

# Medal of Valor awarded to trailblazing physician, Utica Institute alum

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A life spent at the forefront of battles for social justice and affordable health care has come full circle for local physician Dr. Robert Smith.

In November, the American Medical Association awarded Smith the Medal of Valor Award for fighting social injustice and providing health care to Mississippians during the civil

rights era.

“In riotous and dangerous times, Dr. Smith placed himself repeatedly in harm’s way and made it his mission to stand up for the health care rights of

African-Americans,” said AMA president David O. Barbe, M.D. “He is a man of compassion and courage who

Smith

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Smith

## On 50th Anniversary of King Assassination, We Have Work to Do



By Jesse Jackson  
TriceEdneyWire.com

The 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination comes amid a fierce struggle for the soul of America. We will celebrate the progress that has been made since Dr. King was taken from us in 1968, and decry the agenda that is still unfinished.

But we cannot ignore the systematic effort – from the highest offices of government – to roll back his legacy, to make America more separate and unequal, to reverse the progress of the last years. From the White House and across the great cabinets of the federal government, civil rights are being systematically undermined.

President Trump has set the tone personally, slandering immigrants and seeking to ban Muslims, while noting there were “very fine people” among the neo-Nazi marchers in Char-

city M. Brown  
Newswire Contributor

lottesville. He pardoned former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, allowing him to avoid accountability for racially profiling Latinos. He terminated the Obama program that protected the DACA children, and sabotaged every bipartisan effort to protect these children who know no other country than the U.S. He called for NFL players protesting against discrimination to be fired, while slurring “s-hole countries” in Africa. In different departments, his appointees have moved relentlessly to roll back enforcement of civil rights, with Attorney General Jeff Sessions leading the way.

DOJ lawyers reversed their position on voting rights cases, like that in Texas, essentially opening the door for voter suppression. Sessions forced a review of Obama-era consent decrees with police departments, even as Trump praised brutal police tactics. He drastically limited the use of court-en-

MLK

Continued on page 3

## Local photographer honored

By Othor Cain  
Editor

For more than 40 years, he has photographed people, events and scenes in Jackson and across the state of Mississippi. Last week, the lens were turned on him.

The Jackson city council presented a resolution honoring and commending Johnson as an outstanding citizen for his empowering leadership in photography.

Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes placed the item of the agenda and thought it was long over due and very fitting. “Jay is everywhere. He’s been doing this for a very long time and I just wanted to show some appreciation,” Stokes said. “He has covered everybody and everything.”

Johnson’s work was recently on display at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center in Jackson. An exhibit titled “A Legacy Retrospective of Jay D. Johnson: Rays Of Hope In Mississippi.” The exhibit included photos of President Barack Obama and President Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Mike Espy, Congressman Bennie Thompson, Representative Robert Clark, Senator Alice Harden, Representative Alyce Clark, Myrlie Evers and James

# Through the lens of Jay Johnson



Jay Johnson (center) with Councilman Kenneth Stokes (left), family and friends

Meredith to name a few.

Other images from around the state featured sporting events, culinary photographic images, Mississippi landscape in the African-American community, and other people, activities, and events that helped shape the rich culture of our state and our Capital City.

Mississippi is a diverse state with 38 percent of its population being African Americans. The exhibit was a way to inspire and empower all people in various communities in an effort to

foster positive discussions about the history of African Americans.

Juanita Sims Doty, founder and chair person of the International Community Ambassadors Network (ICAN) spearheaded the community efforts for the exhibit. “I thought it was important for everyone to celebrate Hay as he’s done so much for our community,” Doty said. “When the council recognized him before, that’s when the conversation began about shocasing his work. I was excited to be a part of this

initiative.”

Johnson has touched the lives of many people, all of whom were excited that the city council recognized him.

One such person is Pamela Confer, a long time friend. “I have known and admired Jay Johnson for over 20 years, and his translation of every emotion through the camera lens is impeccable,” Confer shared. “His impact as a community supporter and visual historian goes

Jay Johnson

Continued on page 3

# Hinds CC, partners celebrate Metrocenter Mall project

By Danny Barrett, Jr.  
Hinds Community College

Donning hardhats and wielding sledgehammers, partners in a venture to create a “Comprehensive One-Stop Center” for workforce training and support services celebrated the launch of the project on March 29.

The center will house multiple career-technical and workforce training programs aimed at both high-tech training and middle-skill education along with support services in part of Metrocenter Mall.

The project to redevelop the former Belk and, previously, McRae’s department store into a 189,000-square-foot center for workforce training prom-

ises to be a driver of economic development for central Mississippi, speakers said.

“This is a very significant event in the life of Hinds Community College,” said Hinds President Dr. Clyde Muse before more than 200 guests at the announcement held inside the old store space. “It’s taken so many people to help bring this together.”

At the top of the list, Muse credited the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and the Hinds County Board of Supervisors.

“It’s a collaboration between a lot of different agencies as well as community helpers,” Muse said. “A person no longer



Partners in the Workforce Training nd Development Center at Metro Center.

has to spend a lot of time trying to find agencies to help them get a job or be trained for a job. It’ll be right here. It’s going to be a wonderful economic de-

velopment opportunity for our area, and it’ll serve 17 counties in this area of the state.”

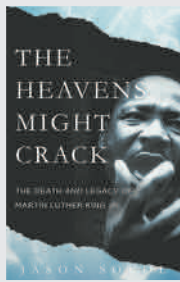
The center would encompass now vacant space on both

floors of the southeast end of Metrocenter mall that formerly housed bustling retail shops. The bottom floor will include an event area and programs for

metal fab machining and welding. The top floor would include the bulk of the offices for

Hinds

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# 50th Anniversary of Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**COMMENTARY**  
By Senator Derrick T. Simmons  
*D-Greenville*

As we celebrate with sorrow, the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I reflect on his legacy and the purpose of his God driven life's work.

While Dr. King's work was difficult given the time in which he preached racial equality, love and financial opportunity for a despised and repressed group of Americans, I think this picture of my black son and the granddaughter of my white senate colleague Videt Carmichael symbolizes what he fought and died for.

Derrick Simmons Jr. and Jodee Crane served as junior pages in the Mississippi Senate during spring break week. The interaction between them was nothing short of amazing, as was the communication that my young son and Jodee had with white and black senators, staff members and guests of the senate.

Their interactions were innocent, void of malicious thoughts and unstained by the evil and destructive spirit of prejudice – something children learn from adults.

Let us learn from their example and get along as "people," not black, nor white, but "people" who refuse to embrace prejudices or hate, just the love for each other that God placed into our hearts and souls at birth as we continue to labor in bringing Dr. King's dream to past.

*Senator Derrick T. Simmons, D-Greenville, has served in the Mississippi Senate since 2011 and is chairman of the Senate Enrolled Bills Committee.*



Simmons



Carmichael



Derrick Jr. and Jodee

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## Hinds

Continued from page 1

all the partners and more classrooms, including those for mechatronics, robotics and 3D design.

Hinds would administer the center on behalf of all the partners, which includes multiple government agencies and private partners.

“None of this would be possible today without the support of the partners you’ve heard about,” said Dr. Chad Stocks, vice president for Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development, who thanked members of the partnership for exploring other venues in the Southeast during nearly two years of planning leading up to the announcement.

“The vision has always been there, and it’s given us an opportunity to repurpose this store, where the old arcade games will probably turn into simulators. Today, it’s not enough to get a job. You’ve got to get a skill for high-wage jobs and good careers,” he said.

Hinds County is allocating .92 mills of property taxes annually, or about \$1.6 million, for the college’s share of the money to fund the operation. The center will not only be financially self-supporting through millage and external grant funding, but it also has the potential to increase enrollment by tapping into an unserved population of students.

Mike Morgan, president of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, dreamed of a large sign that says “Hinds Community College” at the entrance. “What are people going to think when they see that sign? They’re going to think education; they’re going to think training,” he said.

The center also will have classrooms for MIBEST, a community college program that teaches adult students without a high school diploma both academic and technical skills so they will be job ready.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said the project “checks so many boxes” for bringing south Jackson back to life. “There’s no reason for Highway 18 and Highway 80 to not look like Lakeland Drive.

“There was a day and time where you had people waiting for jobs,” Lumumba said. “Now, we have arrived at a point where we have jobs waiting for people.”

The center’s focus will also be on other workforce-related and support services for those students, such as job search, workshops, assistance with unemployment insurance benefits, funding

to pay for career tech training, on-the-job training opportunities, TANF/ SNAP, Vocational Rehabilitation and others.

Officials who spoke at the ceremony, which capped off by having each take a sledgehammer to a wall that once divided parts of the old store, lauded the efforts of CMPDD, a key economic development agency for the region, for helping kick-start the project.

“For probably the first time in the history of workforce, we all came together with a common purpose in mind,” said Mary Powers, workforce director for the agency. “It was to develop a plan that would provide all of our services in concert together to meet the need of people and the businesses.

“People will be able to get the services they need, the training they need and the skills they need to walk out the door with a job. And they’ll get all those services in the same place,” she said.

Once started, renovation is expected to take about six months.

“We’ve got to make the community better by having skilled workers in our community. That’s why we’re investing our money, our time and our resources in this effort,” said Leroy Walker, managing partner of Retro-Metro, which owns the space and will lease it to Hinds.

Walker said a revitalized mall with workforce development as its focus will be a “generator” for economic development in the area around the former retail mecca where highways 80 and 18 essentially meet.

The college’s administrative functions for MIBEST, Adult Basic Education, the Early Childhood Academy and career-tech programs related to manufacturing could be moved to the One-Stop Center in the future to support the initiative.

“To put this in perspective, the workforce training and student service area equates to three football fields of space,” said Dr. Robin Parker, District Director of Integrated Pathways, which involves programs such as MIBEST that links high school and college credentials with job-training. “Throughout the process of working on this project, we have heard so many Metrocenter stories. We are thrilled to be a part of writing the next chapter.”

## Smith

Continued from page 1

has and continues to fulfill his Hippocratic Oath by providing medical care to the poor, uninsured and underserved citizens of Mississippi.”

Smith’s academic career began at the Utica Institute, which later became Hinds Agricultural High School, part of Hinds Community College’s Utica Campus.

His education flourished beginning when he was a precocious teen at the Utica high school, where he graduated as valedictorian.

“It was one of the best things that happened to me,” Smith said of his time there starting in 1949. “In today’s terms, I would be considered ADHD. I had the opportunity to go to high school very early.

“We didn’t have a public high school in the county at the time. But, this was around the time of Brown vs. Board of Education, so the county bought a small, struggling school modeled after Booker T. Washington’s school. It was just a blessing for me,” Smith said.

The Utica school was both a boarding school and day campus.

“My folks didn’t want me to leave home for schooling, so I became one of the first teens to get up at 4:30 in the morning and ride a little old bus 45 miles nearly all through dirt roads to get to school. In the winter, I’d leave home at night, and I’d get home at night. Many times the bus broke down, but luckily my daddy had a car that would come and retrieve us all.

“But, going to Hinds AHS was like going to heaven,” Smith said. “I found a great bunch of people, and it was the first time I had people around me who had gone to college and were degreed.”

Once there, Smith found “mentors, father figures, mother figures, the whole nine yards – and people who believed in discipline,” as he put it, once again remembering his teen years.

“I had a math teacher who’d tell me, ‘Robert Smith, sit down. You’re not going to take over my class.’ There were other teachers like Maggie Dunson who told me, ‘Just wait till you get to college. They’ll fix you.’”

Where he found a niche was in agriculture, then taught by A.D. Williams. “I had been in the 4-H Club before I went to Utica,” Smith said. “I was 4-H champion and among the first to show Polled Hereford cattle in a livestock show. I transferred my experience to being in New Farmers of America, where I was the first Mississippian of record to hold office.”

Smith credits Williams with teaching him the basics of communication and formal self-expression. “He taught me how to develop and present a talk,” Smith said. “He left, and A.D. Boykins came in. He had the same personality. I ended up winning state and regional speaking contests and going to Washington D.C.”

Another source of pride is having been taught by Dr. Walter Washington, who later presided over Utica Junior College and Alcorn State University. “His speeches about achievement and educational preparing were inspirational,” he said.

In 1963, the Terry native founded Mississippi Family Health Center in Jackson. The facility

later became Central Mississippi Health Services and has locations in south Jackson and at Tougaloo College, where Smith had earlier earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry. His medical degree was earned at Howard University School of Medicine.

Smith witnessed the civil rights movement in Mississippi from a perspective few other people could, given his profession.

“I’d been a member since college of the NAACP, and I got to know Medgar Evers in college at Tougaloo when he was invited to talk,” Smith said. “I had attended a reception for him the night he was killed.

“The outgrowth of it all is that, through other memberships such as the Freedom Democratic Party, I became the unpaid physician to the movement.”

He was assisted in establishing a clinic in Bolivar County’s Mound Bayou by doctors from the Northeast, who, a year later, were part of 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi. The clinic served the poorest of the poor for basic medical needs.

