in 2010,” Hosemann said. “Every Mississippian counts, so it is imperative for our state and local governments to band together in this united effort to find ev-

ery inhabited residence.”

Mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Census counts every resident in the nation and is conducted every 10 years. Residents are counted at their “usual residence,” or the place where they live and sleep, generally by an e-mailed or mailed survey, or phone or in-person interview.

Data collected through the Census process determines congressional and many state legislative seats and is used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.

In 2015, Mississippi received more than \$6.14 billion in federal aid for programs like Medicaid, S-CHIP, Head Start and the National School Lunch Program as a result of Census information.

For more information on LUCA, visit the U.S. Census Bureau’s website at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/luca.html>.

Sound the Alarm begins this weekend

Red Cross goal to install 750 free smoke alarms in Jackson

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The American Red Cross Mississippi Region will join the National American Red Cross movement to reduce the number of deaths and injuries in home fires. The event Sound the Alarm. Save a Life. involves volunteers who will canvass neighborhoods to offer free smoke alarm installations and fire safety and escape planning.

The Red Cross will target 100-high-risk communities nationwide starting April 28 through May 13. Jackson is the high-risk community in Mississippi.

For three consecutive Saturdays, in April and May, the Mississippi Red Cross workforce will mount smoke alarms. The goal is to install 750 alarms. Bed shakers are available for those who are hearing impaired.

For each install date, Red Cross volunteers will deploy from Golden Key Multipurpose Center to neighborhoods. The center is at 3450 Albermarle Road, Jackson, MS 39213.

The Jackson Fire Department will ring a memorial bell for seven lives lost in Hinds County in fires during Red Cross FY2017 at a kickoff 10 a.m. press conference. Local and state leaders have been invited to attend.

Installation time for each event is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the dates below:

- Saturday, April 28, 2018: Virden Addition
- Saturday, May 5, 2018: Grove Park
- Saturday, May 12, 2018: Delhaven.

Groups and individuals can register on-site each event date, or go to www.SoundTheAlarm.org.

org.

The Red Cross installs smoke alarms year-round across Mississippi. People can contact their local Red Cross office to request an install.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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The grace of God brings down walls and partitions

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



As we look over the country, we can see there have never been more church activities and churchgoers than there are today, yet few are truly dedicated to God. There have never been more church buildings with steeples reaching toward Heaven than there are today, but unfortunately, there is the smallest demonstration of the principles of pure religion in the lives of many people. If all the people who profess faith in Christ and claim to be born again were real Christians, there is no telling what great condition our world would be in.

I know for sure that children would not be looking to

drugs for a thrill. They would not be looking to the whiskey bottle for a thrill because they would be finding a thrill in serving God.

We read in I Corinthians 1:1-4 these words: “Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: 3, Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4, I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” Paul saw the works of God among them and thanked God on their behalf. One may go places and see the manifestations of God and say, “Oh

that is all in the flesh; that is only emotion.” Paul did not reject it or try to downplay it. He rejoiced in it and thanked God. My friend, the reason the Corinthian church was so outstanding was due to the grace of God prevailing in their midst. They were enriched spiritually and God gave them the ability to know the things of God. They confirmed the testimony of God by their lives.

The gifts of the Spirit were working unhindered and harmoniously in their midst and it was all due to the grace of God. Paul exhorted them to continue in the grace of God. So many people start in the grace of God but then they stop; they fall. Paul brought to the attention of those brethren, the greatness of God’s favor upon them by bestowing this grace.

In Ephesians 2:14, Paul spoke of how Christ came and broke down the middle wall of partition and made of twain one, so making peace. Many people have built walls and partitioned themselves off. They have this clique and that clique and this one and that one hold out for their own views, bringing a state of disharmony and confusion. May there be no division among us but let us be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same spirit. That is what it will take to reveal to lost mankind God’s way for them to be saved and to bring glory to the great name of God.

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

P R E S E R V E D

God’s pruning

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Texas where television journalist Soledad O’Brien was a keynote speaker. As part of her presentation, O’Brien used vivid details to share about issues of race in her professional and personal life.

One story she shared described her looking through the personal papers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She was able to closely examine the words of Dr. King and study how he edited some of his most important speeches.

She then added how the progression of Dr. King’s thoughts and ideologies was evident not just in what was left in the speech but mostly by what his handwritten comments had taken out. The transformation from anger to a more reflective hope was one of the things she noticed. She added that she learned more about him not by what was left in the speeches but by the words that he deleted.

In that instance, it dawned on me that some shifts in relationships and friendships was God’s way of doing the same thing in my own life. I’d placed so much value on friendships and had spent much time saddened by the loss of a once valued friendship. As I worked through the loss, God placed some very encouraging people around me who gave me words of support when I needed them most. But there were still times when I felt

that the loss was greater than the comfort of their words.


In the past, I’d said that when people leave your life, it’s because God no longer has a purpose for them in your life. But sometimes I wondered if there was another reason why God allowed those shifts to happen especially in relationships. Was it as simple as God respecting our free will and allowing us to work through our choices, consequences and circumstances?

Hearing O’Brien’s words gave me a new way of looking at others who were no longer a part of my life. Her words made me think about what I learned about myself when other relationships and friendships ended. I’d been so focused on what I’d lost that I couldn’t see that in the process of the loss, God had allowed me to become both stronger and more compassionate.

The transformation described in the words of Jesus in John 15:1-3 was what God also wanted in me: “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.”

