

## City Council addresses Zoo's next location as contract termination closes in

By Hope Reeves  
Student Intern

After the board overseeing the Jackson Zoo approved moving the timeworn animal estate from its West Capitol Street location at their meeting in late March, Jackson city council members are left contemplating whether the management company overseeing the zoo should change.

At a regular meeting held April 24, council members considered a motion to terminate the zoo's contract with a 90-day notice. This item was placed on the agenda for discussion by Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes, who has been extremely vocal since the subject became public.

Located in the heart of West Jackson for nearly 29 years, and managed by the Jackson Zoological Society, Inc., the menagerie is currently operating under an eight-year agreement that expires Sept. 2018; this causes the ruling of the attraction's proposed site to be an intense battle between the City of Jackson and the Zoo board.

Just shy of being in existence for a century, the park has evolved into a place of little presence over the past few years, and it has also encountered numerous challenges with its infrastructure, budget reductions and the run-down houses that surround the 110 acres of land.

According to a recent press release from the zoo in March, the attraction has tremendously declined in attendance from over 185,000 guests in 2003 to



only serving a small capacity of just 100,000 visitors in 2017; the release also detailed plans to transform the zoo into a better environment for wild life and visitors by moving it on the bank of the Pearl River.

Beth Poff, who serves as the executive director of the zoo, said, "For 16 to 20 years attendance has been going down because of the blight surrounding the zoo and makes people scared to attend... with the proposed new location, there's access to the interstate and several other museums on what's being billed as Trail of Museums, it offers a fitter environment."

However, Stokes suggested that the inability to draw a crowd has been caused by the absence of animals under the current management company and they

[management company] should be held accountable.

"The zoo was accredited when they took over – all the animals were there – since they [sic] took over, they [sic] aren't accredited," Stokes said.

He added, "We don't have anything there...they ran this zoo into the ground. They [sic] killing this zoo, and they [sic] killing west Jackson."

Along with Stokes' position to revitalize the park with possible new management, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba is also advocating for it to remain at its current site, but under two conditions – the city's support of West Jackson and the use of the Blight Elimination program, a plan designed to eradicate drug-houses and abandoned homes in the city.

"There would certainly have to be action on the city's part to invest in the area," said Lumumba.

Ward 4 Councilman De'Keither Stamps also reiterated, "more city involvement needs to occur in order to assure that the attraction is in the right place."

Although most members of the council favored the motion to keep the zoo in its current location, Ward 7 Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay believes the decision to do so requires more thought process and time.

"I just think we've got to pause and have some real serious conversations about what we are going to be able to do,

## A Golden Time: Thompson to celebrate fifty years as a Tougaloo alumnus



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Walking into his office at 6:30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, after just driving in from the Jackson-Evers Airport, U.S. Congressman Bennie G. Thompson has a jovial smile on his face and a Tougaloo College hat on his head. "I take Tougaloo everywhere I go, and everywhere I go I meet someone who has heard about Tougaloo College," says Thompson. For Thompson, the Tougaloo hat he wears is an extension of the love and pride he has for Tougaloo in his heart. A love and pride that has spanned the course of 50 years as Thompson, and his wife London, celebrate their Golden Class Reunion this coming week-end.



Thompson

A native of Bolton, Miss., where he still lives and serves the community, whether here or in our nation's capital, Thompson expresses how Tougaloo became a beacon of light that instilled in him invaluable lessons and resources that made him the man he is today.

"Tougaloo is a place where the lights came on. I had never read a book before I got there. I had never read a novel. I went to a segregated school where in my Mississippi history book, I didn't get past slavery; where in my American history book, I didn't get past the civil war. There was just so much that I had to grasp. I had the potential. But then somehow I had to connect the potential with reality."

What Thompson realized is that Tougaloo was a special place that cultivated an environment where its students could be nurtured and nourished by dedicated faculty and staff and fellow students. It was a place that untapped potential was molded and shaped by impactful speakers such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael, Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone and Richard Wright. "The difference in what I found [at Tougaloo] is a small campus environment where we knew everybody on campus. It was a family. We even called our dorm matron Mama Pete.

"It was nurturing. My teachers cared, you know, they would talk to us after class and invite us over to their houses to study. I met my

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## UMMC seeking new contract with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi

By Dr. Kimberly M. Smash  
Prolific Health and Wellness

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is in negotiations with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS) for an updated contract with the insurance provider, with the hope for a new agreement over the next two months.

UMMC notified BCBSMS management Monday that it will terminate the current agreement on June 30, 2018.

"During the coming weeks, as we continue to negotiate with BCBSMS, absolutely nothing will change for our patients," said Dr. Charles O'Mara, UMMC associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs. "We encourage Blue Cross members to continue to visit their UMMC care providers just as they always have. Our goal is to maintain business as usual, so our patients do not experience any disruption in their care."

Without a new agreement in place by June 30, UMMC will become out-of-network for BCBSMS customers, and those patients may face higher out-of-pocket costs. Normally, exceptions are made for patients who need emergency medical care or



Cook



O'Mara

established patients who need continuation of care for an ongoing illness.

Failure to reach an agreement also would not impact members of the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan and their covered dependents, because that plan is administered by but not offered by BCBSMS.

"We are committed to negotiating with Blue Cross in good faith," O'Mara said. "However, it's important to understand that our current agreement with Blue Cross was developed 28 years ago, when UMMC and the health care industry were vastly different. Most troubling, the base contract from 1990 al-

lows Blue Cross to make any changes it wants to the terms of the agreement – including what it pays us for services we deliver to patients – without consulting UMMC."

As the state's only academic medical center, UMMC offers the only Level I trauma center and children's hospital in the state, the only organ transplant service, and one of the most extensive telehealth networks in the nation.

"Equitable contracts with our payor partners – like BCBSMS – allow us to keep the physicians, technology, facilities, staff and resources needed to provide the very best care pos-



sible to the people of Mississippi," said Kevin Cook, CEO of the UMMC health system.

Unfortunately, Cook said, BCBSMS' ability to manipulate reimbursement even after an agreement is signed means that any rate proposal UMMC might agree to can't be counted on unless the base contract is revised. "We are committed to a

strong, collaborative and fair partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield that supports our mission to improve the lives of Mississippians through exceptional patient care, training the next generation of health care providers, and engaging in innovative research," Cook said. "Through these continuing negotiations, we are optimistic we

can reach a new agreement between our organizations."

Contrary to criticisms leveled by BCBSMS about UMMC's costs and quality outcomes, data suggests that UMMC hospitals' cost structure is among the lowest in the country, according to

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## Community celebrates one-year mark helping kids in Jackson Public Schools

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

It was a big day for students at Oak Forest Elementary School recently, as they were wowed by two exceptional opportunities. Not only did they receive their new glasses, but they also had the help of music mogul and philanthropist Percy (Master P) Miller as they tried on their new glasses.