“I was concentrating on how to get black folks into health care,” he said. “I helped prepare reports for Congress that brought about regional medical programs that brought advances in the care of heart, cancer, strokes and renal disease to local communities.

“It’s about education, education, education. The best way to lower costs is to teach prevention. That has to come from grade school. It ought to be like English,” he said.

Two friendships he treasures are with the living giants who helped shape the modern-day Hinds Utica Campus and the college as a whole – Hinds President Clyde Muse and George Barnes, former vice president for the Utica Campus who retired in 2013 after 51 years. Both men were instrumental in the merger between the Utica Campus and the Hinds Community College district.

Smith sees the American Medical Association honor as a benchmark not just for himself, but African-American membership in the organization.

“It was a national problem,” Smith said of the scarcity of full-member black doctors when his nearly six-decade medical career began. “In Mississippi, it was magnified. Even in a place like New York City or in Chicago, there was only a handful of black physicians – maybe five people – who were full members of the AMA.”

Among Smith’s numerous staff appointments through the years was at Central Mississippi Medical Center, now Merit Health Central.

“The contributions Dr. Smith has made in the healthcare field, not just in our community, but throughout our state cannot be lauded enough,” Merit Health Central CEO Barry Moss said. “We are grateful for his continuing leadership in his field, and I am proud he is a part of our Merit Health Central medical staff.”

In the spirit of gratitude, Smith has given back to the Utica Campus and Hinds. He and his brother started a scholarship aimed at helping eligible Utica Campus students pay for college. He is a frequent presence at important Hinds events.

## Jay Johnson

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so far beyond him and his camera. Even when he speaks, his words are artistic and clear. He has been an unsung mentor, friend and a light to so many in Jackson, and we love him.”

Pamela D.C. Junior, director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson and long time friend of Johnson, stood with him during his tribute from the city council. “Jay has proven his amazing worth to the state of Mississippi as he has captured the essence, character and humility of the thousands of people he has photographed,” Junior shared. “We are blessed to have such a phenomenal young man in this state who for many more years will continue to document the history by digitally capturing its people through photography. I will forever be amazed.”

During Doty’s term as regional director for

the Southeaster Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,Johnson was the region’s official photographer.”Jay covered all of our events. I knew he would be professional and keep a solid record of everything we did,” Doty said. :Not only did he deliver, he went over and beyond the call of duty, Because of his work with us, Johnson is not aonly a local photographer, he’s internationally kwon.”

The Mississippi Link celebrates Johnson accomplishments and his weekly contributions to our paper. “Jay is a photographer’s photographer,” said Jackie Hampton, publisher of The Mississippi Link. “His contributions are enormous and you can’t place a dollar value on them...if you did, we couldn’t afford him.”

Job well done Jay, we salute you.

## MLK

Continued from page 1

forced consent decrees themselves, eviscerating the primary instrument of civil rights enforcement.

Sessions has also declared that civil rights laws protecting against workplace discrimination do not apply to transgender workers. His labor secretary disbanded a 40-year-old division enforcing laws againstdiscrimination in the workplace. His education secretary, billionaire Betsy DeVos, disemboweled the department’s office of civil rights and pushed to move public funds to support voucher programs, while calling for deep cuts in the staff and budget of the education department.

His secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Ben Carson, has gutted enforcement of civil rights and fair housing laws, at the very moment the department must disburse billions in disaster recovery Community Block Grants that could help reverse past wrongs. Carson even pushed to strike the words“inclusive” and “free from discrimination” from HUD’s mission statement.Aboard, Trump has expanded the endless wars without victory that King warned against.


He has slashed taxes on the wealthy and corporations while targeting basic programs for the vulnerable – from food stamps to Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid – for deep cuts. He

sought to repeal Obamacare, which would have deprived millions of health care.This is a direct and sustained assault on Dr. King’s legacy.

Dr. King fought for integration against discrimination. He marched for equal opportunity against entrenched inequality. He championed non-violence against violence. He campaigned for voting rights, knowing that democracy offered the best chance for change. He called for an end to the war in Vietnam, realizing that the bombs being dropped on Vietnam were landing in the poor neighborhoods of four cities.

At the end of his life, he was organizing a broad coalition of poor people, acrosslines of race, religion and region, to march on Washington to demand basic economic rights. No representative of the administration will appear in Memphis as we mark the anniversary of his assassination. More reason that a new generation must take upthe mission of his life.He taught us that “change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.” He knew that the progress that the Civil Rights Movement was making would generate a fierce reaction. He called on us to “rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world.” We have work to do.

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## A HIPPY celebration of excellence; a community call to action

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY) Advisory Board recently presented “A Celebration of Excellence,” March 29.

Held at the Holmes County Arts Council, nearly 100 attendees turned out for the appreciation-reception to express thanks to the program partners and supporters as well as to call the community to continue and increase its support of this much-needed program.

“Seeing the passion that the CSLC staff has for implementing the HIPPY program in our community and beyond, inspired me to go to the Advisory Board with this idea to help promote HIPPY,” said Audrey Anderson, an Advisory member. Anderson’s grandson Cason is a 2015 CSLC HIPPY graduate and is doing extremely well in school. She is also a volunteer in the program.

The CSLC HIPPY Advisory Board put together a team and ran with the concept according to acting president Willie McGriggs. “Effective early childhood education is extremely important,” said McGriggs. “What we are doing with the program is a part of our preparing for the future today.”

Rev. Gary Stewart, a local church pastor and an Advisory Board member called on the church and community to make a pledge to help support the CSLC MS PIRC HIPPY program “Our children now have to learn to compete globally,” Stewart said. He said what better way than to start them with a program such as HIPPY.

Free to parents, the HIPPY is an evidence-based program that works with families of three, four and five-year-olds in the home to support parents in their critical role as their child’s first and most influential teacher.

An international model, HIPPY began in Holmes County in 2010 under the CSLC Mississippi – Parent Information Resource Center (MS-PIRC). Those grant funds ended, and the program has basically been relying on donations and mini-grants from businesses, individuals and partnerships with other local entities. Raw data has shown that CSLC HIPPY graduates are successfully performing in the upper 90th percentile of their class in school.

“We are grateful to our supporters, local school district and to our CSLC HIPPY Advisory Board for their efforts and concern for our children’s future,” said CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer. “CSLC is also extremely excited to be partnering with CDI Head Start this year in piloting the HIPPY model to some of its Holmes County Head Start students. We hope we can continue to do so.”

Other key activities included an early childhood education presentation by retired educator Sherri Reeves, a recitation by HIPPY scholars, a video, a parent testimonial by assistant basketball coach LaTaryl William of Holmes Community College and an appreciation presentation followed by a meet, greet and networking reception.

Certificates of appreciations were presented to the following community partners: Bankplus, Holmes County School District, Wal-Mart, Entergy, Top Quality Computer Services, Capitalist Wealth Maker Investors LLC, Justice Bail Bonding, Community Development Institute (Cdi) Head Start – Mid Region, Miss., Lula Friar, Willie McGriggs, Jeanette Friar, Power House Deliverance Temple and Dana Hooker.

Please call (662) 834-0905 for more information about the HIPPY program in Holmes County.

See pictures page 19.

### Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start

is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year.

Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)

**To Qualify:**

- Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st.
- Family must reside in Hinds County.
- Must be a low-income family (based on the federal poverty level).

**Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income.**

**Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)**

**Head Start Offers the Following Services:**

- Preschool Education
- Medical
- Dental
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Disability
- Library
- Leadership Development
- Limited Transportation

**...ALL AT NO COST TO PARENTS!**

**To Apply, You Must Present the Following:**

- 1) Proof of child's age:** birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport.
- 2) Proof of family's income:** tax return, W-2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income.
- 3) Proof of Hinds County residency:** lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill.
- 4) Child's Social Security number**
- 5) Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- 7) Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-5925.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! APPLY EARLY!**

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

[/KomenCentralMS](https://www.facebook.com/KomenCentralMS)

To volunteer or register, call 666-475-0656 or visit us online at [www.komenmemphis.org](http://www.komenmemphis.org)



# Hinds Community College Workforce Training Partnership Announcement

*MetroCenter Mall • March 29*

PHOTOS BY APRIL GARON





## 21st Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo



### Mississippi Link Newswire

The 21st Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo will be held from 7:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the JPS Environmental Learning Center located at 6190 Highway 18 West (between Maddox Road and Siwell Road.)

Parents/guardians or adult sponsors who register their child for the Fishing Rodeo before Thursday, April 12, will be able to practice their fishing skills with their child Saturday, April 14 from 8–11 a.m. Participants must furnish their own equipment and bait.

The rodeo is open to JPS students only. Students in grades K–12 may participate. Each student must be accompanied

by an adult who must remain on site for the entire event.

One trophy will be awarded for the Most Fish. Trophies will also be awarded for the Largest Fish in each category (Bream, Bass and Perch) as well as for first, second and third place trophies in each category in the elementary and middle/high school divisions.

A non-refundable registration fee is required. The fee is \$8 in advance and \$10 on the day of the event.

Students must furnish their own fishing poles and rods and reels for the rodeo and the practice event.

To obtain a registration form and for more information, call the ELC at (601) 960-3022.

## Jim Hill senior named MVP at Bianca Knight track event



U.S. Olympic gold medalist Bianca Knight with Jim Hill senior Talayla Davis. Davis was named Bianca Knight Invitational Female MVP.

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jim Hill High School girls and boys track teams competed in the inaugural Bianca Knight Track Invitational held March 24 at Ridgeland High School.

Senior Talayla Davis was named the female MVP of the meet. Davis won both the long jump and the 200-meter dash. She also helped the Jim Hill girls to place in two relay events. They won first place in the 4x100 and second place in

the 4x200. The girls team finished second overall.

Jim Hill's track teams will be competing in the Battle of the Border Track Meet April 7 in Memphis.

The Bianca Knight Track Invitational was organized by the same Bianca Knight who helped the U.S. win gold in the 4x100 relay in the 2012 London Olympic Games. Knight is a graduate of Ridgeland High School where the competition was held.

## Junior League donates 400 t-shirts to Barr Elementary

### Mississippi Link Newswire

In partnership with Agape North and in coordination with Jackson Public Schools, the Junior League of Jackson donated 400 spirit T-shirts to students and employees at Barr Elementary. The special presentation was made during a schoolwide pep rally held March 21 at the school.

The Junior League has long partnered with JPS to improve outcomes for the district's students. The organization has donated book bags, school supplies and uniforms to hundreds of students throughout the district

each year. The group also funds classroom projects through its mini-grant program.

A valued partner of JPS, the Junior League has sustained its commitment to improving the quality of life for the communities it serves.

Agape North is a cause-based clothing company offering high-quality apparel to its customers. Their business model includes giving back to communities in need. The brand donates clothing to students all over the world.

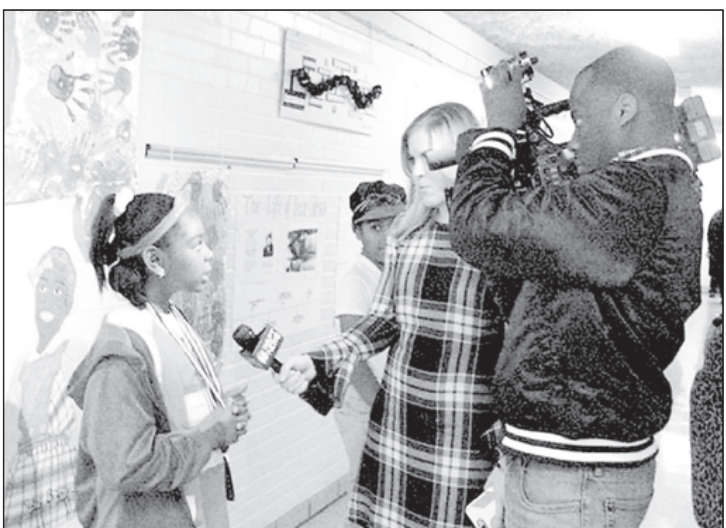


Members of Agape North and the Junior League of Jackson with Barr Elementary cheerleaders. Spirit shirts worn by the students have "I am a Barr Elementary High Performer" printed on them.

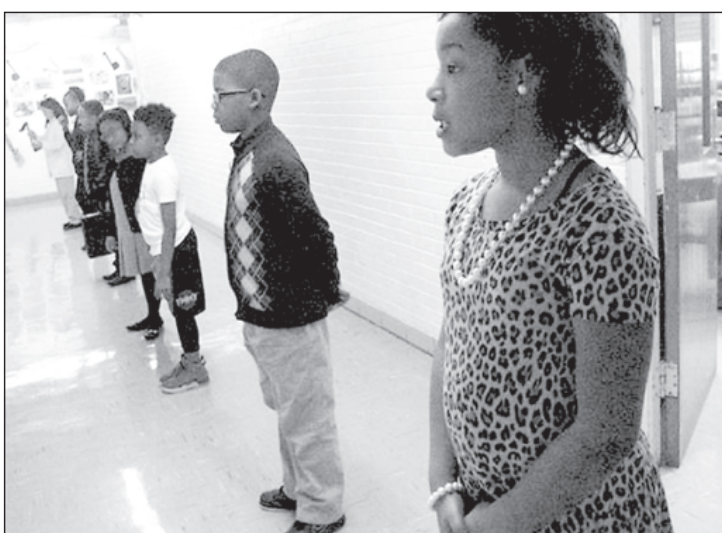
## Annual festival at Casey puts arts-integration on display



Casey parents listen to a student portraying singer James Brown. To his right is a student depicting pilot Bessie Coleman.