Years later, I’ve built even stronger and more fulfilling friendships. Just like O’Brien could see transformation in Dr. King’s deletions, I could now look at my own life and see that deletion was a part of God’s process of transformation.

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



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Predatory lending is the tip of the iceberg

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is supposed to “protect” consumers from fraud and predatory lending. But since 45 has ruled the roost, he has empowered exploiters to extract too much money from consumers.

And he has exposed himself to implicit bribes, which is why the Consumer Financial Services Association of America was meeting at the Trump National Doral Golf Club from Tuesday April 17 to Thursday April 19, 2018. The payday lenders, who describe themselves as the “small dollar credit industry, offer loans at an annualized interest rate of as high as 600 percent, have been lobbying to loosen regulations against their industry.

As they met in Florida, they focused on the fact that the Florida state legislature had planned to allow them to lend more, at higher interest rates, in the interest of exploiting more poor people, mostly black and brown folks.

I went to Orlando and Miami as the guest of the National Faith and Credit Roundtable; a group of religious leaders who are disturbed about the many ways payday lenders are able to exploit poor people. The stories they tell are harrowing – about a woman who borrowed \$500 to fix her car so that she could go to medical appointments, and then found herself paying more than \$6000 – 12 times the amount she borrowed—over two years, and still needing intervention to stop her enormous payment. I went to hear ministers use the Bible to talk about the many ways that usury is seen as an abject sin. I went to Orlando and Miami because I wanted to bear witness to the work “woke” pastors are doing to forward the agenda of social and economic justice.

If this were only about Florida, it might not merit my attention. But Florida is Missouri, is New Mexico, is Nevada, is California, is Wisconsin, is Michigan. Each of these states have very loose regulations for payday lenders, which means that folks are charging as much as 600 percent for these “small dollar” loans. The challenge is that desperate people go “small dollar” but offer their car, their next paycheck, or even their home, as collateral. If the payday lender can go into your bank account to pay, all your other bills stand in the back of the line. How to close the gap? Take out another payday loan, and another, and another. Your small \$500 loan grows exponentially. And nobody is looking out for you.

So the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offered a rule to curb in payday lenders. And now, with

the 45-inspired leadership, CFBF is considering rescinding the consumer-protective rule.

This isn’t the only way that CPFB has been curtailed from protecting consumers. In 2013, CPFB issued guidance about the legal risks of dealer markups and the ways that discrimination pushed black and Hispanic folks into higher interest rate loans than their white counterparts. Toyota, Honda, Ally Financial and others were sued because borrowers of color paid much higher interest rates than their white counterparts.

Now, there is a move to repeal the 2013 rule, just like the move to repeal the predatory lending rule. It will take the Senate to repeal the consumer protecting rules, but the sentiment is not to protect consumers. In state after state, there is a sentiment to make it easier for payday lenders to exploit. And in state after state, there are those who would make it easier for the CPFB to relax rules against discrimination in lending.

These payday lenders are tricksters. They call themselves the “Consumer Financial Services Association,” wording amazingly close to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They push themselves out as an industry association that manages “best practices” in “small dollar lending.” They engage in the most pernicious form of lobbying, even purchasing the support of ‘civil rights leaders’ who argue that people have ‘the right’ to enter into financial enslavement. And their high-rolling golf games at a Trump resort is a wink and a nod to the many ways this administration is ripping off poor people.

The new leadership of the Consumer Financial Protection Agency has been pressured to relax payday-lending rules. Several states have bowed to the pressure to support the payday lender that exploit low-income, mostly black and brown, communities.

In Florida and Michigan, and in other states, there are harrowing stories of people being exploited because payday lenders have a legislative pass. This flies in the face of the notion that the poor should be protected from extreme usury, but it is perfectly consistent with the focus of this corrupt administration.

So who will take care of consumers who face discriminatory interest rates, predatory lending and more? Perhaps voters will throng to the polls in November to elect a Congress dedicated to providing protection for consumers.

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

I say no to a Starbucks boycott

By Jerroll Sanders
TriceEdneyWire.com



Starbucks has proven to be one of America’s most responsible corporate citizens. In 2014 following the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, by Officer Darren Wilson, then Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz took action when other corporations remained silent. Starbucks launched its national “Race Together” campaign that encouraged Starbucks’ baristas (workers) to write “race together” on customer coffee cups to spur conversations about race within Starbucks locations.

Months later in 2015 following the shooting of Walter Scott, Starbucks Schultz was again venturing into the arena of race relations while appearing on stage at Spelman College – a historically-black women’s institution – as part of a panel discussion on the book titled Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? Again and again, Starbucks has been at the forefront of corporate America when it comes to cultivating a society where all people matter.

As president and CEO of ONUS, Inc. – a national organization committed to resolving longstanding problems that seem too big to fix, I firmly believe in

the power of boycotts. Following the killing of Michael Brown, ONUS conducted one of the most effective and long-standing boycotts in Ferguson against Sam’s Club and Walmart. Both stores routinely called upon Ferguson police to arrest black men who verbally challenged managers’ decisions.

Unlike Starbucks, Walmart, Inc. doubled-down in support of its employees’ hateful actions and made no apology for saddling good citizens, who happened to be black men, with unwarranted police records. Walmart then relied upon its deep purse to vigorously defend its deplorable actions. Starbucks is no Walmart.

While I firmly embrace boycotting as an effective tool of free speech, boycotting cannot and should not be black America’s one retort to offensive acts carried out by individual employees representing what has proven to be a good corporate citizen. I do not mean to imply that Starbucks is perfect; I surmise that Starbucks still has internal issues related to race and diversity.