The event is part of a broader initiative by Vision To Learn, a non-profit charity that helps kids across the country by providing free eye exams and glasses.

Thursday's event marks the completion of Vision To Learn's first year helping kids in Jackson Public Schools and celebrates the initiative's growing impact. To date, the nonprofit has provided more than 1,360 students with eye exams and more than 1,200 with glasses in the district.

Guests include Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant, Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Jackson Public Schools Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray, Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner, and Vision To Learn-Mississippi Director Gayle Wicker.

"Children in Jackson are coming to school every day unable to see the board or read a book, and they have trouble engaging in the classroom," said Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner. "With the help of supporters like Master P, Vision To Learn will continue working to help every



Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant, Percy (Master P) Miller, Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner and student with glasses

child get the glasses needed to succeed in school, and in life."

"Mississippi is leading the way in addressing health issues that impact students' school performance," said Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant. "Vision To Learn's program is an easy intervention that gives

students a big leg up."

An estimated two million students in the U.S. lack the glasses they need at school, and in Jackson, that number is around 5,000.

Founded in 2012 in Los Angeles, Vision To Learn now provides eye exams and glasses to

children in low-income communities in 242 cities in 12 states.

"When students have trouble seeing at school, they can't do their best," said Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba. "Providing students with the tools they need, such as glasses, can improve their performance in

the classroom and foster full participation in the learning process."

At Oak Forest Elementary, 361 students were provided with vision screenings, and 21 percent needed glasses. Ninety-one students received eye exams and 76 were provided with glasses.

"We've helped almost 1,400 kids in Jackson since launching the program last fall, and we're on our way to help 4,000 more in the upcoming school year," said Gayle Wicker, Vision To Learn's Mississippi director. "Our students deserve to come to school equipped to learn."

Research by faculty from the Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA about students who received glasses from Vision To Learn showed the students' grades improved and they were more engaged in the classroom. Students with untreated vision problems often struggle at school, and they are less likely to achieve reading proficiency by third grade, putting them at greater risk of dropping out.

Master P helped motivate the students by sharing his personal journey at Thursday's event. "When I was asked by Austin to join Vision To Learn and help this worthy cause, I knew immediately I wanted to jump in and do my part. I share Austin's vision on the importance of providing children with the tools they need to succeed," said Miller.

Vision To Learn's program in Jackson is supported by Jim and Donna Barksdale, Ambassador John Palmer, Philip Stephenson Foundation, C Spire Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Mississippi Optometric Association and Essilor Vision Foundation.

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## UMMC

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the Association of American Medical Colleges. Benchmarked against peer academic medical centers, the hospitals' adjusted expense per patient day is well below the 25th percentile in recent national rankings.

"We're one of the best bargains in the country," said Cook.

Similarly, UMMC's quality data have improved markedly over the last two years and continue on an upward trajectory in the most current ratings. Quality scores can lag by almost two years, so UMMC publishes its current quality data online.

*Next week read interview with Blue Cross Blue Shield of MS*

## Zoo

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what the city as a whole wants to do and where the city is going to go from here," expressed Lindsay, a former zoo board member and past member of the Jackson Zoological Society.

Ward 2 Councilman Melvin Priester agreed with Lindsay's stance, however, he wants to see financial documentation and a more detailed paper trail in order to determine if the management company should be dismissed.

"This is a salvageable relationship at the moment... what I need to see from the administration is some type of financial plan or oversight for what we are going to do about the zoo because I don't know how to take care of a giraffe," Priester said to laughter.

Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks has a different approach.

He suggested as a strategy to look into other national societies that will maintain the residing creatures, before the termination deadline.

"When you look at the Bronx or Atlanta, those zoos are in the middle of the hood - [those management teams] did everything they could to get that moving again, and Jackson is a similar situation."

Banks continued, "We need to have confidence in who is managing the zoo because at this point based on actions, I don't have complete confidence that the society is really sincere about where the zoo is."

Without reaching a decision after a tedious discussion, vocalizing positions and pitching scenarios, Banks closed with a lingering statement directed to the citizens of Jackson as food for thought.

"Just for the public to understand, if it goes to state property, this city council won't have any appointments over it because it's on state property and very well will become the Mississippi State Zoo."

## Thompson

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first white teacher at Tougaloo because up until that point, all my teachers were black. Dr. [Ernst] Borinski, who at that time was head of the Sociology Department, had the social science lab that stayed open. You could go check books out. He had books all over the place. He was tremendous. We were able to have that kind of exposure where you could start talking to your teachers about what's really going on."

Dr. London Thompson also remembers impactful professors from her time at Tougaloo. "One of the things that stayed with me across the years was that failure wasn't an option. Your teachers didn't allow you to, and if they noticed some positive traits in you, they just refused to let you fail. But one of the things that I think happened with me is that I was taught to be an analytical thinker, which was really important. Teachers structured their questions so that you had to think beyond the surface.

"I had a teacher, a little bitty guy named Joseph Hursenburt, who asked the question, 'Did the Roman empire die of old age, commit suicide or was it murdered?' I had never in my life had a question like that before. That taught me that I had to look beyond the surface of the information and try to make different correlations."

Interestingly enough, the beginnings of the 50 plus year love story between Congressman and Dr. Thompson was initiated through the correlations, or connections, between friends, the local hangout, a sitting stone positioned by the school's entrance, and much persistence on Congressman Thompson's part.

Well, I came to Tougaloo the summer of 1966 and London had already spent two years there," says Thompson. "I spent a year at Utica Junior College before I transferred. I was a political science major and she was an economics major. [That summer], we didn't have a lot of activity. We had the Grill, right there on County Line, and Momma T's, which was behind the campus. I had seen her and, you know, I shot at her the best I could. It didn't work too well, but I didn't give up. Once we finally got together we were close, and actually since we've left, we've gotten the award for being married the longest out of our class."

While awaiting her turn to tell her side of the story, a youthful playfulness is evident in Dr. Thompson's eyes and in the way she giggles. "I'm going to give you the real story," states Dr. Thompson. "He was there that summer. Elaine and my homegirls were there that summer also, and I wasn't. When we arrived on campus that fall, Elaine and some more of us were going to the Village Grill. [Ben] was sitting on the stone at the gate, and Elaine stopped to introduce us. At that time, we had student IDs, but they didn't

have pictures on them, and they were having a dance that night. [Ben] let me use [his] ID to go into the dance and [he] had to come later and get it. That's how we met." Dr. Thompson adds, "I wasn't really looking for a boyfriend, and he would just come over and call and call. I just hated for him to call my name and I not answer."

In addition to his vocal persistence, Congressman Thompson also wrote letters to his college sweetheart while he was away in Chicago. The letters now fill up two shoe boxes that they still keep to this day. "The last time I looked at them, it said I was headed, based on Tougaloo, back home to do something to help black people. That was kind of the genesis of it."