One of the Wax Museum exhibits featuring Olympic track athlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Members of the local media are interviewing the student.



Casey Wax Museum figures Daisy Bates of the Little Rock Nine and businessman Aaron Walker



Visiting artist Sarah Campbell guides fifth graders through the construction of a "fractal sculpture." The activity integrates math with art.

### Mississippi Link Newswire

On February 27, 2018, teachers and students at Casey celebrated the annual Casey Arts Festival with a day full of fun and meaningful arts-integrated learning.

Kindergartners and first graders rotated through five Black History activities connected to the five disciplines of visual art, dance, drama, music and creative writing. Second and third graders

rotated through another series of activities connecting the arts with language and math skills. Fourth graders staged a Wax Museum of famous figures from African-American history.

The school's fifth graders took turns writing and acting out poetry, drawing like Leonardo da Vinci, and constructing mathematical sculptures with visiting artist Sarah Campbell.

## The Mississippi Link™

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# Mississippi Public Universities help keep public safe

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The events on September 11, 2001. The bombing at the Boston Marathon. While many prefer not to think of these tragic events every day, there are students and faculty at Mississippi Public Universities who study these issues, with the goal of keeping everyone safe.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes Mississippi’s capabilities in this arena, supporting work at Jackson State University, Mississippi State University and The University of Southern Mississippi.

Jackson State University received a \$589,000 Scientific Leadership Award to bolster its Emergency Management Technology program. The grant will fund collaborative interdisciplinary efforts to promote and encourage undergraduate students to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Homeland Security-related Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (HS-STEM) field. The EMT program is designed to ensure that students have the skills needed to manage a crisis.

After a rigorous and highly competitive review process, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected Mississippi State University to lead a major research and development project on the use of drones.

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) selected Mississippi as the new base of operations for small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), commonly known as drones, with a Mississippi State-led partnership overseeing the initiative. The DHS S&T Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Demonstration Range Facility supports homeland security operations and training by providing UAS flight and exercise support facilities to support operational evaluation of UAS in a variety of applications and scenarios.

The Mississippi Partnership includes the Mississippi National Guard’s Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, the Mississippi Air National Guard’s Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, NASA’s Stennis Space Center, the Jackson County Port Authority and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. All planned exercise events will incorporate small UAS to assist DHS in monitoring and assessing the simulated scenarios over both land and water.

The DHS designation further enhances the state and MSU’s growing unmanned aircraft research and development portfolio. In 2015, after a similar competitive review process, the Federal Aviation Administration selected the MSU-led Alliance for System Safety of UAS Through Research Excellence (ASSURE) to operate a new national center of excellence for unmanned aircraft systems. The State of Mississippi joined the Pan-Pacific UAS Test Range Complex – one of seven of the FAA’s UAS test sites.

Mississippi State University has also been designated as a Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Geospatial Sciences by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Geospatial sciences inform decisions on national security, military planning and operations, homeland security and disaster management, earth sciences and global security issues in energy, health and the environment.

A key component of the CAE designation is encouraging student research. Since 2012, fac-



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



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

ulty and student collaborations have resulted in peer-reviewed journal publications on glacial retreat and climate change, forest management, wildfire risk prediction and hurricane damage predictions, among others.

While the geosciences department is a hub for geospatial education and research, many additional credit hours are available campus wide in the College of Forest Resources, the departments of Plant and Soil Sciences, Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering. The university also offers a geospatial and remote sensing certificate program on campus and online.

MSU Students and researchers also have access to robust resources, including:

30-seat and 10-seat labs running GIS and remote sensing (RS) software.

Two additional servers housing “thin-client” versions of GIS and RS software used for distance learning geospatial coursework.

MSU’s Geosystems Research Institute, a top 10 parallel computing environment with a full suite of GIS and RS software.

Two GIS labs with a total of 52 machines in the forestry department.

Delta State University students also learn how to address problems from a geographic perspective in the Geospatial Information Technologies (GIT) program, which encompasses the use of geographic information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS), and spatial analysis techniques. The program provides in-depth education about the theory, ethics, and practice of GIT, combining classroom training with real world experience through cooperative education.

All students in DSU’s GIT program, whether pursuing a certificate program or a master’s degree, are required to conduct real-world work prior to graduation. While some choose to pursue projects related to their place of employment, many others work with partners at local and

state government, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, US Marine Corps, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the United Nations, among others.

In addition to training the next generation leaders in the field, GIT serves government agencies, private businesses and non-profit organizations and helps them understand and make informed decisions on a wide range of issues. Knowledgeable use of GIT helps with a host of real-world problems ranging from the routing of a fire truck to the scene of an emergency, to establishing our representation in Congress, and determining how much property tax is paid.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also provides grants to The University of Southern Mississippi’s National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4), the nation’s only research center devoted to the study and practice of spectator sports safety and security.

Established in 2006 to respond to the nation’s emerging security needs, NCS4 is a cornerstone in the scholarship arena as it represents USM’s innovative approach to research, training and development. Combining operational perspectives with collaborative research and education, the center contributes expertise in translating lessons learned into best practices, professional competencies, research and capacity building and tested and validated technology solutions in safety and security.

An international research and education center for sports safety and security, the NCS4 collaborates with professional sport leagues and venues, intercollegiate and interscholastic athletics, marathon and endurance events and international sporting events along with professional associations, private sector firms, and government agencies.

The center’s partnerships bring together subject matter experts from government, industry, public safety, private enterprise and academia to explore

lessons learned and share ideas about best practices, strategies, training and certifications and technology solutions for sport safety and security challenges. The NCS4 develops and deploys practical tools, applications and skills that bolster the capacity of practitioners to respond effectively to new and future safety and security challenges and issues.

A security arena that continues to come to the forefront, cybersecurity is an issue that plays an increasingly larger role in homeland security. Two Mississippi Valley State University students presented research that explores the relationship between cybersecurity and homeland security during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) Meeting that was held recently at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

MVSU students Bianca Watkins, a criminal justice major from Plainfield, Ill., and Mubarak Ibrahim, a mathematics, computer and information systems major from Nigeria, conducted the research with assistance from MVSU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Alaba Oludare and instructor Christopher Lanclos of MVSU’s MCIS Department and Cybersecurity Center. The research was supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation, under the direction of Emmanuel Amadi, chair of MVSU’s Criminal Justice Department.

In an effort to evaluate homeland security, the research team performed a case study on the MVSU community to assess awareness of cyber threats.

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

Homeland security is an important issue in uncertain times. Mississippi Public Universities are advancing the body of knowledge that will make measures taken to keep the public safe more effective.

# MVSU alum receives Anna Julia Cooper Teacher of the Year award



Riley

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi Valley State University alumnus Emmitt Y. Riley III has a passion for teaching. His apparent love for mentorship and education are two of the reasons why the assistant professor of Africana Studies at DePauw University (Ind.), was recently awarded the 2018 Anna Julia Cooper Teacher of the Year Award.

The honor was bestowed on the Itta Bena native by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists during its 49th Annual Meeting in Chicago, March 16, for demonstrating excellence in teaching, advising and mentoring.

Riley was nominated by his students and Anne Harris, vice-president of Academic Affairs at DePauw University.

With earning the accomplishment, Riley attributes a great deal of his success to Mississippi Valley State University.

“One of the things that has shaped my teaching career has certainly been my experience at Mississippi Valley,” said Riley. (At MVSU) I discovered my passion for wanting to go into academics as a professor.”

Riley, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from MVSU in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English as well as political science, shared how impactful MVSU professors were to his journey.

“My whole life, I have been surrounded by excellent teachers and the education I received here at Valley has been instrumental in setting me on the trajectory that I am on now in my career... For that, I am eternally grateful,” he said.

Riley earned a master’s degree in political science from Jackson State University in 2010 and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Mississippi with a specialization in American politics and international relations in 2014.

Since arriving at DePauw University, he has taught a variety of courses, including: Introduction to Africana Studies, American Government, Legislative Politics, The American Presidency, Race Politics and Political Inequality. He is an affiliated faculty member with the Political Science Department and the Peace and Conflict Studies program.

Before his appointment in the Africana Studies program, Riley was a visiting assistant professor in the Political Science Department at DePauw. He has also served as an instructor of Political Science at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Miss. and as an adjunct professor of Political Science at MVSU.

Riley has published research and numerous articles in the areas of race, political representation and racial resentment. His research has been presented at several national, regional and international academic conferences.

Riley is a member of several professional organizations such as the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Southern Political Science Association and the American Political Science Association. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

In 2015, he was recognized as one of Greenwood’s Top 30 Under 40 by the Greenwood Commonwealth newspaper.

# Vicksburg-Warren School District special bond referendum passes

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

On Tuesday, March 27, voters in Warren County voted on an \$83 million school bond to improve facilities at the public schools in the community. The referendum passed by more than 68 percent of the vote. More specifically, the \$83 million bond measure will help fund major renovations and expansions at the two high schools, the construction of a new Academy of Innovation, renovations at each of the district’s schools and up-

grades to the current athletic facilities including AstroTurf and new tracks.

Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs was a strong supporter of the referendum. “I commend the people of Warren County for putting our children first. This investment is a huge game-changer in this city for education and speaks volumes for the direction and future of our community. We are on a pathway to prosperity like never before,” said Mayor Flaggs.





# JSU's performance troupe MADDRAMA racks up the wins at national competition

*Jackson State University*  
Jackson State University's student performance troupe MADDRAMA recently racked up the wins at the 82nd National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts Conference at Dillard University where they contended against schools from around the United States.

The group returned home with more first-place awards than any of their opponents; Bethune-Cookman, Delaware State, Dillard University, Grambling State and Winston-Salem State.

"To compete and win against students from institutions throughout the entire country is a testament of the potential of our members to become significant contributors to the world of entertainment," said Mark G. Henderson, founder of the JSU student organization.

MADDRAMA is known for their moving performances that cover a range of cultural and educational themes using music, drama and dance.

Henderson, also a theatre and speech professor, noted that MADDRAMA is comprised of JSU students majoring in various disciplines; therefore, their success is reflective of how and why MADDRAMA is an organization that serves and benefits 'every' student at the HBCU.

The arts conference was founded in 1936 and is comprised of over 400 students, educators, administrators, designers and playwrights, mostly from fellow historically black colleges and universities with theatre and speech arts programs.

Each year, the association convenes a four-day conference, typically hosted by a member



JSU's theatrical performance troupe MADDRAMA brought home more first-place awards than their competitors at the 82nd Annual National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts Competition in March.



JSU competed against Winston-Salem State, Delaware State, Grambling State, Bethune-Cookman and Dillard University, bringing home nine awards. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

institution, featuring a series of competitions, workshops, performances, panels and presentations.

Next year's competition will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. MADDRAMA walked away with the following awards:

- First place – Play Performance Festival
- First place – Oral Interpretation of

- First place – Reader's Theatre
- First place – Extemporaneous Speaking
- First place – Original Playwriting
- Second place – Original Playwriting
- Second place – Duo-Acting
- Second place – Dramatic

- Third place – Stage Design
- Additionally, Michael Taylor, sophomore theatre major, was elected national student president and Clement Gibson, junior mass communications major, was selected national student vice president for the national association of dramatic and speech arts organization.

# SACSCOC accrediting body appoints JSU President Bynum to its board



Bynum

*Jackson State University*

JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), which is tasked with reviewing and making decisions regarding the accreditation of institutions.

Bynum joins a 77-member body that represents nearly 800-degree granting higher education institutions in a region of 11 southeastern states. He will assist in determining Commission policy and aid in the

initial review of proposed dues changes or modifications to the standards of the commission. Furthermore, he'll serve as a liaison between the membership and the commission staff.

"As a longtime educator and administrator, this appointment to the SACSCOC board is one of the most important roles in higher education. Quality always has been my mantra, and SACSCOC works to ensure exceptional educational standards throughout the southeast. I'm delighted to be part of the Board of Trustees," Bynum said.

# Meteorology senior may soon discover a new star – himself as a musician

*Jackson State University*

JSU meteorology major and singer/drummer Keon Gibson always has been fascinated with celestial phenomena, and, as a multitasked student, he may soon experience galactic success when his debut single sky-rockets to fame.

Just in time for Mother's Day, Indiana native Gibson, 22, recently released "Dear Momma Tender Love." It pays tribute to all mothers who have impacted their children's lives. "That type of love can never be compared to anything else," he said.

"In this day with a lot of rap music being so negative, I want to present a deeper subject that everyone can relate to. Most artists nowadays won't talk about personal feelings or love for their mothers," Gibson said, "I made this my debut single because everyone has a mother and can relate. Unfortunately, no one from my generation is rapping about mothers."