Nonetheless, I appreciate the steps Starbucks’ CEO and board of directors have and are taking in response to the incident in Philadelphia, such as the swift issuance of a public apology, public rebuke of the offending employees’ actions and the planned shutdown of Starbucks outlets nationwide for diver-

sity and customer service training.

Starbucks is demonstrating that its promise to do better is far more than a mere gesture designed to quiet a public uprising. Starbucks has earned what millennials refer to as “street cred.” Consequently, the corporation deserves grace when employees make missteps or engage in discriminatory actions rooted in personal perspectives.

While I am confident Starbucks will make right with the young men who were wrongfully arrested in Philadelphia, I urge its leaders to again take the corporate lead by helping to revamp policing in America nationwide. The Uniform Reporting Law Enforcement Improvement Act (URLEIA) is the solution to America’s policing problem and will effectively revamp policing from the ground up.

Corporations, like citizens, have a responsibility to ensure policing nationwide is guided not by the whims of individuals and powerful conglomerates but by the constitutional and humane application of law.

Learn more about URLEIA by visiting www.ChangelsOnUs.org.

Learn more about Jerroll Sanders who is a business executive, author of *The Physics of Money: If You’ve Got My Dollar, I Don’t*, diversity expert and strategist by visiting www.jerroll-sanders.com.

Starbucks arrests show implicit bias is hiding in plain sight

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“Those of us who bear the brunt of racial bias and oppression every day end up having to not only battle that bias and oppression, but also convince everyone else that it even exists. It is very hard for the majority of the population to see how the everyday businesses, agencies and organizations that we interact with are perpetrating harmful racial bias, and even harder for the majority of the population to see how they are perpetrating harmful racial bias themselves. It is hard to see how something that can feel like the air you breathe to most, can be the storm you drown in to others.” – Ijeoma Oluo

The arrest of two young black men at a Philadelphia Starbucks sparked widespread protest and has ignited a national conversation about the issue of implicit bias and how to combat it.

As a sort of contrast, around the same time as the Starbucks arrest, a fraternity at Syracuse University was suspended over racist, sexist and homophobic vid-

eos recorded in the fraternity house and posted to a fraternity Facebook group.

The videos show members pledging always to “have hatred in my heart” for African Americans, Hispanics and Jews – all of whom are referenced with slurs.

It doesn’t get any more explicit than that.

Implicit bias doesn’t advertise itself as blatantly. It doesn’t wear a hood and burn a cross. Unlike explicit bias, implicit bias has many defenders who fail to see it for what it is.

Last year, the United States Supreme Court reversed the death sentence of a defendant after the defendant’s attorney introduced evidence that suggested the defendant would be more likely to commit violent acts in the future because he was black.

As I wrote at the time the case was being argued:

“The false belief that black people are inherently more dangerous than other races has obvious and injurious implications in criminal justice proceedings. Large segments of society, our economy and countless individuals are harmed when this myth of black dangerousness is validated. The idea of a black innate’s tendency to violence is a malignant,

centuries-old belief that continues to impact America, undermining freedom, individuality and opportunity.”

This false belief – this implicit bias – is not only what led to the arrest of the two young men in Starbucks, it is behind the tragic deaths of far too many young men and boys, from Travon Martin and Tamir Rice to Philando Castile and John Crawford.

Studies indicate that 70 percent of Americans harbor implicit racial bias against black people. It infects our interactions at every level of society. Even preschoolers are not immune – black children make up 20 percent of preschool students, but half those who are suspended.

Implicit bias is reinforced by the media – for example, while about half of people arrested by the New York Police Department for violent crime are black; they are represented as suspects in 75 percent of the cases shown on evening tv news coverage.

Starbucks’ decision to close its stores for a day of implicit bias training is well-intentioned, but it cannot be an isolated effort. We hope it is the beginning of a national awakening to an issue that has hidden in plain sight for far too long.

Business as usual

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney NewsWire



After hearing that two black men were arrested at a Starbucks restaurant, we were told that some black people were actually shocked. I was not. I guess I’ve seen too many other businesses doing similar things or worse in all areas of the country – not just down South.

Remember Flint and the water crisis? We’ve generally given some cities too much credit for being enlightened. We forget that

our union has never been perfected when it comes to black people.

Starbucks in Philadelphia isn’t the only place such insults have happened. Applebee’s once falsely accused two black women of not paying for meals. Denny’s paid out \$54 million for a racial discrimination settlement and recently had workers wait and then asked to prepay for their meals. IHOP has asked black teens to pay for their meal before being served. Cracker Barrel had 40 people in 16 states allege they were denied service, assigned to segregated service, were served food from the trash and were sub-

jected to racial slurs.

I am sure these have not been the only racist acts through the years, and many of us have been subjected to one racist act or another. Most of us can tell when we walk into a place if we are welcome or not. So, why are we shocked?

There is a solution to such racism. What shocks me is that we continue to patronize places of business that show us no respect. There are many great black restaurants around the country where we can spend our money and where we are respected and where we can build our business-

es and create jobs in our community.

I know I am not the first to say this, but it seems we need to be reminded from time to time that we do have choices. We will never get everybody to agree. Many will continue spending money to build other people’s businesses who take the money, but don’t want us to hang around. Some would probably go back to serving us through the back window again if they thought there were no consequences.

Sure, there are some good non-black businesses, and we can tell if our business is appreciated by

what others give back to our community to show that appreciation.