Based on his experiences at Tougaloo, a place that was a safe haven for those seeking refuge from attacks during the Civil Rights Movement and a meeting place for prominent Civil Rights leaders and students to strategize about protests and ways to fight for justice and equality, Congressman Thompson received training that prepared him to serve his community. "Tougaloo during the sixties was quite an experience because of the Civil Rights Movement. Those are the kinds of experiences and memories that you carry with you to your grave," expresses Dr. Thompson. "I can still look at Stokely Carmichael's eyes and hear them say 'Black Power' and 'I'm going to make this crystal clear.'"

"If something happened over in the night, the Chapel bells would ring, which was a signal for you to come to the chapel. Now, that is the one time the matron could not keep you in the dorm because you knew there was something going on, something you needed to know about," she adds.

"The first campaign I worked on was Fannie Lou Hamer's in the Delta," says Congressman Thompson. "We participated in the Meredith March, all of the demonstrations that were going on including the Jackson Library and the swimming pools. Tougaloo students were on it. If you attended Tougaloo, there were certain expectations that you got involved."

During his time at Tougaloo, the term "get on the bus" took on an entirely different meaning to Congressman Thompson. "I remember when we had the riots in Jackson and Gibbs and Green got killed [at Jackson State]. We were over there supporting the students and they called a curfew and that's the infamous bus thing where they say I stole the bus, although one of my work study jobs was as bus driver. So I would pick up Tougaloo kids in Jackson, take them shopping, take them to mass or wherever. So Connie Harvey (Atty. Constance Slaughter-Harvey), who was Student Government president, and I decided that if we did not get the Tougaloo students back

to campus the police were going to do something really harmful.

"They really didn't like us because we wouldn't bow down to somebody just because they were white, and part of that education we got at Tougaloo. We talked about equality, civil rights, justice, and fairplay. So we came back to campus, got the bus and picked up all the kids. We brought them back and somebody told us that when we got back on campus, they were going to try to send us home for taking the bus. Connie and I got everybody off the bus right at the gate; so when we got up to where everybody was, it was just the two of us and we didn't tell [the school] who else was on the bus. But on that bus were Maurice James, Malcolm Taylor, Edward Blackmon and all kind of folks who were engaged in what Tougaloo is all about."

Though both Slaughter-Harvey and Thompson were reprimanded for their actions, their fortitude spawned two vehicles of change, two legacies that have led them down the literal and proverbial path of fighting for justice and equality for the citizens of Mississippi and the nation. As Tougaloo moves forward towards its Sesquicentennial Anniversary in 2019, Thompson remarks on its impact thus far. "The 150th Anniversary shows that in spite of all the people who predicted Tougaloo's demise and tried to kill us off, we survived. I make the argument that we're a better school now obviously than where we used to be. The future is far brighter because now there are a lot of people willing to help us. If we play our cards right, we can help endow Tougaloo so that the next 150 years will have a smoother path to follow than the first 150."

Congressman and Dr. Thompson have witnessed fifty of those years, and as they look back, they also leave a charge to the graduating class of 2018. "One of the things that the Class of 2018 can be expected to do as they move up in society is to reach back and help someone who's coming behind them so that they can have some of the same types of opportunities that they were afforded. We all have to be our brother's keeper. And we need to look out for each other," states Congressman Thompson.

Dr. Thompson reminisces about her time as a graduate. "For me, one of the most depressing feelings that I had was the Saturday before graduation when I realized that when I left campus the next day that I would not be back there in the same vein. I was moving on to a different atmosphere, into a different world. I was leaving home again when I graduated from Tougaloo. That was one of the feelings that I had. And at that point I just asked the Lord to just let me live for my Golden Anniversary. I wanted to come back for that and so now I'm here."

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WE POWER LIFE™

## A frontline griot in the fight to eradicate HIV in Mississippi: Deja Abdul-Haqq

By Toni L. Robinson  
Special to The Mississippi Link Newspaper

While waiting on her Pronto Pack meal in the bar area of Biaggi's restaurant in Madison, Mississippi, Deja Abdul-Haqq was approached by a man who noticed her shirt which read "TALK can be the best foreplay." Those words sparked a conversation between the two about human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

"He said he thought HIV was over," said Abdul-Haqq, one of Jackson's resident griots called to help shape and share the narrative of sexual and reproductive health through education, motivation, compassion and support.

According to Merriam-Webster, griots are "musician-entertainers of western Africa whose performances include tribal histories and genealogies." Those considered modern griots, beyond western African tradition, can generally be viewed as storytellers. As a modern-day griot, Abdul-Haqq's focus is ensuring proper education on preventive methods and available resources for those living with or at risk of contracting HIV.

"I think I ended up inadvertently working in the health field because I have my own health issues," said Abdul-Haqq, speaking on her struggle living with chronic hypertension. "The research I conducted for myself evolved into an interest in population health period. I took a position with the Mississippi Urban Research Center [of Jackson State University] because of my interest and that was the beginning of my work in HIV."

Abdul-Haqq currently serves as the director of organizational development for My Brother's Keeper, Inc. (MBK)



Abdul-Haqq

— a non-profit organization with a mission to "reduce health disparities throughout the United States by enhancing the health and well-being of minority and marginalized populations through leadership and collaboration with the public and with community healthcare practices." MBK's partner clinic — Open Arms Healthcare — is a health care clinic developed through MBK to ensure people affected with health disparities, specifically those in the LGBT community and those with or at risk for contracting HIV, have a "safe place" to go and seek medical care, that is also affordable and compassionate.

In her role, Abdul-Haqq maintains and enhances internal and external communications and engagement with MBK and Open Arms. While she has

served in this position for a year, she has worked with MBK for six years in positions that have helped prepare her for her current role, which was created to provide a central platform to further push the vision for MBK into the community with a greater impact.

"With every position I've had within the company, I've worked to develop a narrative associated with the work to tell our story to break down the science," said Abdul-Haqq. "The more I did that, the more [MBK president and CEO] Dr. June Gipson recognized that the only way for us to be effective with the work we're doing in Mississippi, and engage people across the nation in our fight is to have to be specific about being engaged and drafting our own narratives, and birthing and caring for our own brand."

Since being appointed to this position, Abdul-Haqq oversees branding, marketing campaigns and identification of partnership development opportunities with the goal of increasing awareness, education, prevention and resources for communities plagued with health disparities. Her objective is to ensure that the narrative shaped by these initiatives remains education-based, is backed by relevant data, and is "culturally sensitive" to the target audiences.

Abdul-Haqq's role as a mother has also allowed her to bring real-world experience to the table as MBK seeks to develop relevant initiatives and programs that encourage parents and children to have conversations about sex. She feels this is an important step in educating the community on sexual health.

"I have three sons," said Abdul-

Haqq. "If we don't get a handle on how people perceive HIV and STIs [sexually transmitted infections] in Mississippi, then I'm going to be a mom with a son coming home to tell me that he's [HIV] positive because he didn't have access to condoms or information about what STIs were, or he didn't have access to the tools he needed to have comfortable conversations with his partner about prevention...It's preventable."