Gibson has used his faith to triumph over challenges and show the world that life can be vibrant and fulfilling. He's earned national recognition for his meteorology research in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and gained support from the National Science Foundation.

Life hasn't always been easy for Gibson despite successfully juggling music and studying meteorology in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET). While growing up, he had to overcome chal-



Senior meteorology major Keon Gibson, 22, is also a talented musician. He recently released his debut single just in time for Mother's Day. PHOTO BY SPENCER L. MCCLENTY/JSU

lenges that led his grades to suffer. This made getting into college tough, with JSU as the only school giving him a chance to prove himself.

His world was complicated further because of an ongoing battle with ulcerative colitis, a chronic inflammatory disease of the large intestine that triggers tiny open sores. Today, he's managing the illness with medication.

As a meteorology student, Gibson earned the only perfect score in 2017 among 160 entries nationwide during a research presentation at the American Meteorological Society conference. During Wyoming's full solar eclipse in August, he trav-

eled west to perform research funded by the National Science Foundation on the sun's heat-packing solar corona.

His résumé will expand even further because he's already accepted a job with the U.S. Department of Defense as an oceanographer after he graduates in December.

Despite all the labor, including as an artist for the famous online Mega Drum Shed, he talks to JSU about his projects. He discusses his new single, meteorology, his health and his faith, which he credits for all his successes.

**JSU:** Tell us about your journey to JSU from Indiana?

**KG:** Once I graduated from

high school, I applied to various colleges and every one of them declined me because of low high school grades and ACT scores. At the time, I started to get discouraged and then I got a letter from JSU stating that it had accepted me. JSU went out on a limb, believing that I could become a successful student. So, I came to JSU to be in the band and study meteorology.

**JSU:** Describe life growing up.

**KG:** My family is the source of my motivation. As a child, each one believed in my dreams and pushed me to pursue my goals. I salute my mother for raising me after the death of my father. One of the best things she taught me was how to put my faith in God and trust him through good and bad times.

**JSU:** Any other particular hurdles that tested your faith or drew you closer to it?

**KG:** The person that I've become today came from my faith being tested. Those tests helped me become stronger mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. For example, when I first got diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, I was so afraid I was going to lose my life. But, I couldn't live in fear. I was being tested to put my trust in God. Once I did that, he blessed me and healed my body through medication. Now, I believe he'll heal me without medicine soon.

**JSU:** Whom do you credit for your transformation into the man you are today?

**KG:** I give credit to my mom,

grandparents and God. They all have taught me various ways on how to become a successful student, gentleman, musician and Christian.

**JSU:** How long have you been performing music and what's your favorite instrument?

**KG:** I've been in sync with music for 20 years. I started playing drums when I was 2 years old and started singing in church around 7. Within the past couple months, I learned how to play guitar. As I've gotten older, I've perfected my craft and my gifts opened up more platforms than I would have ever imagined.

**JSU:** Between music and science, which is your favorite?

**KG:** They both feed on each other. Meteorology has taught me how to research and apply what I've learned to various weather events. I take that same research approach and apply it to music because I can get as creative as I want. Certain situations call for deep research to understand how some music software work or how specific genres are performed.

**JSU:** Instruments have been your form of musical expression. Now, you're spotlighting your singing abilities. Tell us about your pursuit of vocals?

**KG:** I've been singing background this whole time. When I play drums with bands, artists or at church I learn lyrics and melodies so that I can sing along. I also sing around the house with friends and family. Now, I'm beginning to sing

publicly as a solo artist.

**JSU:** Explain the title and the inspiration for your first single, "Dear Momma Tender Love."

**KG:** The inspiration for this song came from a conversation between my producer (Larry Jones) and me. We were in the studio talking about our mothers' significant roles in our lives. From there, we came up with the title. There's nothing more special than a mother's love.

**JSU:** Describe your music, and tell us whether your style mirrors that of any current successful commercial artists.

**KG:** My music is a mellow, soothing type of vibe. It could be described as Jonathan McReynolds and The Weeknd meets Chance the Rapper. I deliver inspirational messages. I don't want the sound just to be good or to have a dope beat; I want listeners to relate to the music. Comparatively, I like Chance's musical collaborations, The Weeknd's vocal style and McReynolds' gospel/inspiration.

**JSU:** How can people purchase the single?

**KG:** The single is produced by Mirralex Music. It's currently available on all major streaming platforms: iTunes, Spotify, Google Play and Amazon.

**JSU:** Where are you in the social media sphere?

**KG:** People can follow me on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat @keongibson and on Facebook at Keon Gibson. My website is keongibson.com.



## Gentrification threatens housing and health for many black Washingtonians

By Barrington M. Salmon  
BlackPressUSA/NNPA Newswire Contributor

This is the first article in a series focused on the health effects associated with gentrification in Washington, D.C. This series is supported through a journalism fellowship with the Center for Health Journalism at the Annenberg School of Journalism at the University of Southern California.

By many measures, the revitalization of neighborhoods across Washington, D.C. has been a windfall for the city. Fueled by higher tax revenues and property values, the city is awash in construction cranes, new libraries, restaurants and retail and more than 70 miles of bike lanes – all welcomed signs of gentrification in the nation’s capital.

Lost in the city’s waves of new amenities and newer, more affluent inhabitants, are the long-time Washingtonians who have been pushed out or who are fighting to stay in the city.

Shirley Williams is one of those residents, who decided to fight. For Williams, that fight came with debilitating consequences.

Williams said that she developed diabetes a year after she and fellow residents were displaced, for eight years, from their 54-unit garden-style apartment complex at 7th and Q Streets in the Shaw neighborhood. She has since returned. Now, there’s a new apartment building at 7th and Q named Jefferson Marketplace; an upscale pet store, a Thai restaurant and a French wine bar are located on the street level; Williams said that she’s not the same, either.

Williams connects many of her health problems to the uncertainty of her housing situation, a rootlessness that has spanned nearly a decade.

“I’m on dialysis now; I can hardly get around,” said Williams, a mother of three grown children. “I wasn’t weak. I could walk down to those ONE DC meetings, but I can’t do that anymore. I’m pretty sure it affected my health; I lost my eyesight...can’t see anything anymore.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the displacement associated with gentrification has many health implications that contribute to disparities among special populations, including the poor, women, children, the elderly and members of racial/ethnic minority groups.

“These special populations are at increased risk for the negative conse-



Jefferson Marketplace at 7th and Q Streets in D.C. Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

quences of gentrification,” the CDC said. “Studies indicate that vulnerable populations typically have shorter life expectancy; higher cancer rates; more birth defects; greater infant mortality; and higher incidence of asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.”

Dominic Moulden, a veteran activist, housing advocate and resource organizer for Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC), knows Williams well and spoke of her challenges and those faced by thousands of other residents who have been displaced by rising housing costs or who have decided to fight for their homes in court and on the streets. ONE DC is a grassroots organization that advocates on behalf of residents who are in danger of losing their homes.

Moulden said that he’s watched the city change in significant and seemingly all-encompassing ways, usually to the disadvantage of native Washingtonians.

“I’ve been here for 32 years and I organized on 14th and U Street in the ‘90s. If we talked then, I could have told you what was going to happen in every quadrant,” he said. “Our focus is on displacement – the economics of land and housing impact health and wellness, as people are moved around this chessboard.”

Moulden said that Williams’ story of declining health during a prolonged housing battle, is a familiar one.

“I’ve seen people get sick and die in the years [after they were] forced out of their homes and that includes mental health issues,” Moulden said.

Statistics from the U.S. Census, a combination of studies conducted and compiled by researchers at Georgetown University and an investigative

series centering on gentrification by the nonprofit, independent news organization Truthout, estimates that more than 50,000 D.C. residents have fled the city, as housing costs spiraled out of reach. Washington has the second highest rents in the country and more than 50 percent of the city’s affordable housing stock has vanished since 2009.

Researchers, policymakers and physicians have only begun to scratch the surface of the effects of gentrification on residents who have lost their homes or those who refuse to leave their neighborhoods, who have chosen, instead, to do battle with wealthy landlords, real estate developers and newcomers. A number of reports and studies over the past year detail the scope and depth of the health effects caused by the dismantling of low – and middle-income neighborhoods and the displacement of residents, some of whom have lived in Washington for decades.

Maurice Jackson, a history professor at Georgetown University and the chairman of the DC Commission on African-American Affairs and Christopher King, an assistant professor at the university’s School of Nursing and Health Studies (NHS), produced a report in 2016 that found that gentrification has had a major impact on the health and welfare of the city’s African-American population.

Researchers reported that many of Washington’s long-time, black residents, who remain in the city, have experienced increased stress and financial hardship, as the cost of living continues to rise.

King said that this form of “surviv-

al stress” can increase risks for or exacerbate chronic disease conditions.

“Native Washingtonians also recognize how their communities are changing, and that results in a loss of cultural identity,” King said, noting that some African Americans have been forced to leave the area even though their families have lived in the city for generations. “This dynamic can have a profound effect on mental health and the civic engagement [of city residents].”

Gentrification in Washington has produced tension and lingering resentment between black and white residents – old and new.

Long-time residents have complained about newcomers who have lobbied to change the names of old neighborhoods, called the police to harass families sitting on their own stoops, and pushed city officials to ramp up parking enforcement, ticketing and towing churchgoers double-parked on Sundays – a custom in D.C. that has spanned generations. The stress and trauma associated with the city’s very real demographic and cultural shifts, not only affect where people live, but also how Washingtonians are living.

One area of particular concern to researchers and those in the medical community is the relationship between toxic stress and displacement.

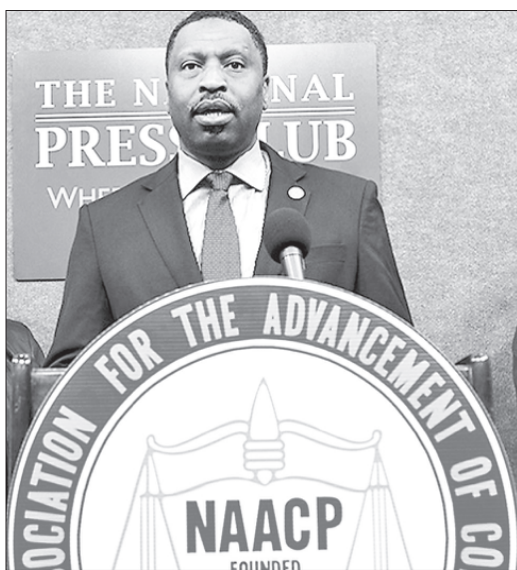
Experts like Amani Nuru-Jeter, a social epidemiologist at the University of California at Berkeley are studying the impact of stress on health disparities and outcomes.

While Nuru-Jeter, Dr. Roberto Montenegro and other researchers are looking at the effects of racism and discrimination on the bodies of blacks and Latinos, others are tying displacement to toxic stress, which many believe, is likely a precursor to a range of diseases that could afflict those who are being pushed out of the city or have already left.

Studies have connected a number of maladies to toxic stress, such as mental illness, substance abuse and behavioral problems, cancer, obesity, diabetes, auto-immune diseases, asthma, high blood pressure and heart disease, kidney disease, and gastro-intestinal problems.

*This article was published as a part of a journalism project for the University of Southern California Center for Health Journalism’s National Fellowship. Follow Barrington on Twitter @bsalmondc.*

## NAACP sues President Trump over 2020 census



Johnson

By William J. Ford  
The Washington Informer/NNPA Member

The NAACP announced that the group has filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump, the U.S. Census Bureau and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, “to combat the imminent threat that the 2020 Census will substantially undercount African Americans and other people of color in communities throughout the United States,” a press release about the lawsuit said.

Prince George’s County, the NAACP’s Prince George’s County branch and two county residents (branch President Bob Ross and Elizabeth Johnson), also joined the suit. Prince George’s County experienced one of the highest undercounts in the nation at 2.3 percent during the 2010 Census, according to the suit. The figures are based on counties with a population of at least 100,000.

“Such a dramatic undercount will especially dilute the votes of racial and ethnic minorities, deprive their communities of critical federal funds and undervalue their voices and interests in the political arena,” the suit alleges.

During a press conference about the lawsuit at the National Press Club in Northwest D.C., Bradford Berry, general counsel of the NAACP, said that this lawsuit is unique, because the plaintiffs seek action before work on the 2020 Census begins.

For instance, the suit claims the federal government has decreased resources and manpower for the 2020 Census and “cancelled crucial, pre-Census field tests and is rushing to digitize the Census without adequate cybersecurity protections, thus undermining public confidence in the privacy of Census data” the press release said.

The lawsuit also states that the Census Bureau doesn’t have sufficient staffing; the agency’s acting director, Ron Jarmin, was also named as a defendant in the suit.

On Capitol Hill last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$2.8 billion for the bureau, an increase more than double the amount of the Trump administration’s request of \$1.1 billion.

“Proposing a bill and passing a bill are two different things,” said NAACP President Derrick Johnson. “Once the final bill passes, we would like to evaluate to see if it’s sufficient. We simply need the political will to make sure we have an accurate count for this [upcoming] Census.”