Let us stop being shocked by racism. It’s been with us all of our lives because we tolerate it. As Dick Gregory always advised us, let’s wake up and stay woke.

To those who are shocked by racist behavior, patronize a non-racist business and be proud that your patronage helped to build it.

I am sorry Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson for what you went through and that you feared for your lives but having a seat at the Starbucks’ table is not the only answer as far as I am concerned. Since you said that you

are potential businessmen, why not start your own business now? How about a Rashon and Donte coffee shop? Stop even wondering if what happened is your fault. That is what racism would have you believe. Racism is not your fault. Dealing with it in a positive manner is your responsibility. Supporting your business is our responsibility.

E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. and radio host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW FM 89.3 in Washington, DC. 202 678-6788. www.nationalcongressbw.org

Bill Cosby defense attorneys focus on Constand “lies” in closing arguments

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In a powerful closing argument at the Bill Cosby trial, defense attorneys Kathleen Bliss and Tom Mesereau pointed out more than a dozen “lies” in alleged victim Andrea Constand’s statements to police and prosecutors.

Bliss also reminded jurors of past “lynchings” and “mob-style prosecutions.”

As a woman, Bliss said she could relate well to the #MeToo movement, and she even began telling a personal experience before District Attorney Kevin Steele objected and Judge Steven O’Neill attacked her for the inference.

Perhaps conjuring up memories of his mentor, the late Johnnie Cochran – who famously told jurors “If the glove doesn’t fit, you must acquit” during the 1995 O.J. Simpson trial – Mesereau in very deliberate fashion took the jury through telephone and flight records for every single day in January 2004, when Constand said she was drugged and assaulted by Cosby.

The inference was clear – Constand had claimed that she called Cosby from a Temple University-issued cell phone the night of the incident. She also claimed that it happened before her cousin came to visit from Canada January 22.

A police detective testified for prosecutors that he pulled Department of Homeland Security records that show the cousin crossed the U.S. border that day. However, Mesereau showed jurors that there was



Bill Cosby, 80, faces up to 30 years in prison, if convicted. POOL PHOTO

not a single call from Constand to Cosby in Philadelphia in January.

“This was a con. Bill Cosby got conned,” Mesereau said.

Mesereau told jurors that if they reviewed the records and determine that the incident didn’t happen in January, then they must automatically return a not guilty verdict simply, because Pennsylvania’s 12-year statute of limitations would have expired if the incident occurred any time before January 2004.

When asked during a deposition whether Constand had visited his Pennsylvania home in January 2004, Cosby said that date was “ballpark.”

Cosby, 80, faces up to 30 years in prison, if convicted. He’s facing three counts of aggravated indecent assault stemming from a 2003 or 2004 encounter between he and Con-

stand.

Still, the hostility toward Bliss in courtroom hasn’t been lost on observers.

“[DA Kevin] Steele and the judge are so nasty toward her and this is supposedly a crime about women,” said Larcenia Best, one of the many spectators who jammed the courtroom for closing arguments. “The crime is how bias and how disrespectful they’ve been toward Bliss and the other female attorneys, especially O’Neill.

During a previous argument made by one of Cosby’s lawyers who appears to be of Middle Eastern-descent, Steele’s media rep Kate Delano and staff members appeared to mock the attorney.

Delano and others openly laughed at an argument made by another female defense lawyer, Becky James.

While Cosby’s wife, Camille, kissed her husband and sat through the defense’s closing arguments, prosecutors brought Constand back for theirs.

They rejected the records presented by the defense even though a Federal Aviation Administration expert authenticated the files. They also said Constand’s inconsistencies should be overlooked, because as a victim, it’s common to get confused by some facts and dates.

Meanwhile, undaunted by what observers have called bullying, Bliss remained calm.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” she told jurors. “You’re about to make one of the most important decisions you’ve ever made in your life. I respectfully say to you that the only decision to make, based on the evidence, is not guilty.”

Sen. Kamala Harris won’t take PAC \$\$\$



Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) announced that she would not accept corporate PAC money, during an interview on The Breakfast Club. In this photo, Senator Harris gives remarks after accepting the NNPA’s 2018 Newsmaker of the Year Award on Capitol Hill during Black Press Week. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

California Democratic Senator Kamala Harris announced April 23 that she will reject corporate money from political action committees (PAC).

Harris’ announcement was made on the popular New York radio show, “The Breakfast Club.”

Harris joined Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who have also publicly announced that they would not accept corporate PAC money.

The Citizens United decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010 created a situation where seemingly endless amounts of money can flow into the political system.

Harris said on The Breakfast Club, “We’re all supposed to have an equal vote, but money has now really tipped the balance between an individual having equal power in an election to a corporation.”

Harris, who has been thought of as a possible presidential candidate in 2020, but has not said she is running, said that a recent exchange at a town hall influenced her decision not to take corporate PAC checks.

“I wasn’t expecting that question. So I thought about it afterwards. I think that money has had such an outside influence on politics, and especially with the Supreme Court determining

Citizens United, which basically means that big corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money influencing our campaigns, right? So, I’ve actually made a decision, since I had that conversation, that I’m not going to accept corporate PAC checks. I just...I’m not,” the California Senator said.

“Now Kamala Harris has pledged not to take corporate PAC money. Let me be clear about who did this – @justice-dem. When that group started, Washington laughed and said almost no one would take that pledge. Now almost all of the Dem front-runners have!” Tweeted a gleeful Cenk Uygur of “The Young Turks,” an online news show, after the news of Harris’ decision emerged.