Mississippi has the fourth highest rate of people living with HIV in the United States. The state has consistently ranked among the highest in the nation for a number of years, without any significant reduction, despite programs and resources available. Abdul-Haqq attributes this to a lack of access to adequate information, service and understanding of those affected by the disease, which, according to her, is a disproportionate percentage of African Americans in the state of Mississippi.

"Messaging about all of the prevention options, to me, is the number one thing because our people are very skeptical about everything and everybody," said Abdul-Haqq. "We've done a poor job in the past of creating narratives that include people who are actually suffering the most with these disparities."

Abdul-Haqq's goal with MBK is to let communities know about the resources that are do available to address the epidemic and also to capture the attention of the community at large in order ensure that that all hands are on deck in the fight to reduce new HIV rates to zero in Mississippi.

"The way epidemics work is they're looking for a place to live and they're

fueled by social and economic disadvantages. There is no such thing as it being your epidemic. Everyone needs to be aware and everyone needs to be involved," said Abdul-Haqq.

The conversation she had with the man at Biaggi's who was unaware HIV was still a problem further validated the importance of her role as an advocate for sexual and reproductive health, and more importantly, the role of MBK and similar non-profit organizations in educating the community on health disparities and prevention.

Abdul-Haqq commented, "It doesn't matter what you're doing with your community if the community doesn't know what [you're doing] and why you're doing it. The narrative is important."

In addition to Open Arms Healthcare Center, MBK has also established the Open Arms Mobile Clinic to increase access communities plagued with lack of access to adequate transportation and those who feel uncomfortable going to other public health clinics.

The Open Arms flagship prevention program — Becoming a Healthier U — offers free preventive health screenings, and sexual and mental health counseling. Open Arms accepts most insurances and offers sliding scale fees for clients with no insurance. Charges are as low as \$25 for a doctor visit; additional charges for lab and other services may apply.

Call Open Arms at 601-500-7660 for more information regarding Open Arms services.

For information on HIV, HIV prevention and testing and support for those living with HIV, visit the MBK website at mbkinc.org.



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## City Council honors the American Red Cross

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### RESOLUTIONS AGENDA ITEM #45

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORING AND COMMENDING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND ITS AREA TEAM FOR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN SAVING LIVES.



## New leadership at Parents for Public Schools National

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Board of Directors of Parents for Public Schools (PPS) National organization has named Joann Mickens the interim executive director effective May 1, 2018, following the retirement of Nita Rudy.

PPS National Board President Jeanne Jehl said, "Ms. Mickens has been a member of PPS' national senior staff, working with the organization's chapters in communities across the nation and collaboratively with other Mississippi-based nonprofits that support children, families, and the development of strong communities. We know that with Joann in this position, PPS is in very capable hands during this transition."

Mickens has served as Chapter Services director for PPS National since 2006, working with PPS chapters around the country. Among other projects, Mickens coordinates PPS chapters' multi-year work with the Kettering Foundation exploring what it means to become a "learning center" that encourages democratic practices designed to help communities set direction for and take ownership of the education of children.

When asked about the future of PPS, Mickens said, "Our goal is for PPS to continue in



Mickens

perpetuity because the purpose of public schools and the work of PPS are important to building and sustaining democracy and will never go unneeded. This work is so necessary that it should be sustained far into the future."

As outgoing executive director, Nita Rudy started her full-time work with PPS in 2011 playing a critical leadership role in the development and success of the organization. Rudy's leadership significantly strengthened the Schoolhouse to Statehouse Initiative in communities across Mississippi to engage parents in understanding the state's system

of financing public schools and becoming advocates for identifying and supporting high quality public education. "When I see a PPS-trained parent appointed to a school board, or running for office, or going back to school to become a teacher and they say their PPS leadership training prepared and inspired them to take those steps, I'm humbled," said Rudy.

The PPS National Board will seek a part-time executive director in the near future. "The Board believes strongly that the Schoolhouse to Statehouse Initiative is important for strengthening public education in Mississippi, and that constituents in other states can learn from the work being done here. We believe that this work is essential for the future of high quality public education in the United States," added Jehl. "We expect to circulate a position description by mid-May, and to fill the position by midsummer."

Parents for Public Schools National office is located at 125 South Congress St., Suite 1218, Jackson, MS 39201, 1-800-880-1222; website: www.parents4publicschools.org.

Interested applicants may contact Jane Beach, director of Administrative Services, by emailing [jbeach@parents4publicschools.org](mailto:jbeach@parents4publicschools.org).

## National Federation of the Blind of Mississippi

### White Cane Awareness Walk

May 19, 2018



Theme: "Blindness Does Not Define Me"

Location: Donald Park on the campus of Tougaloo College

Address: 500 West County Line Road, Tougaloo, MS 39174

Registration: 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Walk Begin Time: 9:15 a.m.

Registration Cost: \$20.00 (which includes a walk t-shirt)

For Additional Information Contact: Sam Gleese - 601-622-4340



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#### VOTER INFORMATION

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

#### MARRIAGE INFORMATION

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

### ZACK WALLACE Hinds County Circuit Clerk

#### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. BOX 327  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: (601) 969-6628  
Fax: (601) 973-5547

#### Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

#### SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. Box 999  
Raymond, MS 39154  
Phone: (601) 857-8038  
Fax: (601) 857-0535

#### Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

#### Office Hours:

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# SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Jackson Art Camps

**Creative Craft Camp**  
 950 Rice Road,  
 Ridgeland, MS 39157  
 Phone: (601) 856-7546  
 Email: Education@MSCrafts.org  
 Website: www.CraftsMensGuildofMS.org

Description: Kids ages 5-18 can learn from Master Craftsmen from around the state who teach pottery, fiber, mosaics, stained glass, mixed media & more!  
 Ages 5-8 attend "sampler camp" and older kids can choose specialty.

**The Summer Mississippi Museum of Art School**  
 380 S Lamar Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
 Contact: daniej johnson  
 Phone: (601) 960-1515  
 Email: djohnson@MSMuseumArt.org  
 Website: www.MSMuseumArt.org

**Summer Show-Offs**  
 4908 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211  
 Contact: Cecile McNeel Martin or Robyn McGonagall Meredith  
 Email: Cecile@SummerShowOffs.com  
 Website: www.SummerShowOffs.com

**Jackson State Arts Camps**  
 1400 John R. Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39217  
 Phone: (601) 979-2121  
 Website: www.JSUMS.edu

**Summer Day Camps**  
 1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson, MS 39202  
 Contact: Chris Roebuck  
 Phone: (601) 948-3533, Ext. 232  
 Email: CRoebuck@NewStageTheatre.com  
 Website: www.NewStageTheatre.com

**Summer Enrichment Programs**  
 570 E Beasley Road, Jackson, MS 392064  
 Contact: Nita Humphrey  
 Phone: (601) 398-0998  
 Email: Nita.Humphrey@uss.SalvationArmy.org  
 Website: www.SalvationArmyAim.org

**Summer Arts Camp**  
 2103 Main Street, Madison, MS 39110  
 Contact: Pam Waldrep  
 Phone: (601) 853-0291  
 Website: www.MadisontheCity.com

**Music Camp @ Mississippi College**  
 Jefferson Street, Clinton, MS 39056  
 Contact: Robert Knupp  
 Phone: (601) 925-3977.  
 Email: Knupp@MC.edu  
 Website: www.Music.MC.edu

**Princess Dance Camp**  
 110 Homestead Drive, Madison, MS 39110  
 Contact: Crystal  
 Phone: (601) 853-4508  
 Email: info@MSMetroBallet.com  
 Website: www.MSMetroBallet.com

Below is a list of summer programs offered by Jackson Public Schools as well as those that are community-sponsored. Contact each organization to get more information. Check back often, as programs will be added throughout the summer as information about programs becomes available for the current year.