Prince George’s County Executive Rushern L. Baker III said his jurisdiction has lost about \$200 million in federal money, because of Census undercounts. The Maryland jurisdiction of nearly 900,000 people borders Washington, D.C., with 65 percent of the population African-American.

Federal law requires that citizens are counted in a decennial census that not only helps redraw political boundaries, but also for counties and states to receive federal money for improvement of schools, roads and other needs.

Critics have argued that a proposed citizenship question in the 2020 Census will deter legal immigrants from responding and decrease the number of people counted in those communities. The Hispanic population in Prince George’s County stands at about 18 percent.

“What’s more frightening about this Census count, more than in the past, is the rhetoric from the Trump administration,” Baker said after the press conference. “With a growing Latino population in the county, this is a direct assault on those folks participating in the Census. If it’s happening here, then it’s happening everywhere.”

*William J. Ford is a staff writer for The Washington Informer. You can follow him on Twitter @jabariwill.*

## Costs prosecuting Bill Cosby in sexual assault trial dwarfed by costs to defend him

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Judge Steven O’Neill has warned that the retrial in the criminal case of comedian Bill Cosby will likely last longer than the first trial.

For Pennsylvania taxpayers, that means shelling out more money on top of the more than \$220,000 spent on last year’s trial.

“The cost of the Cosby trial did not adversely impact the 2017 budget, and we have planned for it in our 2018 budget,” Montgomery County Chair of the Board of Commissioners Val Arkoosh told the NNPA Newswire. “Pennsylvania law gives the Montgomery County District Attorney, an independent elected official, sole legal authority for decisions relating to the prosecution of criminal activity, including the decision to move forward with a retrial of any case.”

Arkoosh continued: “The operation of the court system is the responsibility of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, an independent branch of government. The Montgomery County Commissioners are responsible for the cost of administering justice. We will, as always, fulfill those responsibilities to the justice system.”

Cosby is charged with three counts of aggravated sexual assault, a case



Cosby being led into court. POOL PHOTO

that stems from a 2004 encounter with former Temple University employee Andrea Constand.

The two had formed a relationship – he says romantic, she claims mentorship – in which they’d get together for dinner, cocktails and career discussions.

Sometimes they’d meet at Cosby’s Elkins Parks, Pennsylvania home, other times the two would cozy up near a fire in a hotel room sipping cognac.

However, on the night that Constand believed to be in January 2004, Cosby offered his friend two blue pills which he said were Benadryl to help her relax.

Constand said the pills made her drowsy and eventually incapacitated her.

She awakened to find Cosby’s hands in her pants; he had placed her hand on his penis, Constand said. As night turned to morning, Cosby prepared breakfast – a muffin and Constand’s favorite tea. He asked her to call him when she got home.

A year later, Constand reported the incident to authorities.

During the two-week trial last year, a jury failed to unanimously agree on a verdict after more than 60 hours of deliberating which resulted in O’Neill declaring a mistrial.

Some believed the costs associated with the trial – which included shuttling a sequestered jury from Pittsburgh to and from hotels and assigning extra deputies for Cosby – would lead prosecutors to decide against a second trial.

Now, with O’Neill’s declaration that the retrial should last at least one month and the judge allowing five other accusers to testify, the trial may spill over into summer.

With a more than \$410 million budget that included a seven percent increase for the district attorney’s office in 2017, the county can afford to continue its high-profile battle against Cosby, who’s reportedly worth \$500 million.

It’s been reported that Cosby paid his former attorneys, a firm led by Brian Monagle, as much

as \$1,500 per hour. He’s now hired an even higher profile team headed by former Michael Jackson attorney Tom Mesereau.

“The costs of representation vary by jurisdiction, client and circumstance,” said attorney Gregory Q. Carter of the G. Carter Law Firm, an African-American-owned firm in New Orleans. “Considering the high-profile nature of Mr. Cosby, the numerous reports of secondary accusers, and the voluminous amount of discovery, it’s likely the defense costs will dwarf that which the county reported.”

Carter continued: “In a trial of this stature, it is typical for the defense firm to be solely dedicated to representing the individual client. In addition, it is likely the defense requires investigators, additional staff attorneys, and experts to be employed to fully vet and present the defense.”

Unfortunately, money plays a major factor in most criminal trials, said Thaddeus Hoffmeister, a professor of law at the University of Dayton.

“It dictates many things that you can and cannot do. Our system is built on a plea-bargaining system that’s stacked against the defense in that the government has a bottomless pit,” Hoffmeister said. “They’ll never run out of money.”



# AG asks Congress to improve states’ ability to combat abuse, neglect of Medicaid patients

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney General Jim Hood, along with a bipartisan group of 48 other attorneys general, has asked Congress to ease federal restrictions that limit states’ ability to investigate and prosecute the abuse and neglect of Medicaid beneficiaries.

The attorneys general sent a letter Wednesday to U.S. Representatives Tim Walberg, R-Mich., and Peter Welch, D-Vt., in support of their legislation, H.R. 3891, which would expand the authority of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCUs) to detect, investigate and prosecute Medicaid patient abuse in non-institutional settings.

Under current law, MFCUs, which are mostly housed within state attorney general’s offices, may investigate and prosecute patient abuse and neglect only if it occurs in a health care facility or, in some circumstances, in a board and care facility. That means other cases of abuse and neglect of Medicaid patients – such as in a home health care setting – fall outside the unit’s authority. If enacted, the legislation would broaden the authority of the MFCUs to screen complaints or reports alleging potential abuse or neglect.

The legislation came after a similar group of 38 attorneys general wrote to then-U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price in May 2017, asking for changes in federal regulation to give the states this expanded authority. However, the department concluded that the expanded authority would require a change in federal law that could

not be done through the regulatory process. The bill, introduced by Walberg and Welch, was in direct response to the attorneys general’s letter and subsequent response from the department.

“Although our office’s Vulnerable Persons Unit currently handles allegations of abuse and neglect in non-institutional settings, the expansion of this work for Medicaid Fraud Control Unit authority would strengthen our resources. I urge Congress to pass this legislation,” stated Hood.

The attorneys general also stressed to the lawmakers the importance of expanding this authority in light of the national opioid epidemic. The bill would, for example, give states the authority to investigate and prosecute cases of unlawful opioid distribution to Medicaid beneficiaries, which under current law they may only do if the case occurred within a health care facility or a board and care facility.

In addition to Mississippi, the other attorneys general who signed the letter were Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

# Mississippi animal advocates celebrate victory against dog fighting

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In Defense of Animals, the international animal protection organization that runs Hope Animal Sanctuary and the Justice for Animals Campaign in Carroll County, Mississippi, is celebrating a victory for animals with increased criminal penalties for dog fighting.

“We gladly welcome Mississippi’s increased penalties for dog fighting which will protect our communities and help deter future cruelty crimes,” offered Doll Stanley who leads In Defense of Animals’ Justice for Animals Campaign. “Senator Dearing deserves our thanks and respect for his fine character and steadfast commitment to ethical standards. We will ensure law enforcement is aware of the new legislation and continue to aid them in applying existing laws to get justice for animals in Mississippi.”

Highly publicized raids on dog fighting rings in Adams, Rankin, Madison and other Mississippi counties have outraged Mississippians and exposed a gap in the justice system. As a result, In Defense of Animals, Animal Advocacy Initiative of Mississippi and Mississippi Animal Rescue League have been working to support Senator Bob Dearing of District 37 in his quest to pass stronger laws for horrifically abused animals.

Despite the clear need for stronger laws, it has been a year on pins and needles for proponents of Senate Bill 2934, “the Dog Fighting bill.” The bill was finally passed March 27, 2018, just three days before the end of the 2018 Legislative Session.

From July 1, 2018, anyone involved in any aspect of orga-



nizing a fight, or in any manner of keeping, training, transporting dogs, or holding or supplying paraphernalia for a dog fight will be subject to a fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 and/or a one to five-year jail term. A second offense will carry a fine of \$5,000

to \$10,000, or a three to ten-year jail term. Convicted speculators will receive a fine of \$500 to \$5,000 and up to one year in jail.

“We are pleased to see increased second offense penalties as a step to justice for dogs

who are fought,” said Justice for Animals campaigner Stanley.

Four animal protection bills were passed over this year and will be the focus for Mississippi animal advocates in 2019.

For more information, please visit [www.idausa.org](http://www.idausa.org)

# Legislature declares June Access to Justice Month

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Free family law clinics are expected to be conducted in every county in the state this year to assist poor people in resolving civil legal issues in Chancery Courts. Twenty-one free family law clinics that will offer services to people in more than 40 counties are scheduled in June. More family law clinics are expected to be held later this year.

Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. has called upon chancellors and bar associations statewide to organize free family law clinics to assist poor people. Waller and the Access to Justice Commission began work last year to schedule the free clinics statewide.

Waller said, “It is vitally important for all citizens to have access to the courthouse. Mississippi has one of the highest rates of poverty in the United States and these legal clinics allow meaningful access with the assistance of volunteer lawyers.”

The free clinics are intended to help those who can’t afford to hire lawyers to resolve matters such as divorce, custody, visitation, child support, emancipation, name change, adoption, guardianship and domestic abuse protective orders.

Nicole H. McLaughlin, executive director of the Access to Justice Commission, said, “Pro se legal clinics provide the participants with free legal advice, information on how to prepare and file legal pleadings and how to present their case in court. The commission is excited about the willingness of all the districts and volunteer attorneys to organize and assist at the clinics.” McLaughlin is also director of the Access to Justice Initiative of the Mississippi Bar.

On March 27, the Mississippi House and Senate adopted House Concurrent Resolution 105 commending the Access to Justice Commission on its 12th anniversary and declaring June

as Access to Justice Month.

HCR 105, introduced by Speaker Pro Tempore Greg Snowden of Meridian and Rep. Percy Watson of Hattiesburg, noted that approximately 695,000 people in Mississippi, a fifth of the state’s population, live at or below poverty level, and about 1.3 million of the impoverished and the working poor – almost 45 percent of the state’s population – qualify for civil legal aid. There is one Legal Services lawyer for every 21,000 eligible people. Almost half of the people who seek help from Legal Services in Mississippi are turned away. Many of those people struggle to represent themselves pro se in court without the assistance of an attorney. Others are unable to get their matters heard in court at all.

The Concurrent Resolution recognized the collaborative efforts of the Access to Justice Commission, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project,

chancellors, local bar associations, law students and community organizations that have worked together to provide free family law clinics to help meet the civil legal needs of low income people.

The resolution reads, in part, “Whereas, periodic legal clinics staffed by volunteer lawyers have been developed as an effective means of providing assistance to low-income people, as well as Pro Se Days, which have been conducted in the 1st Chancery District, the 3rd Chancery District, the 5th Chancery District, the 9th Chancery District, the 10th Chancery District,

the 11th Chancery District and in the 20th Chancery District; and

Whereas, in an effort to increase the availability of civil legal assistance, the Access to Justice Commission of the Mississippi Supreme Court is working to organize Pro Se clinics in every county in the state, with numerous civil legal clinics scheduled in June 2018 and afterwards across the state that will address family law matters and guardianships....”

HCR 105 is at this link: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2018/pdf/history/HCR/HC0105.xml>.

Chancellor Jacqueline Mask of Tupelo, co-chair of the Access


to Justice Commission, said, “I am extremely appreciative to the Legislature for the resolution recognizing the Access to Justice Commission. We thank them for realizing the need, recognizing the month and taking action. The needs of our state in this field are significant, and Chancery Court judges across the state are to be commended for working to ensure that low-income litigants have access to their courtrooms. We have many attorneys who are volunteering their time to help meet the needs, and the entire Mississippi Bar is to be commended for its work.”

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# The greatest invitation

PART 2

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



All are invited to come to the living water. Jesus said in John 7:37-38, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” To whom is this invitation given?

The Bible says everyone can come and buy. Solomon said in Proverbs 23:23, “Buy the truth, and sell it not.” You may ask, “How can I buy the truth? How can I buy this experience?” When you give up self and all your own ideas and give yourself completely to God and His plan for your life, then you can buy the truth and gain this rich experience.

God will never take advantage of you. He will bless your life. He can help you to have a fulfilling, contented and pro-

ductive life. If we do anything worthwhile for Christ, it is because He enables us to do it.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:19, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.” Some people who profess to be Christians are continually laying up treasures on earth. Most of the things that we see in life – the houses, the land, the cattle, the automobiles and fine apparel – can be purchased with money.

A price tag can be placed on everything tangible in life. However, many things that we may possess in life should never be sold, yet some do. People sell things that God has given. If the price is great enough, some sell their virtue and honor. These things can never be regained.

Some have sold their good names. You should be extremely careful of how you

act because once you lose your good name, you may never regain it.

We are living in a day when people make something out of nothing. People have given up honesty, self-respect and godly principles. I do not want to give up one godly principle. I am convinced that if I give up one, I will lose the respect of God; that is something you cannot buy with money. The respect of God means more to me than the respect of any other individual.