Many remarked that public pressure has worked regarding the issue of taking PAC money. Sen. Bernie Sanders made corporate influence on politics a centerpiece of his 2016 campaign for the White House. He raised record amounts of small campaign donations.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a congressional correspondent for the NNPA Newswire. Lauren also works independently as a political analyst and communications strategist. You can reach Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

This story was originally published on BlackPressUSA.com.

Facebook has failed the black community one too many times

By Derrick Johnson
President and CEO, NAACP

“Mr. Zuckerberg, would you be comfortable sharing with us the name of the hotel you stayed in last night?” That was a question Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) posed to Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s congressional hearing in which the latter responded with an awkward “no.” It is likely that Zuckerberg found this question too intrusive, yet when 87 million users lost their privacy under Facebook’s neglectful watch; its CEO doesn’t bat an eye, offering only an insubstantial, “I’m sorry.”

The Cambridge Analytica hack is just one of many transgressions by Facebook, in which an apology will simply not suffice. Facebook’s laissez-faire attitude toward privacy protection is not just a betrayal and insult to its user base, but it is compounded by its lack of vigilance to protect one of the platform’s most vulnerable user demographics – African Americans.

For example, late last year, Facebook hosted Russian sponsored ads that portrayed African Americans in a less than flattering light. The ads had political motives and aimed to sway viewers to vote for then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. Another example arose just this month when the news broke that the largest Black Lives Matter group on the social media platform was in fact a fraudulent page, created by a white man in Australia designed to discredit the youth-



Johnson

COMMENTARY

based civil rights group.

Either of the above examples is enough to seriously question the general disposition and integrity of the social media juggernaut. However, Facebook’s lack of transparency, reliability and accountability in these two situations also substantiates the increasing doubt regarding the fairness of the 2016 presidential election. Specifically, Cambridge Analytica worked with the Trump campaign, and among the data it misused were pictures, profiles and even direct messages between users. This data mining – which used the personal information of 87 million people without their consent – was used to develop techniques for the firm’s work on the Trump campaign. This combined with the racially charged Russian ads, some of which explicitly purporting that Black Lives Matter activists were murderers, is not

only wholly unscrupulous, it also carries the stench of voter manipulation. Swaying voters toward one candidate based on racially exploitative lies smacks of a type voter suppression that, while more insidious, is not unlike the voter ID laws that currently attempt to suppress the black vote.

As a pioneer in the tech industry serving 1.4 billion users each day, Facebook has a moral and ethical obligation to protect those most vulnerable on its sites, including minors, women, LGBT, brown, and black communities.

As a whole, Americans are more tolerant of hate speech than others in the world; however, this does not and should not permit Facebook to turn a blind eye to the copious amounts of hate speech the black community, and other vulnerable communities experience on Facebook. These communities cannot be satiated with an apology, but rather require a clear and thorough plan of defensive and offensive action. More care needs to be taken by Facebook and its tech industry peers to ensure that in connecting people with one another, these connections are positive – a sentiment which Zuckerberg said his company strives to achieve.

Moving forward, companies like Facebook can take a greater stance against those who wish to use online spaces to corrupt. First, they must be on the offense, not just deleting but reporting and perhaps even fining advertisers with such

ill intent. Second, they should also be more aggressive on the defensive front, removing the burden of reporting hate speech from the user and instead placing it on themselves.

While Facebook has already started this approach, devoting more resources to this effort would allow for a quicker and more intelligent sweep of bad content. Additionally, these resources must include hiring more people of color across all levels of the company – an initiative that would address Silicon Valley’s failure to take real steps towards embracing diversity.

This is an issue brought up on Day 2 of Zuckerberg’s hearing, when Rep. G.K. Butterfield mentioned that the company’s black representation has only risen from 2 percent to 3 percent. Furthermore, while 67 percent of African Americans are Facebook users, the company’s C-suite remains entirely white.

Lastly, in a “clear and concise” manner, users should be made aware of their privacy terms, including instances when their information will be shared and how the information will be used. Facebook may or may not feel a moral imperative to protect the users that allow it to exist, but that does not mean it should not be held accountable for its actions, inactions and indifference to user privacy.

Derrick Johnson is the president and CEO of the NAACP. Follow him on Twitter @DerrickNAACP and @NAACP.

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LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR AN
REAL ESTATE PROPERTY BROKERAGE SERVICES
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 7000-005-18
APRIL 18, 2018

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Proposals (“Proposal”) for a Real Estate Property Brokerage Service to (i) to provide commercial real estate brokerage and advisory services and (ii) to oversee JMAA's efforts to secure developers for JAN with emphasis on the East Metro Corridor property and Hawkins Field property.

JMAA will receive Proposals at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 30, 2018 (the “Deadline”).

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Byrd, JMAA's Procurement Manager, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Byrd, Procurement Manager
Telephone No.: (601) 360-8616
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter into negotiations to provide the Services. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 2, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd 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 Proposals as a Prime Consultant for the Services and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, 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-Submission Conference; and a detailed review of the scope of work. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 30% for the Services solicited by this RFP.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

4/19/2018 4/26/2018

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4/19/2018, 4/26/2018

LEGAL

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

IN RE: CUSTODY OF
KE'NIYAH CHRISTYANA FEAZEL

CAUSE NO. P2018-106T/1

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF A
African- American Female child born on
December 16, 2007 at ST. Mary Medical
Center in Long Beach, California to a
Nineteen (19) year old African American female,
An adult resident citizen of Long Beach, California

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Kenneth and Gerald Johnson who is seeking Petition for Guardianship.