## JPS Programs

PROGRAM/DESCRIPTION	CONTACT/REGISTRATION INFORMATION
<b>JPS Elementary Summer Boost</b> This program is for currently enrolled JPS elementary students in third grade only who meet eligibility criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key, 699 West McDowell Road.</li> <li>Lake, 472 Mt. Vernon Avenue.</li> <li>McWillie, 4851 McWillie Circle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Dates/Times: June 4-June 29/8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (M-F).</li> <li>Cost: Free.</li> </ul>	Contact your child's school to register. Contact Extended Learning Solutions to enroll in afterschool care, (601) 360-2699.
<b>JPS Summer Computer Camp</b> Four-week summer computer camp for students in grades K-8. Students will use the MobyMax online program that teaches problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.	Contact Enochs Family Resource Center to reserve a time slot, (601) 960-8945.
<b>JPS Summer School for High School</b> Tuition-based summer school for JPS and non-JPS students who have failed a subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration: May 9-June 1 at home school.</li> <li>Location: Provine High School, 2400 Robinson Road.</li> <li>Dates: June 4-July 26.</li> <li>Cost: \$260 for one full unity; \$130 for one-half unit.</li> </ul> For more information, visit the <a href="#">JPS Summer School page</a> .	Contact your child's school to register.
<b>JPS Summer School for Middle School</b> Tuition-based summer school for JPS middle school students who have not mastered state and district objectives in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration: May 9-June 1 at home school.</li> <li>Location: Blackburn Middle School, 1311 W. Pearl Street.</li> <li>Dates: June 4-July 26.</li> <li>Cost: \$250.</li> </ul> For more information, visit the <a href="#">JPS Summer School page</a> .	Contact your child's school to register.

## Community Programs

Programs that are not sponsored by Jackson Public Schools are provided on this page for informational purposes only. A program's appearance on this page does not imply the District's endorsement.

PROGRAM	CONTACT INFORMATION
<b>City of Jackson Environmental Camp</b>	(601) 960-0000 Wanda Tyler Knotts
<b>E. E. Rogers School Summer Camp</b>	(601) 668-0838 Dr. Mae Henry
<b>Elevate Summer Enrichment Camp</b>	(769) 218-8808 Ashley Stewart
<b>First Baptist Jackson Summer Day Camps</b>	(601) 949-1900 Jaime Douglas
<b>Genesis &amp; Light Center Summer Enhancement Camp</b>	(601) 362-6736 Lesia Brewer (North)/Glory Fulton (South)
<b>Jackson Zoo Summer Camp</b>	(601) 352-2580 ext. 240
<b>JC &amp; Liz Youth Enrichment Transformation (YET) Center</b>	(601) 724-2149 Information
<b>JSU Summer Camps</b>	(601) 979-7141
<b>Keep Jackson Beautiful Eco-Ambassadors Camp</b>	(601) 953-1123 Alicia Crudup
<b>2018 Knight Flight 101/OBAP Jackson Ace Camp</b>	(601) 927-2147 Kimberly Farmer
<b>Millsaps Summer Enrichment Camps</b>	(601) 974-1130
<b>Mississippi Children's Museum Summer Camps</b>	(601) 981-5469 Information
<b>MSO Premier Orchestral Institute</b>	(601) 960-1565 Alejandro Encinas
<b>New Stage Theatre Summer Camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Stages (Grades 1-4)</li> <li>Acting Intensive (Grades 5-11)</li> <li>Broadway Jr. (Grades 5-11)</li> </ul>	(601) 948-3533 ext. 236 Chris Roebuck
<b>New Vineyard MARS Summer Camp (PDF)</b>	(601) 487-2330 Dwayne Joseph Jr.
<b>Ole Miss Piano Discoveries Summer Camp</b>	(662) 915-1282 Ian Hominick
<b>Sports Paradise Sports &amp; Academics Camp</b>	(601) 954-6370/(601) 832-3201 Chris Stephens/Ann Nelson
<b>The First Tee of Central Mississippi</b>	(601) 761-1317 Lisa Hill

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## Hinds CC hosts ninth annual special education field day for Hinds County students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For the ninth year in a row, Hinds Community College hosted special education field day for Hinds County students May 2.

Students from Hinds County schools throughout the district gathered at Gene Murphy Field at Joe Renfroe Stadium on the Raymond Campus for a series of fun and games that included popcorn, snow cones and a sack lunch as a way to end the school year.

Hinds Community College employees and students volunteered to help with the games.



Gary Road Elementary student Christopher Michael Hazlewood throws a bean bag during a game at the special education field day at Hinds Community College on May 2.



Volunteers help out at Hinds Community College's special education field day finale – the annual wheelchair race. The adults are, from left, Hinds Wellness Complex employee Wayan Sugiantara, Hinds Wellness Complex Assistant Director Jeremy Gordon, Hinds student Perry Banks, Hinds soccer coach Doug Williams and Hinds alumnae Belinda Sollie. PHOTOS APRIL GARON/HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



George Stewart helps his son Landon, a Gary Road Elementary student, with a game at special education field day at Hinds Community College.



Raymond Elementary student Esther Williams enjoys playing under a parachute at special education field day at Hinds Community College.

## Hinds CC presents 35 departmental student awards

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Departmental awards at Hinds Community College were given to 35 students in academic, technical and career programs present for a ceremony April 27 at Cain-Cochran Hall on the Raymond Campus.

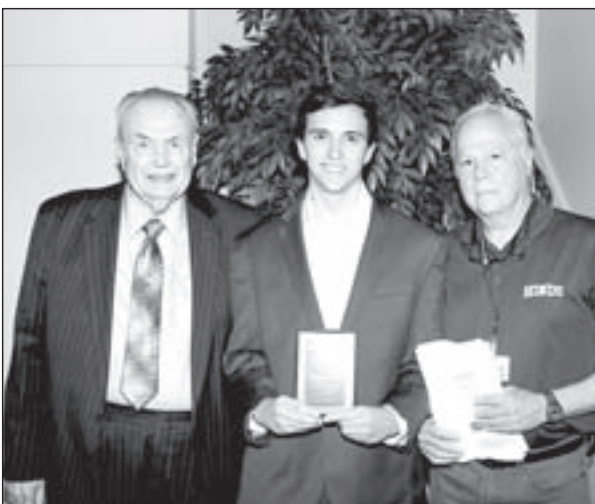
Recipients at the event were photographed with Hinds President Clyde Muse and department heads and others who presented plaques.