Some have given up standards of conduct and their clean consciences. Acts 23:1 says, “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day..” Once you lose your clean conscience, money cannot buy it back.

Many people drink and do all kinds of things to smother their gnawing, guilty consciences. Nevertheless, when they come back to their sens-

es, their conscience are still there to gnaw them again. Money cannot buy some things.

Sometimes people give up their good family relationships and no amount of money can regain it for them. Money cannot purchase the gift of salvation. One cannot purchase the Holy Spirit with money. One song writer wrote, “Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind, sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.”

To come to God, you must put away human reasoning. Won’t you lay it all aside and come to Jesus just as you are?”

Next week, “Discipline Your Mind”

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

## PRESERVED

# New strategies for old battles

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



I consider myself an experienced warrior in the fight against allergies. Having suffered from allergic reactions to pollen, dog and cat hair, ragweed, etc. since I was in elementary school, I’ve gotten accustomed to sneezing, coughing and blowing my nose throughout the spring and summer months.

However, last year I switched to a plant based diet and the most amazing thing happened: I went through the shifts from fall, winter and spring seasons without one sinus infection, upper respiratory challenge or case of the sniffles. Having experienced at least one and, in some cases, all of these yearly for the last 30 years, I was ecstatic.

Because of my body responding so positively to the “clean” diet, I was even able to stop taking my daily allergy medicine altogether.

However, even though I’m currently not dealing with any allergy symptoms, I can still feel the changes in the season. Previously, I was able to sense the change in seasons based on how my body responded to things that were in the air. Even though allergy symptoms frustrated me, I actually came to see them as a good sign.

For example, allergy symptoms like sneezing, runny nose and watery eyes are our bodies’ ways of protecting us from the “invaders” as some like to call allergy triggers like dust, pollen or pet hair. Even though we don’t see them, our bodies’ responses let us know that the allergy triggers are there.

Allergies also are an unhealthy


overreaction to things that are a part of our normal lives. Allergies warn us much like the Spirit of God.

My past allergy fights remind me of how we sometimes fight against the Spirit of God. Many of us have had the experience of walking into a place where we instantly didn’t feel comfortable. That funny feeling, regardless of what we saw with our own eyes, was God communicating to us. These awkward moments are often God’s way of protecting us from things, people and places that mean us no good.

I Corinthians 2:9-11 says, “However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

Spiritual discernment will often let us know the heart of God concerning changes in our lives. Some of these changes are ones that we spent many nights praying for. However, some of us overreact to the Spirit of God (and fight the change) or worse, ignore what we sense but don’t know how to respond to. One of the best lessons we can learn is to trust and willingly submit to the Spirit of God.

*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](mailto:preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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# Hattie, Coretta and the Women of the Movement

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Hattie Carroll (1911-1963) was a 51-year-old restaurant server who was murdered by a white aristocrat, the 24-year-old William Devereux Zantzinger (1939-2009) who struck her with a cane because she took too long to serve him a drink. The site was the old Emerson Hotel in Baltimore, at an event, The Spinsters' Ball. Zantzinger's crime was minimized, and he got a scant six months in jail (not prison) for killing a woman, the mother of at least nine children, who was more than twice his age, and with just a fraction of his power.

Bob Dylan popularized the murder of Carroll in a folk song, The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll. He didn't get all the facts right – Carroll didn't have ten children as he crooned, and Zantzinger was never indicted for first-degree murder.

Still, the haunting croon was a poignant reminder that a rich and powerful white man with a diamond ring on his finger and a cane in his hand got away with killing a black woman server. More than that, Zantzinger was treated with kid gloves, allowed to "take a break" from his incarceration to make sure his tobacco crop was planted.

Young Naomi Wadler, the 11-year-old speaker at the March for Our Lives did not know about Carroll. Why would she have? The Alexandria, Virginia fifth-grader was born in 2007, forty-four years after e Carroll died in 1963. Her plea to consider the black women who do not make headlines might well have been extended to Carroll, but Wadler did not know, and we don't know enough to juxtapose white privilege with black women's invisibility.

Without knowing all of the details, Wadler shared that black women don't often make headlines. She knows that her contemporaries could be targets of guns, of police brutality and that their (our) plights are often ignored. Wadler knows, along with so many of her colleagues, that black women are worth more than the shrug of shoulders that Zantzinger offered when he was confronted with Carroll's murder.

On April 4, we will be reminded that it is the 50th anniversary

of Dr. King's assassination. We will remember Dr. King through our prisms, considering him as a prophet, an evangelist, a social justice advocate and activist, an educator, an economist, a leader and a martyr. We cannot consider him in any silo though, and we must consider him in the context of the women who supported him, who empowered him and who were sometimes martyred along with him.

Barbara Reynolds has written about Coretta Scott King and her major contributions to her husband's work. The King biographer Claiborne Carson shared private letters between Martin Luther King Jr. and his "boo" Coretta, where they clashed and reconciled in exciting prose that illustrated their regard for each other.

Did the Kings know that a depraved white man, William Zantzinger, was sentenced to a mere six months for killing a Hattie Carroll on the same day that Dr. King delivered the 'I Have A Dream' speech?

Thanks to Wadler, we will pay more attention to these black women like Carroll, whose stories have been swallowed. Thanks to Dr. King's granddaughter, Yolanda Renee King, and her colleagues in the March For Our Lives, we will consider nonviolence differently. But mostly thanks to the legacy of Hattie Carroll, we will be forced to consider the many ways that women's contributions to the women's movement have been too frequently ignored.

Medgar Evers was gunned down in his driveway in Mississippi. Hattie Carroll was caned down in Baltimore's Emerson Hotel for simply doing her work. Without rank ordering death and pain, it is important to note how incidental the deaths of black women too often are. "We don't," said young Wadler, "make the headlines. Our stories are too often untold."

Yet if we commemorate the 50th year after Dr. King's assassination, we must commemorate the women who were slaughtered by racists. Hattie Carroll is one of them. Her tragic story must be woven into our history.

*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](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)*

# The gun control debate ignores black lives

By Glenn Ellis  
TriceEdney Newswire



Students from across the country walked out of class March 14 at 10 a.m. to protest gun violence and demand new legislation. The students left classes for 17 minutes to commemorate the 17 lives lost in the Parkland school shooting. Some even left for 18 minutes to acknowledge a young black girl who was killed in an accidental shooting in Birmingham, Alabama.

There are "other" gun deaths that were not included in this social action: young black males and homicide. In fact, the American gun debate rarely takes into account the number of black youth who are murdered every day.

Deaths of black men in the inner cities: These gun deaths don't make the headlines. The country doesn't come to a dead halt, wailing at the murder of innocents, demanding an end to gun violence.

The NRA won't appear on TV to suggest putting armed guards in inner city schools. There is no public outcry. It is the astonishing number of black men killing other black men. This is a true gun crisis in inner cities across our country.

Two of every 5 deaths for young black men are caused by homicide. In contrast, that rate is twice of Hispanic male deaths and 15 times the rate of white male homicides.

One report notes that gun violence is not only the sec-

ond leading cause of death for American children, behind car accidents, but the leading cause of death for black American children. Suicides by gunfire, on the other hand, made up the majority of gun deaths among white youth, accounting for an average of 644 every year.

Black children and teens are twice as likely to be killed by guns as by cars, the report notes, while white children and teens are nearly three times more likely to die in car accidents than because of gun violence. Black teenage males are especially at risk.

As of 2010, 45 percent of child gun deaths in the U.S. and 46 percent of gun injuries were among black children and teens, although black kids made up only 15 percent of all children and teens in the country.

In their Protect Children, Not Guns report, the Children's Defense Fund reported on how national and state data on gun violence affects children and teens in America. According to the report, the children and teens killed by guns in 2008 and 2009, would fill more than 229 classroom of 25 students each.

To make matters worse, a stunning bit of data from Pew Research Center for People and the Press showed that some 80 percent of blacks said that the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., raises important issues about race in America. Only 37 percent of whites said the same, with 47 percent saying that race was getting more attention that it

deserves.

Americans are 10 times more likely to be killed by guns than people in other developed countries, a new study in The American Journal of Medicine found.

Even though it has half the population of the other 22 nations combined, the United States accounted for 82 percent of all gun deaths. The United States also accounted for 90 percent of all women killed by guns, the study found. Ninety-one percent of children under 14 who died by gun violence were in the United States. And 92 percent of young people between ages 15 and 24 killed by guns were in the United States. Compared to 22 other high-income nations, the United States' gun-related murder rate is 25 times higher, and the nation's gun-related suicide rate is eight times higher than other high-income countries.

There are no two ways about it, the United States is just a violent country, obsessed with guns.

Indeed, the "endemic" firearm violence in this country represents a "substantial, long-term cumulative health burden. If present trends continue, Americans can expect to lose 336,778 lives to guns between 2011 and 2020, they calculated.

No gun law is going to change anything at this point. We make it about the guns and we're not worried about our kids. People should be focusing on why gun violence exists and trying to prevent it from occurring. Gun homicides in Japan are about as common as

deaths from being struck by lightning in the United States. Gun homicides in Poland are about as common as deaths from bicycle riders being hit by cars in the United States.

By failing to talk about the majority of gun murder victims – young black men – politicians and advocates are missing the chance to save lives. The sad truth that is there is no political will in the country to address inner-city violence.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible. The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

*Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. A health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics, Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. Listen to Glenn, every Saturday at 9 a.m. (EST) on [www.wurdradio.com](http://www.wurdradio.com), and Sundays at 8:30am (EST) on [www.wdasfm.com](http://www.wdasfm.com).*

*For more good health information, visit: [www.glennellis.com](http://www.glennellis.com)*

# MLK50 – Where do we go from here?

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



*"When we foolishly maximize the minimum and minimize the maximum, we sign the warrant for our own day of doom. It is this moral lag in our thing-oriented society that blinds us to the human reality around us and encourages us in the greed and the exploitation which creates the sector of poverty in the midst of wealth.*

*"Again we have deluded ourselves into believing the myth that capitalism grew and prospered out of the protestant ethic of hard work and sacrifice. The fact is that capitalism was built on the exploitation and suffering of black slaves and continues to thrive on the exploitation of the poor both black and white, both here and abroad." – Martin Luther King Jr.*

As a civil rights organization that worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the April 4 anniversary of King's assassination has always been a somber day of remembrance for the National Urban League.

This year, the 50th anniversary,

is an especially poignant one, presenting an opportunity to examine the progress of racial equality over the last half-century, and examining King's legacy through the lens of that history.

On Wednesday, I have the honor of speaking at the official 50th Anniversary Commemoration at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Museum occupies the former Lorraine Motel where King was shot to death. At 6:01 p.m., the moment of his death, bells at the museum will ring. To symbolize the news of his death rippling across the country and around the world, bells will ring nationally at 6:05 p.m. and internationally at 6:07 p.m.

I was a child at the time of King's death, but I remember the devastation of my parents, Dutch and Sybil Morial, who knew him personally. My mother first met King when he was a graduate student at Boston University, where she was an undergraduate.

She describes the day in her memoir, Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment.

"He knew it was his time. He had said it ... 'I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a

people, will get to the Promised Land.' He knew it, but we didn't. And we didn't understand his death. I was inconsolable ... I said to Dutch, 'Now that Martin is gone, what will become of the movement?'" "It will go on. It must." And it did.

And now, 50 years later, the country asks itself the same question: What will become of the movement? The museum's commemoration is part of its year long exploration of the theme, "MLK50 – Where Do We Go From Here?"

It's seldom emphasized that the reason King was in Memphis April 4, 1968, was to support the city's striking sanitation workers. Earlier in the year, a worker had been crushed to death by malfunctioning equipment, leading 1,300 men to walk off their jobs to protest dangerous conditions and low pay.

Memphis was the first stop in his Poor People's Campaign, a massive march on Washington planned for later that year. King saw the Poor People's Campaign as an expansion of his movement from civil rights to human rights, an effort to unite all marginalized people.

His plan for the Poor People's Campaign included petitioning the federal government to prioritize helping the poor with a \$30 billion anti-poverty

package that included, among other demands, a commitment to full employment, a guaranteed annual income measure and more low-income housing.

Sadly, the campaign floundered as a result of the sudden loss of his leadership. With an eye toward this history, the National Urban League has established robust programs to cultivate and nurture leadership potential within and without our movement. Our Emerging Leaders Program is a competitive, 12-month development opportunity for professionals that provides a unique chance to master analytical and critical leadership skills in the non-profit sector.

Walmart Foundation, a sponsor of Wednesday's ceremony, has made its support of Emerging Leaders and other leadership training initiatives a centerpiece of a community-wide commitment to honoring King's legacy.

With the help of a new generation of leaders, the Poor People's Campaign has been revived and begins a series of local action, peaceful rallies and protests in April. In alignment with the National Urban League's mission of economic empowerment and opportunity, we look forward to helping the spirit of King's legacy live on through sustained activism.