THE Petition which has been filed in this matter is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights, if any.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 O'clock A.M. on the 22nd day of May 2018, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may 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. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, 769-251-0207.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 21st day of March, 2018.

Eddie Jean Carr, Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

4/12/2018 4/19/2018 4/26/2018

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.

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Ally Financial. Lienholder
Date of Sale: May 4, 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.

4/19/2018, 4/26/2018, 05/3/2018

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BOBBIE MCCLAIN, DECEASED

CAUSE #:17-428

BY: Veronica Holden

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BOBBIE MCCLAIN, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Veronica Holden, Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Bobbie McClain.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:30 o'clock a.m., on the 19th day of June, 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 19th day of April, 2018.

Eddie Carr
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

4/26/2018, 5/3/2018, 5/10/2018

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3074 Produce

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 10, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

4/26/2018, 05/3/2018

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

C H E R I S H Y O U R H U M A N C O N N E C T I O N S ,
W Z K C S F Z V R D C Z D A N G W R G G K W O S R G F
Y O U R R E L A T I O N S H I P S W I T H F R I E N D S
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Week of April 22, 2018

Giving back at the park

by scouts and community groups

Ineva May-Pittman Park • Jackson, Miss. • April 21

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Words of thanks from the homeless, needy and those that proclaimed they were just temporarily down on their luck were expressed Saturday morning at the Ineva May-Pittman Park, formally known as Poindexter Park.

Individuals were grateful for clothing, snacks, beverages, toiletries and love from various organized groups. One lady shouted out, "I love the scouts for doing this for us and I know they are children of God."

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of College Hill along with their leaders met in the church's family life center to prepare 150 bags containing snacks, socks, beverages and other items to take to the park.

While at the park, there were

three other groups with the same purpose – giving back to the community.

One combined group included members of Temple Church, Humble-Way Outreach and Girls on a Mission. A spokesperson for the group said helping to give back to the community is what each group stands for.

A small group organized by Lucy Gaines was distributing beverages and other items. Gaines said, "It touches my heart to be able to help others."

A representative from Word of Life Church in Flowood said the church had an outreach program that provides services to the park and on Saturday they were serving hotdogs and offering prayer.

All the recipients as well as the givers seemed to have a genuine appreciation for "Saturday at the Park."



DEON TAYLOR THE “TRAFFIK” INTERVIEW

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Deon Taylor is a boundary-crashing, envelope-pushing, unabashedly-creative force in the world of film and television. In Hollywood, roles vary and job functions are often blurred and blended – for talent, creatives, filmmakers, storytellers, show runners, producers and high-level executives alike. Few people, if any, in Hollywood exhibit the capacity and multi-disciplinary skill set necessary to bridge multiple functions and roles successfully. Taylor is one of the few who can – and does.

A prolific writer, filmmaker, director and idea generator, Taylor is a hybrid artistic force and savvy producer. His work is innovative, his writing is cutting-edge and his vision is distinctive. As a creator, he has forged his own unique path through Tinseltown and into theaters and onto TV screens, to the delight of audiences seeking fresh, original content with a unique voice.

Taylor succeeds because he is always thinking outside the box – juggling projects with perfect aplomb while incubating ideas that others in the industry wouldn’t dare pursue. Creativity and storytelling are the heart and soul of the global entertainment industry. With that mantra in mind, Taylor runs his own thriving, independent film and production company, Hidden Empire Film Group (HEFG) formerly known as Deon Taylor Enterprises (DTE), which he launched in 2000.

Taylor has written, co-written and directed dozens of films, TV series and special projects and HEFG produces a diverse array of larger budgeted projects, born of Taylor’s boundless energy as a multi-hyphenate visionary and pioneer.

He successfully ventured into comedy in 2016 with his horror spoof “Meet the Blacks,” starring Mike Epps, George Lopez, Mike Tyson, Zulay Henao and



King Batch. The film became a massive breakout hit and gained a cult following since opening in the Top Ten at the box office.

The popularity of “Meet the Blacks” led to a recently completed sequel, which Taylor also directed, wrote and produced. Due to hit theaters in late 2018, the sequel, titled “The House Next Door” stars comedy icons Mike Epps and Katt Williams, who last starred together in the hit “Friday After Next.”

Taylor also recently wrote, directed and produced the thriller “Motivated Seller” starring Dennis Quaid, Michael Ealy and Megan Good, and produced, with Jamie Foxx, the comedy feature “All-Star Weekend,” starring Foxx, Robert Downey Jr., Gerard Butler, Eva Longoria, Jeremy Piven, Jessica Szohr – directed by Jamie Foxx.

All of his films have been financed by his longtime business partner and lead investor, Robert F. Smith, the founder of Vista Equity Partners, which is consistently ranked as one of the top Private Equity Firms in the world with approximately \$3 billion in capital under management. Another partner is Roxanne Avent – a thought-provoking and visionary producer

and executive with a powerful business aptitude, who steers HEFG.

Taylor has a background in marketing, sports and promotions. A Nike All-American basketball player from Gary, Indiana; he earned a biology degree at San Diego State University on a full basketball scholarship where he was named the conference’s “Newcomer of the Year.” He went on to play professionally and still competes weekly in the NBA Entertainment League out of Los Angeles.

Here, Taylor talks about his new film, “Traffik” – an intense sex-trafficking thriller starring Paula Patton, Missi Pyle, Omar Epps, William Fichtner and Roselyn Sanchez.

Kam Williams: Hey Deon, thanks for the interview.