Among them from Clinton were:

- Santiago Diaz Ponce, who won an Outstanding Student Award for Music
- De'Shane Frye, who won an Outstanding Student Award for Communication
- Myia Harris, who won a Student Government Association Leadership Award for the Raymond Campus
- Navdeep Kaur, who won an Outstanding Student Award for Honors Leadership
- Reagan Rouse, who won an Outstanding Student Award for Commercial Aviation
- Hezekiah Williams, who won a Student Government Association Leadership Award for the Utica Campus.

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester.

To learn more, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu) or call 1.800.HindsCC



Reagan Rouse, Outstanding Student Award for Commercial Aviation



De'Shane Frye, Outstanding Student Award for Communications



Navdeep Kaur, Outstanding Student Award for Honors Leadership



Santiago Diaz Ponce, Outstanding Student Award for Music



Myia Harris, SGA Leadership Award, Raymond Campus



Hezekiah Williams, SGA Leadership Award, Utica Campus

## Hinds CC Art Show winners, scholarship recipients announced

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Winners of the Hinds Community College Student Art Show were announced during a ceremony in April at the Marie Hull Art Gallery on the Raymond Campus.

Among those from Vicksburg awarded were:

- Charity Lockridge, first place for ceramics/3D design
  - Cameron Robbins, first and third place in photography
  - Kimberly Surratt, third place in painting/mixed media
- Surratt and Troy Jarrett, also of Vicksburg, were also awarded reimbursement scholarships, given by faculty who nominate such students for showing growth, a strong work ethic and positive attitude throughout the year.

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester.

To learn more, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu) or call 1.800.HindsCC



Jarrett



Lockridge



Robbins



Surratt



# Mayor calls JSU grads the generation of governors: Tells them to change world, now

By Rachel James-Terry  
jsumsnews.com

The future of the world “depends on the individual and collective genius that you possess,” Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said to over 800 undergraduates at Jackson State University’s spring commencement.

On Saturday, the sun beamed brightly amid shouts of triumph, toothy-grins, families, friends and soon-to-be degree holders at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. Lumumba, the keynote speaker, expressed his pride in the graduates and encouraged them to make lasting memories while wishing them deserved happiness and success.

Son of community activists – late Mayor Chokwe Lumumba and Nubia Lumumba – the mayor holds a bachelor of arts from Tuskegee University and a law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

In the 2017 Democratic mayoral primary, he beat out nine candidates with 55 percent of the vote. He then went on to win the city’s general election. As mayor, he has been recognized as one of Mississippi’s Top 50 Most Influential Leaders and was named one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans of 2017 by the Root.

Lumumba shared with the audience that he was reminded of his 2005 graduation that took place on Mother’s Day. He calls it bittersweet due to his mother passing the summer before his junior year.

“It was a day she often spoke of and was looking forward to attending. My mother was the first person to truly believe in me,” he says, adding that his father needed more convincing.

The mayor reminds graduates, as they relish in the joy of the moment, that people both known and unknown are vested in their achievements.

“My father once stated that our talents are not ours alone. They are the fruits of our labor as a people belonging to us all and they must be used accordingly,”



City of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba delivering spring commencement address at Jackson State University, May 7. PHOTO BY UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

says Lumumba.

JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. also commended graduates during his greetings at the start of the ceremony. He lavished praise on the “parents, grandparents, spouses, children, aunts, uncles, relatives and significant others who have gone above and beyond in supporting our graduates in so many ways.”

Bynum further requested that “mama, ’nem, please stand and be recognized” then jovially reassured listeners that they had heard him correctly.

The president also thanked faculty and staff for their tutelage and advisement while spotlighting the alumni for their ongoing support of “our students with their time, talents and treasure.”

Lumumba informed graduates that commencement marked the day that their names would be added to the alumni scrolls with individuals who have made lasting marks in the areas of health, science, education, social change, and professional athletics among others.

“You share a common thread

and experience with these giants, and you have a common call to make your impression on the world,” he says.

After acknowledging that obstacles abound, the mayor asserts that it is the response to adversity that becomes an individual’s defining moment. He then delineates several difficult scenarios that students may have encountered on their academic journey, such as working multiple jobs to pay for school; laboring over the decision to drop out; choosing between class and family obligations; and a lack of financial resources and healthcare.

#### The young shall lead

“You have become well aware of the challenges and obstacles of obtaining your degrees. And you know through personal experience that you must be devoted to unearthing the root of these fiery trials,” he says, insisting that it will take their brilliance, fortitude and empathy to transform conditions that give rise to these issues.

JSU’s own Margaret Walker Alexander, Lumumba points out, believed that basic institutions

of home, school and church are threatened by the same violent destruction that undermines socioeconomic and political systems, calling them part and parcel of the same whole.

He advises that the approach to educational practices in times of political turmoil and systemic disregard for black people reflect the longstanding mission of HBCUs.

“As a proud HBCU grad, I believe in sustaining our institutions because we deserve to absolutely self-determine our learning and our lives,” he says.

One of the youngest mayors in the country, elected at the age of 34, Lumumba informed the crowd that institutional and organizational leadership is rapidly becoming younger and that the graduates are poised to be great and impactful with every decision they make.

“Your time to change the world is not coming, it is now,” he commands, warning that “many will suggest that you are simply too young and others may even question the sincerity of your efforts.”

He reminds them that nearly every modern change movement in the world has been anchored by young people, often in the face of criticism.

“Criticism is something that we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing. You can’t allow praise or criticism to get to you. It is a weakness to be caught up in either one,” said Lumumba.

He also suggests that the graduates steer clear of cynics or contrarians who attempt to bait them on social media. “Don’t worry about the person questioning you in the comments. The critics are doing their job. You must focus on the work and do yours,” he advises.

With the news full of stories involving the maltreatment of African Americans, the mayor tells graduates that as young black men and women, they must not forget that they live in a world where they are still in danger.

“It is a sobering reality that your degrees cannot shield you from injustice, but you hold the potential to change the world far

beyond our wildest dreams,” he says.

In closing, Lumumba vows to stand and fight with graduates against, what he describes as, an endless cycle of poverty and exploitation.

“Today, I hope that those who would dare marginalize and oppress feel a little less powerful because you are being released into society armed with your intellect,” he bellows from the podium.

The graduating class represents the era of disruption, Lumumba affirms, and that they must dismantle the status quo and shift the paradigm that has tolerated conditions that treat people as less than human beings.