ANYTIME  
ONLINE

www.mississippilink.com



City of Jackson, Spinderella set for Saturday, April 14

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson, Department of Parks and Recreation and co-sponsor Eyeshine Creative Arts Company presents “Spinderella.” This family event is based on a theatrical dance performance that brings inspira-

tion, drama and song all on one stage. The event will take place Saturday, April 14, at Thalia Mara Hall located at 255 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Doors open at 2 p.m. and the show starts at 3 p.m. Tickets are

\$10 in advanced and \$15 the day of the show. Tickets can be purchased on Evenbrite.com.

Children five years old and under enter for free.

For more information, please contact Nadia Lackey or Angela White at 601-960-0471.

*Eyeshine Creative Arts Company and The City of Jackson*  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
present

# Spinderella

Thalia Mara Hall  
255 E. Pascagoula Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Saturday, April 14, 2018  
Doors open @ 2:00 p.m.  
Show starts @ 3:00 p.m.

Children 5 & Under Get in Free

Tickets \$10 Advance / \$15 Day of Show

Tickets can be purchased on [Eventbrite.com](#)

FOR MORE INFO CALL (601)207-4463 OR EMAIL [SWM@EYESHINECREATIVE.COM](#)

City of Jackson, “Youth Fish Tales Rodeo” set for Saturday, April 28

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson, Department of Parks and Recreation and Co-Sponsor Mississippi Wildlife, Fishers and Parks will host our “Youth Fish Tales Rodeo.” The event will take place Saturday, April 28, at LeFleur’s Bluff State Park (Mayes Lake) located at 3315 Lakeland Terrace, Jackson, MS 39216. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and the event takes place 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Our event is geared towards boys and girls ages 15 and under. We are striving to make a difference, while teaching participants the enjoyment of wildlife and fishing together with families and friends. The participants will have the chance to fish, play games, win prizes, and enjoy the great outdoors experience.

For more information, please contact Nadia Lackey or Angela White at 601-960-0471.

THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, & PARKS  
& THE CITY OF JACKSON, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

WILL SPONSOR A:

# Youth Fishing Tales Rodeo

FREE FISHING FOR REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS AGES 15 & UNDER  
LEFLEURS BLUFF STATE PARK  
3315 LAKELAND TERRACE ROAD, JACKSON, MS  
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018  
@7:00 AM EVENT START @ 8:00 AM  
GAMES! PRIZES! FISHING!  
TEACH PARTICIPANTS HOW TO HAVE FUN FISHING!  
STOCKED CATFISH

PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING FISHING GEAR:  
ROD OR POLE \* STRING \* BAIT \* TACKLE BOX \* COOLER

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL:  
601.960.1807 OR 601.960.0655 BETWEEN 10:30AM - 3:30PM

These vehicles are at 4225 Michael Avalon Street, City of Jackson Impound Lot and will be auction off May 5, 2018.

INVENTORY #	CAR YEAR	MAKE /MODEL	VIN#
17582	2005	DODGE RAM	1D7HA18N65S125527
18201	2000	BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP54KX4215697
21821	2012	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL2AP6CN461946
22452	1996	DODGE RAM	1B7JF26Y7TJ195430
22667	2000	CHEVY 2500	1GCGC24U9Y2327311
22731	2004	MERCUY MARQUIS	2MEFM74W64XG86928
22767	2002	LINCOLN LS	1LNHM8653ZY679129
24123	2000	NISSAN FRONTIER	1N6DD2654YC341516
24227	2003	CHEVY TRAILBLAZER	1GND5135632270414
24452	2000	FORD FOCUS	3FAPP3133YR191737
24468	2008	JEEP PATRIOT	1J8FT280X8D606193
24507	2006	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11E76C123044
24516	2005	FORD CROWN VIC	2FAFP71WBSX143861
24582	2000	LINCOLN TOWN CAR	1LNHM813W0Y805367
24833	1990	TOYOTA COROLLA	1NXAE94A9L2160416
24918	1994	VOLVO 940	VY1JS8317R1184033
24975	2000	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WH55K6Y9164597
24989	2003	JEEP CHEROKEE	1J4GV48S13C581335
25035	2004	NISSAN MAXIMA	1N4BA41E54C925875
25085	1995	TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1SK12E2S25U52849
25183	2011	DODGE RAM	1D7RB1G9P985672775
25234	2011	HYUNDAI SONATA	5NPEC4A89B8305135
25278	2001	BUICK REGAL	2G4WB55K71157618
25332	1995	TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1SK12E8SU575598
25403	2010	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCP2F79AA055312
25414	2000	TOYOTA CAMRY	JT2B2G2K4Y0429757
25436	2006	PONTIAC TORRENT	2CKDL63F96065319
25441	1997	PLYMOUTH VOYAGR	2P4GP4430VR167635
25642	2004	CHEVY TAHOE	1GNEC13274R214022
25681	2005	FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU92215K852643
25700	1990	CHEVY 1500	2GCEC19K6L1181170
25748	2000	FORD CONTOUR	1FAFP66L8YK109158
25897	2001	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WF52E219284794
25919	2005	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56825A158533
25956	1990	NISSAN TRUCK	1N6SD1690LC318535
26019	1998	HONDA CIVIC	1HGEJ8144WL107905
26022	2005	GMC YUKON	1GKEC13295J256821
26025	2014	BMW 328i	WBA3A5C58EMN66312
26031	2006	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56776A130283
26079	1995	CHEVY CAVALIER	1G1JF524457181929
26108	1987	GMC SIERRA	1GTD141H0HF703216
26110	2004	BUICK RAINIER	5GAD5135542261375
26136	2004	BUICK RENDEZVOUS	3G5DA03E64S510106
26151	2003	FORD FOCUS	1FAFP38343W125841
26154	2011	FORD FEISTA	3FADP48JX8M178238
26166	1997	FORD EXPLORER	1FMDU32XVUA88083
26169	2000	CHEVY SUBURBAN	3GNEC1674YG163866
26175	2003	BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP52K234178804
26182	2010	FORD F150	1FTFW1EV6AKA26773
26183	2002	FORD EXPLORER	1FMYU60E3UC29298
26193	2002	BUICK RENDEZVOUS	3G5DA03E625544608
26197	1999	FORD EXPEDITION	1FMRU1761XLX25117
26202	1999	TOYOTA COROLLA	1NXBR12E2X223233
26213	2001	GMC YUKON	3GKEC16791G171786
26225	2010	FORD CROWN VIC	2FABP7BVXAX131791
26238	2005	CHRYSLER 300	2C3JA53G35H121006
26251	2014	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCR2F32EA292107
26285	1995	HONDA CIVIC	1HGCD7239SA001681

INVENTORY #	CAR YEAR	MAKE /MODEL	VIN#
26295	1997	FORD F150	1FTDF1720VNB74304
26304	2013	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL3AP7DC213059
26309	1999	MERCURY VILLAGER	4M2XV11T9XDJ40821
26319	2012	ACURA TSX	JH4CU2F8XCC001684
26321	1994	FORD F150	1FTEX15Y8RK829188
26323	1998	BUICK LESABRE	1G4HRS2K0WH435966
26333	1999	GMC JIMMY	1GKCS13W3X2524713
26336	2010	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL2AP4AN442891
26339	1992	CHEVY SILVERADO	1GBDC14K9N202062
26346	1999	FORD EXPLORER	1FMYU22X4UC67315
26352	2003	CHRYSLER SEBRING	1C3EL46X93N527071
26353	2008	CHEVY EQUINOX	2CNDL13F386007666
26355	2001	CHEVY TAHOE	1GNEC13T91R182164
26357	2004	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WF52E549410408
26359	1982	OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS	1G3AM4781CM430967
26366	1999	TOYOTA AVALON	4T1BF1886U349083
26368	1997	NISSAN MAXIMA	JN1CA21D5VM528854
26374	1996	CHEVY SILVERADO	1GCEC19R4TE109024
26376	2001	BMW 325Ci	WBABN33461JW56089
26377	2004	CHEVY VENTURE	1GNDX13E34D266984
26380	1999	MERCURY MARQUIS	2MEFM75W9X631540
26420	2004	KIA OPTIMA	KNAGD128245264452
26461	1996	FORD EXPLORER	1FMDU32P9T2B29514
26464	1989	FORD F150	1FTDF15N7KN63955
26470	1991	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCB7169MA009817
26479	2001	MAZDA MILLENIA	JM1TA212191171245
26481	2001	CHRYSLER SEBRING	1C3EL56U31N500876
26499	2005	PONTIAC G6	1G2ZG528054141982
26506	2003	HONDA CIVIC	1HGEM22963D64663
26507	2004	KIA OPTIMA	KNAGD126745296621
26509	2005	HYUNDAI SONATA	KMHWF35H15A111582
26512	2005	HONDA CIVIC	2HGES16545H601960
26513	1999	HONDA CIVIC	2HJEF6613KH543811
26521	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA	JN1CA31D8Y747596
26523	2009	CHRYSLER 300	2C3KA53V49H633978
26525	2001	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP5691A279266
26527	2004	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	2G2WR524441130312
26541	1998	FORD MUSTANG	1FAFP4041WF156222
26544	2010	NISSAN ROGUE	JN8AS5MV9AW112347
26556	2003	FORD FOCUS	1FAFP34P73W195262
26571	2000	MERCEDEZ CLK320	WDBLJ65G5YF159672
26573	2002	FORD TAURUS	1FAHP55U52G220886
26584	2003	CHEVY S10	1GCCS19H738220845
26596	2000	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	1G2WP52K8YF243845
26598	2003	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D63C266874
26602	1993	CHEVY SILVERADO	2GCEC19K8P1141727
26603	2002	HYUNDAI ACCENT	KMHCG45C62U266794
26618	2006	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56876A060873
26625	2010	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL2AP5AN426523
26628	1993	TOYOTA COROLLA	1NXAE04E9P2086998
26630	2006	CHEVY EQUINOX	2CNDL63F166130036
26635	2003	CHEVY AVALANCHE	3GNEC13T13G312005
26637	2003	DODGE NEON	1B3ES56C93D188742
26643	2000	MERCURY MARQUIS	2MEFM75WYX659655
26651	2000	BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP54K7Y4198423
26652	2000	LINCOLN CONTINENTAL	1LNHM97V9Y9Y78268
26658	2008	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WT55K489156433
26659	2003	MERCEDES E320	WDBUF65J93A146186

INVENTORY #	CAR YEAR	MAKE /MODEL	VIN#
26661	2000	TOYOTA 4RUNNER	JT3GM84R5Y0067431
26700	1999	LEXUS ES300	JT8BF28G6X5069162
26724	2013	FORD F150	1FTFW1EF1DF063423
26746	1997	LINCOLN MK8	1LNLM91VXVY650944
26750	2005	MERCEDES C240	WDBRF81J75F678842
26772	2001	LINCOLN TOWNCAR	1LNHM82W31Y629774
26774	2000	PONTIAC GRAND AM	1G2NF52T3YM752356
26780	1999	SATURN SL	1G8ZH5280X2360787
26799	2006	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WB58K869337305
26811	1997	PONTIAC SUNFIRE	1GZBJ5248V7602837
26825	1999	TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1B622K2XU862925
26844	2004	CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WF55K649417935
26863	2000	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG1655Y038459
26870	1994	TOYOTA COROLLA	2T1AE09B0R0C54802
26872	1999	TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1B622K4XU402620
26885	1998	OLDSMOBILE AURORA	1G3GR62C6W4100152
26893	1992	CHEVY CORSICA	1G1LT53T0YU267275
26895	2004	NISSAN XTERRA	5N1ED28T04C615247
26901	1997	FORD EXPEDITION	1FMEU1719VLC07892
26905	1997	BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP52K7VHS20534
26915	2008	TOYOTA MATRIX	2T1KR30E28C699287
26938	2005	KIA SEDONA	KN0UP132056702842
26945	2005	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D25C211943
26962	2001	HONDA ODYSSEY	2HKRL18611H517566
26975	1999	SATURN ION	1G8ZH5280X2264075
26980	2005	JEEP CHEROKEE	1J4GS48K05C545668
26990	2003	CHEVY SUBURBAN	1GNEC16253J108709
26993	2005	DODGE DAKOTA	1D7HE48N955211887
26994	1999	LINCOLN NAVIGATOR	5LMPU28L2XJ04441
27049	1999	LEXUS ES300	JT8BF28G6X5069162
27054	2000	CADILLAC SEVILLE	1G6KY5493YU208792
27072	1999	MERCURY MOUNTAINEER	4M2ZU52E8XU116514
27081	2000	TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1B622K7YU635635
27083	1999	CHEVY MONTE CARLO	2G1WX12K7X9195629
27101	2003	CHEVY MONTE CARLO	2G1WX12K739309333
27107	1998	CHEVY 1500	1GCEC14W5WZ191601
27110	1991	CHEVY S10	1GCCS14A5M8273250
27119	1995	FORD CROWN VIC	2FALP71W15L136121
27124	2000	NISSAN XTERRA	5N1ED28T6YC505938
27129	2005	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53205A156515
27132	2007	CHEVY MALIBU	1G1ZS58F07F153579
27139	1999	INFINITI Q45	JNKBY31A30M602693
27165	2003	CADILLAC CTS	1G6DM57N930157361
27170	2003	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP5263A156559
27199	1995	CHEVY LUMINA	2G1WL52M0X59140136
27201	1998	CHEVY 1500	2GCEK19R0W1219786
27224	1999	DODGE CARAVAN	2B4GP44G5XR423789
27236	1999	FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU32XXXA71781
27246	2005	HYUNDAI ELANTRA	KMH0N460X5U945084
27277	2005	LINCOLN TOWNCAR	1LNHM81WXS5Y627950
27301	2008	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	2G2WPS52081160543
27312	2005	DODGE STRATUS	1B3EL46X15M651092
27332	1992	FREIGHTLINE SEMI TRUCK	1FUYDPY8NS518872
27336	1999	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG1653KA019374
27345	1998	HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG5654WA098004
27397	2006	FORD FUSION	3FAHP07Z6R232788



LEGAL

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

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

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

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR JAN PERIMETER SERVICE ROAD REHABILITATION BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NUMBER: 003-18

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide design engineering services for construction of an approximately 5.4 mile perimeter service road at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN") to enable Authority-owned vehicles access to all areas of the airfield to support aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) functions.