Deon Taylor: Hey!! Thanks for having me, Kam.

KW: What inspired you to write Traffik?

DT: The film was inspired locally, by my reading an email from my daughter’s school telling us that kids were being trafficked at the local mall. So, I took an interest in trafficking and began to Google and do research. I was surprised to find out that this was a rapidly-

growing epidemic all across the country. That’s what originally inspired me to write the screenplay.

KW: How would you describe the film in 25 words or less?

DT: Informative... Intense... Scary... Funny... Dynamic... Heroic... It’s a movie that will shake you to the core, that does not play by the rules and which ultimately leaves you with valuable information you should know about trafficking.

KW: How did you go about assembling such an impressive cast?

DT: Assembling a cast was extremely hard, as an independent filmmaker. What I had to do was basically reach out to people... get phone numbers... push... drag...scream... cry... and beg. Anything to get people to listen to a pitch and to ultimately read the screenplay.

KW: What message do you want people to take away from the film?

DT: To be vigilant about trafficking on a daily basis. Trafficking not only affects strangers’ lives, but it could touch yours, too. It could be as close as your next door neighbor.

KW: You played basketball

professionally before becoming a filmmaker. When did you develop an interest in movies?

DT: I loved films growing up, especially in junior high and high school, but I never gave any thought to becoming a writer or filmmaker until I was in Germany. Over there, I realized that I wanted to be involved with movies and I began by writing a screenplay which I brought home with me. I figured it out on my own, and the bug just stayed with me for a long time. I just was like, “I gotta do this!”

KW: How do you explain your being so prolific?

DT: I don’t know how to answer that. I’m just trying to make films and do art and be the best me. I’m trying to figure out how to create a world where you can constantly be a storyteller and get your projects out to the masses. I think what a lot of people are witnessing is, my passion, drive and energy and the power of intention. My intent is to be successful.

KW: What is your earliest childhood memory?

DT: My earliest childhood memory is... I actually have a lot of them. Riding in the back of a 1978 Impala with zebra seats with my mom and my great uncle. And driving from Detroit to Gary, Indiana after my mom had just bought her first car. I just remember riding in the back seat. It’s an incredible memory for me.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

DT: Chicken all day every day. Chicken! Chicken! Chicken! Chicken!

KW: Sherry Gillam would like to know what is the most important life lesson you’ve learned so far?

DT: Be true to yourself. Don’t live for anyone else. Find your own path. Live your own life and be the best you, and everything else will fall into place.

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

DT: A flawed human who is trying to do right and be right and to lead by example versus words.

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

DT: No comment. [Laughs]
KW: If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?

DT: That my family be prosperous and healthy for as long as possible.

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

DT: No one has ever asked what’s my favorite ice cream, and I’m gonna answer it today. It’s a Dairy Queen Blizzard with M&M’s and chocolate syrup.

KW: “Realtor to the Stars” Jimmy Bayan asks: What’s your dream locale in Los Angeles to live?

DT: If there was a way to get a house, like a flat, in Beverly Hills that would be incredible. I’ve driven through that area so many times and looked at those houses and just wondered what it would be like to live there. I think that would be kind of cool.

KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles asks: Is there a classic film you’d like to remake?

DT: There are several I’d love to remake: Cujo, The Warriors and Cooley High. I think one of the most fun to redo would be Big Trouble in Little China.

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

DT: Of course, I do. Freddie Kruger!

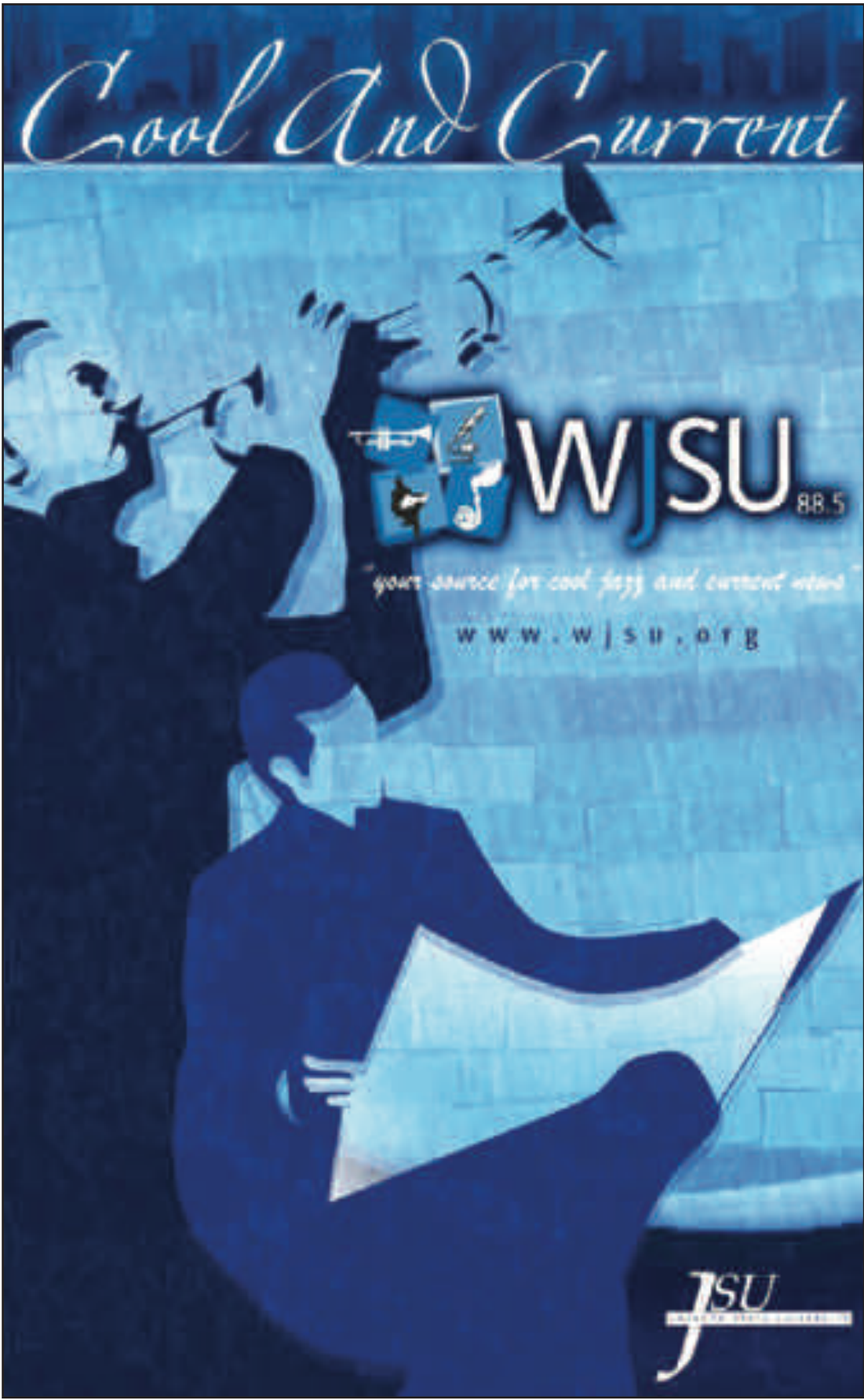
KW: Finally, as Samuel L. Jackson asks: What’s in your wallet?