“Gone will be the days where we exist in political spaces where people have no power to truly control their own lives.” He charges, “This is the generation who will declare we no longer want to be governed, we want to be governor.”

#### Looking towards the future

Computer science graduate Karmeen Powell-Childress voiced her pleasure with the university’s choice in commencement speaker, saying: “We must highlight our local champions so that students know that we have wonderful examples in our midst. I also felt that it was a demonstration of the relationship between JSU and the city of Jackson.”

She also applauds Bynum for driving home the point that they are God’s children. “He makes it his mission to speak life into all of us at Jackson State,” she says.

Now with a degree in civil engineering, graduate Pierre Dunaoin is ready to start his job at one of the top Marine companies in the United States. He declares graduation a truly unforgettable accomplishment.

“It’s even that much sweeter when your college is one of the greatest HBCUs that the world has to offer,” he says. “My college experience has been nothing but bliss. I am truly thankful for the education, culture, wisdom, pride, heritage and love that Jackson State was able to impart.”

## Stand-out follows in the footsteps of her mom

By L.aToya Hentz-Moore  
jsumsnews.com

As a two-time graduate from JSU’s School of Social Work, Tershuna Bass says she credits her academic achievements to her mother.

“My mom was an exceptional social worker. She consistently dedicated herself to helping others enhance their overall well-being and that motivated me to pursue this academic discipline.”

Like her mother, Bass completed Jackson State’s undergraduate social work program with a 3.9 grade-point average and led her peers as student marshal at commencement.

As a scholastic extraordinaire, Bass maintained a 3.9 GPA while juggling duties as a transfer success mentor, transfer ambassador and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

During her undergraduate tenure, Bass was also a member of Phi Alpha, Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Sigma and Golden Key honor societies.

“I accepted a full academic scholarship to JSU for my achievements as a student at Hinds Community College, so it was my goal to come here and excel in the same capacity,” said Bass.

Impressed by her educational accomplishments, Bass’ professors selected her as the 2017 Social Work Student of the Year.

“It felt so amazing to be rewarded for all of my hard work and dedication.”

Bass decided to continue her educational pursuit in social work by applying to the JSU graduate program. She was immediately accepted to attend the one-year advance program for a master of science degree in social work.

After maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her graduate matriculation, Bass was selected as a recipient of the Mary S. Nelums Foundation scholarship. She was awarded a \$300 stipend for being an exceptional student academically and in the community.

The Raymond, Mississippi, native says receiv-



Tershuna Bass accepts her Master’s degree from President Bynum just one year after receiving her Bachelor’s degree. PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH

ing that scholarship was among her proudest moments as a graduate student.

“One of my fondest memories at JSU while working toward my bachelors’ degree was following my mother’s lead by excelling academically in my discipline with an overall 3.90 grade-point average. After being selected for the Mary S. Nelums scholarship, I remember feeling overwhelmingly proud that once again my diligence and hard work had been noticed inside and outside of the classroom,” Bass said.

The social work stand-out says JSU taught her the importance of networking and self-sufficiency. Bass’ sincere passion for helping children has led to the desire to work in a hospital environment.

“I love children, and I want to be an advocate for people who feel like they don’t have a voice.”

The social work scholar says she is excited to give back to an institution that has given so much to her.

“I want to give back financially because I know any amount can help our students. I also want to physically come back to campus and give social work students realistic answers regarding career expectations, internships and the importance of networking.”



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## GAO Report on federal ad spending in black newspapers coming in July

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A long-awaited report that details what federal agencies spend on advertising in African American-owned newspapers is finally near completion, according to officials in the General Accounting Office (GAO).

The report comes as the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade organization made up of more than 200 black-owned media companies, that reach more than 20 million people each week, celebrates 191 years of the Black Press.

It also comes ahead of critical midterm election season in which the NNPA announced a historic voter registration drive that has a goal of registering 5 million new, black voters.

"We now have July as the projected completion and issuance time frame for the report," said Charles Young, the managing director of public affairs for the GAO, which acts as the authoritative audit unit for the federal government.

Democratic D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton has been at the forefront of a multi-year effort pushing for a new report. CBC members and others have since joined her call.

"The Black Press allow us to reach people who need to hear the real story and the power of the African-American print press is validation and people appreciate the real story," said CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.). "When you advertise in the Black Press, you get a sense of credibility."

The federal government serves as the largest advertiser in the country and a 2007 GAO report on advertising



During an interview with the NNPA Newswire, Charles Young, the managing director of public affairs for the GAO, said that the new report detailing federal government ad spending, will be released in July. NNPA President Benjamin Chavis speaks outside of the U.S. Capitol during a joint press conference between NNPA and NAHP in March 2016. The press conference was attended by Washington, D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (far left). FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

spending revealed that just five percent of the \$4.3 billion available for advertising campaigns went to minority-owned businesses.

Five agencies – the Department of Defense, Department of the Treasury, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – were singled out in the 2007 report, the most recent audit available.

"It's important that news outlets and media companies owned or published by individuals of color, with a primary mission to serve communities of color, have the same opportunities as other media outlets – especially as African Americans and Hispanic Americans continue to grow in number in the United States," Norton said. "We believe that this request for a new report is particularly timely, because GAO will be conducting an audit of spending by federal

agencies on public relations and advertising."

In a historic announcement during NNPA's Black Press Week in Washington, D.C., NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., said the organization and several others, including Rainbow Push, National Action Network, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, the NAACP, the National Urban League, CBC and the AME church had partnered for an unprecedented voter registration drive.

Chavis called the drive a coordinated effort to combat hate and dissent and to spread love and unity.

"Come November, we're going to have the largest black voter turnout in American history. This is a payback year," Chavis said. "The most important election of our lifetime will be the 2018 midterm elections."

"It's become apparent for those who tabulate votes and for those who analyze elections, that the black vote can be the defining factor," said NNPA Chair Dorothy R. Leavell.

"The black vote can determine who wins and who loses and it's important that people don't take the black vote for granted," Leavell said.

She said it was crucial that the GAO issue a new report so that it's apparent which agencies are giving black-owned newspapers a fair share in advertising spending.

Young acknowledged that the report has taken quite some time – Norton and a host of U.S. Congress and Senate members formally called for the audit in March 2016.

"Things can sometimes take longer than planned," Young said. "But [July] is the expectation."

*This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.*

## Rapper Meek Mill calls for criminal justice reform

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Rapper Meek Mill sat down with NBC's Lester Holt to talk about his experiences in the criminal justice system for a Dateline interview that aired May 6.

"I had eight years of probation that turned [into] 16 years of probation," Mill said in the interview. Something is not working in the criminal justice system."

TMZ.com reported that Judge Genece Brinkley amended the order regarding Mill's bail conditions, "and he now has approval to travel outside of Pennsylvania's Montgomery County for scheduled business activities."