JMAA will receive Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. central time on Friday, May 4, 2018 (the "Deadline").

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, 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 Bonnie Spears, JMAA Procurement Specialist, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Bonnie Spears, Procurement Specialist  
Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 623  
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713  
E-Mail: bspears@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at [www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/](http://www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/).

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 1:00 p.m. central time on April 12, 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-Submission Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting a Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, 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, the opportunity to received detailed scope related information from the project owner, and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Submission Conference.

Based on the Statement of Qualifications, 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.

In that event, JMAA will 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 reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, 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 RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

3/29/18, 4/5/2018

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3069 - Roof Replacement for Davis Magnet Elementary School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 25, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Davis Magnet Elementary School will be held at 750 North Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39202, on April 10, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

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

3/29/2018, 4/5/2018

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ADOPTION OF THE MINOR CHILD  
NAME HEREIN

CAUSE ACTION NO. AD 2018-11147 0/3

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF A  
African-American Female child born on  
November 25, 2014 at Central Mississippi Medical  
Central in Jackson, Mississippi to a  
Twenty-five (25) year old African American female,  
An adult resident citizen of Hinds County, Mississippi

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by  
Shuntel and Emmorita G. Sanders who is seeking Petition for Adoption.

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 2nd day of May 2018, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Denise Owens. 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 39201, 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

3/29/2018, 4/5/2018 4/12/2018

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS  
LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-003-18  
APRIL 4, 2018

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 10, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for services in connection with Landscaping Improvements, Project No. 6000-003-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 10, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the Bid Opening. The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: "Landscaping Improvements, JMAA Project No. 6000-003-18." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever.

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

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Bidders from JMAA by contacting Bonnie Spears, Procurement Specialist, as follows: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Suite 300

Attention: Bonnie Spears  
Procurement Specialist  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208

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3/29/2018, 4/5/2018

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Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2018-02 District Benchmark and  
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Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp 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 3:30 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 27, 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 rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing [pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto: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](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us).

3/29/2018, 4/5/2018

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

2007 Toyota Camry 4T1BE46K38U791991  
Registered to Matthew Nelson  
Dealer Funding, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: April 13, 2018  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;  
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

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

Time: 10:00 A.M.

3/29/2018, 4/5/2018, 4/12/2018

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Telephone: (601) 360-8623  
Email Address: [bspears@jmaa.com](mailto:bspears@jmaa.com)

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>  
The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Bonnie Spears, Procurement Specialist. Ms. Spears can be contacted at [bspears@jmaa.com](mailto:bspears@jmaa.com) or 601-360-8623.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on April 17, 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 recommended for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub- Contractors, the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference, review of the plans and specifications, and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid Conference.

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

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: April 4, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.,  
Chief Executive Officer

4/5/2018, 4/12/2018

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3/29/2018, 4/5/2018

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

H I N D S I G H T I S W O N D E R F U L I T ' S

T R H X C R K T P R C B G H X N Q M D E R P C

A L W A Y S V E R Y E A S Y T O S E C O N D

Z E B Z F C L N Q F N Z C F P G C N V G H X

G U E S S A F T E R T H E F A C T

K D N C C Z M P N Q P T N M Z V P

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Sudoku Solution

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

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# Three of Murrah’s top players to play college ball

*chopsports*

With teammates, family and friends in attendance, three of Murrah’s Lady Mustangs signed their letter of intent to play collegiate basketball next season.

KeiMoya Walker, Jamaica Almons and Kacey Bradford are taking their talents to JUCO. Walker and Almons will be attending East Central while Bradford will be attending Jones Community College. All three ladies were instrumental in the team’s success the past four seasons.

They won the state championship during their sophomore year; meaning they bring championship pedigree to their respective schools.

Bradford joins Jones Community College, which is coming off back to back championship sea-



Jamaica Almons, Kacey Bradford and KeiMoya Walker

sons themselves At 6’2” Bradford is expected to do her damage in the post.

Almons, 6’1” and Walker, 5’9” are good cornerstones for East Central Community College’s new head coach LaTaryl Williams. Williams was hired in January to lead the women’s team after head coach Robert Thompson, coached the men and women last season.

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update


## Hinds County School District Celebrate Black History Month!




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# FILM REVIEW: “READY PLAYER ONE” GAMERS SEARCH FOR EASTER EGG IN ULTIMATE VIRTUAL REALITY ADVENTURE

By Kam Williams  
*Columnist*

It is 2045, a time when the planet has devolved into a desolate dystopia marked by a combination of pollution, overpopulation, poverty, corruption and global warming. Most of humanity lives in slums where they escape the misery by disappearing via virtual reality into the Oasis, a popular parallel universe co-created by James Halliday (Mark Rylance) and Ogden Morrow (Simon Pegg).

The characters were ostensibly inspired by Apple co-founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, since the former seized the reins of the company after the latter sold his stock citing concerns about its direction. Here, we have Halliday in control of Oasis and a skeptical Morrow no longer associated with the firm.

The picture’s point of departure is an unrecognizable Columbus, Ohio, a now devastated metropolis whose skyline has been reduced to a vast wasteland of vertical “stacks,” mobile homes piled high atop one another.

That’s where we find Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), an orphaned teen taken in by his Aunt Alice (Susan Lynch).

Wade’s a gamer who goes by the avatar Parzival whenever

he’s online. His best friend is Aech (Lena Waithe), though they’ve never actually met. That’s apparently par for the course, since everyone prefers escaping into the Oasis to facing the post-apocalyptic squalor that is reality.

A glimmer of hope arrives in the will left behind by the recently-deceased Halliday. By way of video, he announces a treasure hunt for an Easter egg hidden in the Oasis. The finder will not only be awarded control of his company, but stands to inherit half a trillion dollars to boot.

So, Wade forms the High Five, a rag-tag team composed of him, Aech, Art3mis (Olivia Cooke) and geeky siblings Sho (Philip Zhao) and Daito (Win Morisaki). Sure, millions of other “Gunters” (egg hunters) join in the search, but their chief competition is Innovative Online Industries (IOI), a video game conglomerate run by the maniacal Nolan Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn). Given the mammoth army of indentured players at his disposal, it’s hard to see how the High Five might prevail.

Not to worry. You can always trust Steven Spielberg to work his movie magic. And, after establishing that implausible

premise, Ready Player One takes off at a dizzying pace, with the legendary director even carving out space for a little romance.

You see, Wade has a big cyber crush on Art3mis, even though he has no idea what she looks like in real life. She likes him, too, but hides behind her avatar, because of a big birthmark on her face.

Will sparks continue to fly when they finally cross paths in the flesh? Can the High Five find the Easter egg first? Far be it from me to spoil this thrill-a-minute, virtual reality roller coaster ride riddled with allusions to pop culture and classic computer games.

Vintage Spielberg!  
Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated PG-13 for action, violence, bloody images, suggestive material, partial nudity and profanity

Running time: 140 minutes  
Production Studios: Amblin Entertainment / Village Roadshow Pictures / Reliance Entertainment / De Line Pictures / Farah Films & Management

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see the trailer for Ready Player One, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSp1dM2Vj48>

### 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 John Travolta

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	
T																	M									

Q T P N H P K R P A T I B W V G J R W X O  
H D P C W J H B H B G T L D R P M D W M O D  
A P P A T M M J T P Q H B G T L D R G D A T M M J

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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.

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)



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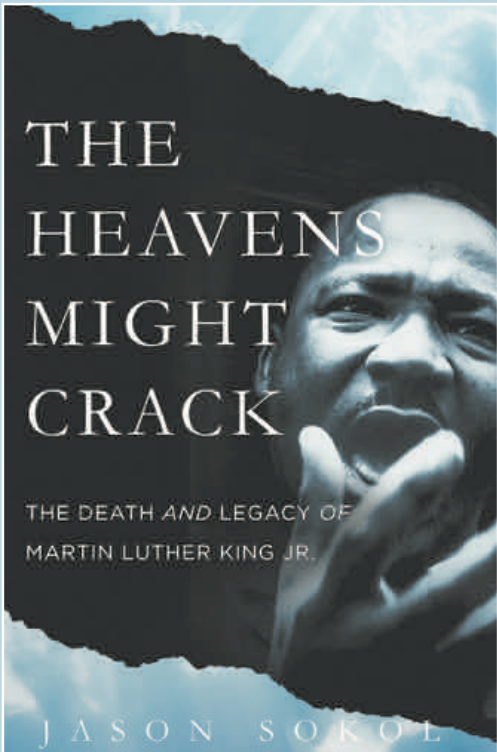


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# BOOK REVIEW: “THE HEAVENS MIGHT CRACK: THE DEATH AND LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.”

BY JASON SOKOL  
C.2018, BASIC BOOKS  
\$32.00 / \$42.00 CANADA • 344 PAGES



ByTerri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

One minute. That’s all it can take to change history. Sixty seconds, as long as an average TV commercial or two, a few blinks of your eyes and nothing is ever the same. And things can keep changing, as you’ll see in the new book “The Heavens Might Crack” by Jason Sokol.

The evening of April 4, 1968 was ordinary, just like many others on the road.

Andrew Young hadn’t kept Martin Luther King Jr. satisfac-

torily apprised of a legal situation in Memphis, and was on the receiving end of a pillow fight. Later, “Young and [Pastor] James Orange shadowboxed in the parking lot” of Lorraine Hotel and, while preparing for the next event, King wondered if he might want a jacket for the cooling air. And then, a “firecracker” sound, and King was quiet...

By most accounts, King was prepared for his death. He’d discussed it with friends and family, and they knew that loving him would mean losing him; it had been this way for years but,

says Sokol, “the early months of 1968 felt different.” White people largely feared and hated King. The FBI told him to “take his own life.” And yet, King hadn’t once backed down in his ideals.

Shock rolled through the nation following that spring evening. Some wept, and some questioned the need to go on. Others looted, burned, stood against the police in nearly every major city in the country. Many white Americans rejoiced, while black militancy increased. Gun control, which the Senate had discussed just hours before King’s death, became a

political hot-button.

And in the days that followed his assassination, it was feared that King’s legacy would be forgotten. Instead, it became sullied: says Sokol, “...the historical King – a courageous dissident who unsettled the powerful – would be replaced by a mythical one.”

Because it has been fifty years since Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, it can be assumed that many Americans today are too young to remember it. “The Heavens Might Crack” serves as a good fill-in for them (and for the not-then-born), as well as a

look back for those who can recall with great detail.

But beware – it’s a painful read, not because of how it’s written but because of what’s told. Author Jason Sokol picks the scab off old wounds that may have once seemed healed as he puts current events into reverse-perspective: readers might be surprised to see that some issues have softened with age, while others are as sharp today as they were then – and that includes shocking examples of racism, in-

equality and violence.

He doesn’t stop there, though: Sokol shows how King’s birthday became a reluctant holiday, and how his legacy leaves us with a “duty” to “make clear the substance of his actual teachings...”

This is a history book, to be sure, but it also feels quite meditative, making it the perfect read for those who remember and those who can’t.

“The Heavens Might Crack” is highly recommended. You’ll be grabbed by it in the first minute.

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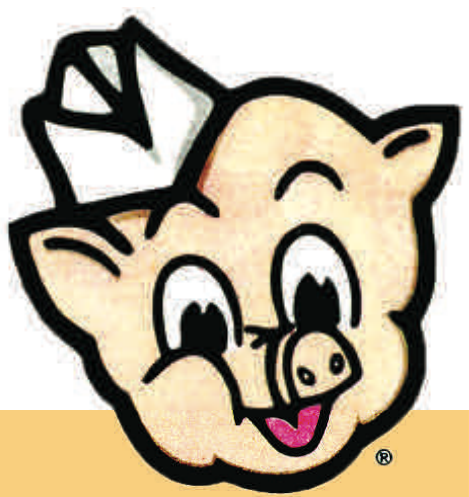
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