DT: Nothing! I’m a broke, struggling filmmaker trying to make it.

KW: Thanks again for the time, Deon, and best of luck with Traffik.

DT: Thank you so much, Kam.

To see a trailer for Traffik, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz-XiYNCo7o>



Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Barbara Bush

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

W Z K C S F Z V R D C Z D A N G W R G G K W O S R G F V R D C R C K P N O S R G F Z S I F X S O Z Q C S K G Y F N G Y Q N A S P V

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Sudoku

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

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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BOOK REVIEW: “HARRIET GETS CARRIED AWAY”

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You love wearing your daddy’s shoes. You wear mommy’s shoes, too. You love that clomping around, the wiggly-wobbly feel, and the fun of pretending that you’re someone else.

Dressing up is great but be careful. As in the new book, “Harriet Gets Carried Away” by Jessie Sima, things could quickly get out of hand.

More than almost anything in the world, Harriet loved playing dress-up.

She had a whole trunk full of

costumes and she didn’t need a reason to wear them. She just did, as often as possible and everywhere she went. Every dentist appointment, every day in the park, every birthday party.

And so, on the day of her own birthday party, Harriet was dressed as a “busy bee” and she certainly was busy helping her dads with the decorations. But before their guests arrived, they would need to buy snacks and party hats, so Harriet changed into her “extra-special errand-running costume.” It was her penguin outfit and when she was

done, they took the subway to the store.

Once they were there, Harriet’s dads hurried to the deli counter, so Harriet waddled off to find the best party hats. She knew where they were but between deli and derby, she found “something else.”

There were penguins! Dozens of them that looked just like Harriet in her black and white penguin costume, and they were apparently getting ready for a party of their own! They barely noticed that a little girl was in their midst; they just kept buy-

ing ice and taking it to a big balloon outside in the park. One of them told Harriet that they were going “back home” because the city was “a nice place to visit” but penguins didn’t want to live there – and they took her with them.

Or, well, they tried, anyway, but Harriet didn’t want to live the rest of her life on ice, she missed her dads, and she didn’t want to miss her birthday party. But there was a problem: how would a little girl in a penguin costume ever manage to get home?

There are two ways of looking

at “Harriet Gets Carried Away.” Only one is good.

On one hand, this is a cute book that will appeal to a preschooler’s imagination, with its theme of dress-up and make-believe. Harriet is a confident little girl who isn’t one bit fazed by the adventure that her costume causes, and kids will get a kick out of the places she goes because she was mistaken as someone she isn’t. That kind of pretending is what preschoolers do best, and that makes this book

relatable.

On the other hand, parents may have to take a deep breath and put aside their reservations about unsupervised kids in big-city stores, and the issues of them going somewhere with someone they don’t know.

The take-away here is to be aware of your audience: for some kids, the caution may be warranted and the book postponed. For other 4-to-8-year-olds, “Harriet Gets Carried Away” may be an enjoyment shoo-in.



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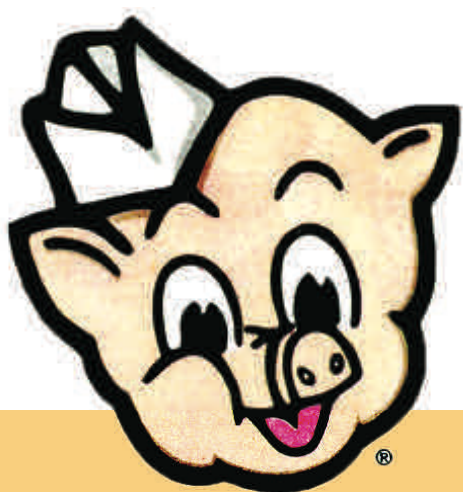
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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