According to TMZ.com, "The amended order also gives Meek approval to live in Montgomery Co. The original bail conditions required him to live in neighboring Philadelphia County. Meek still has to submit to at least one urine test per month."

After being sentenced for violating probation and spending almost five months in prison, Philadelphia rapper Meek Mill was released April 24.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered an immediate release for Mill, whose real name is Robert Rihmeek Williams, and also instructed the judge in his case to assign an "unsecured bail."

On Twitter, Mill thanked God, his family and his public advocates for their love, support and encouragement.

"While the past five months have been a nightmare, the prayers, visits, calls, letters and rallies have helped me stay positive," Mill tweeted.

Mill added that he planned, "to work closely with my legal team to overturn this unwarranted conviction and look forward to reuniting with my family and resuming my music career."

Mill was given a two- to four-year prison sentence in November 2017 for violating his probation stemming from a 2008 gun and drug case.

According to Pitchfork.com, when Judge Genece E. Brinkley sentenced Mill, she "cited a failed drug test, violation of court-ordered travel restrictions, and two misdemeanor arrests for reckless driving involving a motorcycle in Manhattan and for an alleged altercation at the St. Louis airport."

Pitchfork.com also reported that, "Charges in the New York case are set to be scrubbed from Meek's record in April, if he avoids further violations; the St. Louis charge was reportedly dropped. Regardless, she gave him the two- to four-year sentence."

Mill's case garnered the attention of civil rights activists



Meek Mill

across the nation, and was cited as an example of a broken criminal justice system. Celebrities including Jay-Z, Colin Kaepernick, T.I. and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft also took interest in the case.

On the same day he was released, Mill was spotted at the Philadelphia 76ers playoff game against the Miami Heat. Mill sat next to comedian Kevin Hart and 76ers co-owner Michael Rubin, another supporter. The 76ers won the game, which marked the team's first playoff series win since 2012.

"We applaud the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for directing Judge Genece Brinkley to immediately release Meek Mill from prison, underscoring what we already knew, he did not deserve to be imprisoned in the first place," stated Rashad Robinson, the executive director of Color of Change. "This decision sets an important precedent against the unjust jailing of so many black and brown people for petty probation violations."

Robinson continued, "Meek's case is just one example of how the excessively punitive criminal justice system targets black people every day and turns prisons into profit-generating institutions."

Robinson noted that thousands of people are illegally detained in Philadelphia jails on unjust probation and parole violations every day without a hearing or the possibility of posting bail.

"Together with money bail, probation detainees are one of the largest drivers of mass incarceration," Robinson said.

"With the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision, we proved that when our communities hold those in power accountable, we can expose our racist criminal justice system and stop its disproportionate impact on the lives of black people."

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is a congressional correspondent for the NNPA Newswire. Lauren also works independently as a political analyst and communications strategist. You can reach Lauren by email at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.*

## When North Korea and the U.S. meet, will Dennis Rodman be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize?

TriceEdneyWire.com

There's a lot of talk that President Donald Trump deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for opening a dialogue with North Korea and thus lowering world tensions. But others argue that Dennis Rodman deserves that honor, or if Trump receives the coveted award he should share it with Rodman.

Rodman, a former NBA star, has been friends with Kim Jong Un, North Korea's leader, since they were first introduced in 2013. Un is a basketball fan and he genuinely admires Rodman, who played for the world championship Chicago Bulls and the Detroit Pistons.

Rodman, a former power forward, has five NBA championship rings and he was the



Dennis Rodman and Kim Jong Un

league's rebounding champion for seven consecutive years. Needless to say he also is a member of the NBA hall of fame.

Rodman has visited Un in North Korea several times, sparking rampant harsh criticism from some who called Rodman part of a long line of

Un's western pawns. Now "The Worm" has turned. Get it? Rodman's nickname is The Worm.

During a visit in 2014, Rodman took Un Trump's book "The Art of the Deal," which the North Korean leader read. Rodman told TMZ that Un did not really understand Trump until he read the book. "I guess

he started to understand him," Rodman said.

Now Trump is scheduled to meet with Un in a few weeks or maybe sooner. Mike Pompeo, Trump's Secretary of State, has already met with Un to discuss the meeting's arrangements.

Who is saying Rodman deserves the Nobel Prize? RT (Russian Television) News has mentioned it.

Greg Gutfeld, editor at Fox News, who in 2014 called Rodman Un's 'little bitch,' said if the summit occurs he will nominate Rodman for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Rodman, who had three nose rings and dozens of tattoos, said he wants credit for easing tensions between the U.S. and North Korea.

## Congresswoman Maxine Waters earns TIME 100 "Influential" honors

By Freddie Allen  
Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire

TIME magazine recently honored Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

According to a press release about the honor, "The list, now in its fifteenth year, recognizes the activism, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals."

Waters said that she was shocked and surprised by the recognition and that she "felt very, very blessed" to receive the honor.



Waters

award, "Black-ish" actor Yara Shahidi wrote that, "Congresswoman Maxine Waters of the 43rd District of California, a.k.a. Auntie Maxine, has made my

generation proud to be nieces and nephews."

Shahidi continued: "She is adored and admired by people who care about social justice and is so eloquent in letting the world, particularly the white men of Congress who dare test her acumen, know that she is not here for any nonsense."

Waters said that for many young people, she is one of the few lawmakers willing to step outside of the box of a traditional, non-confrontational lawmaker to speak truth to power.

Waters said that she was in a viral video exchange with United States Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Waters acknowledged that the use of the phrase "reclaiming my time" is a part of the regular order of business in Congress.

"It's what we use when it is our time to speak and we're being ignored by the people who are on the panel and you want to shut them down," Waters said. "We use it when we're being interfered with by another member of Congress in a debate."

Waters continued: "It was something that I used at a time when it was important for me to

let Mr. Mnuchin know that he couldn't have his way that it was my time and I intended to use it and he could not usurp it."

Waters said that the video inspired a lot of women and showed that, even on Capitol Hill, women lawmakers must have the courage to demand respect.

Waters said that young people welcome the openness and tenacity that she displayed during that exchange with Mnuchin and in her searing criticism of President Donald Trump's performance.

the first time they've seen this kind of authenticity," Waters said.

Shahidi, who also stars in the "Black-ish" spin-off "Grown-ish," said that Waters, says what many of us are thinking.

"She reminds us that we are worthy of any space we occupy," Shahidi said. "In this time of sociopolitical unrest, Congresswoman Waters has been the brilliant, tenacious representative of the people that we all need."

Shahidi added: "She's not new

# Entergy Mississippi celebrates 95 Years with two Mississippi Museums gift

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. celebrates 95 years of service to the state in 2018. To mark the occasion the company is giving a gift to visitors of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History. In conjunction with Entergy Corporation's annual shareholder meeting in Jackson, the company announced a donation of \$25,000 to the museums to cover admission for the first 95 attendees every day in May.

"Four years ago at Entergy's last shareholder meeting in Jackson we announced a \$1 million gift from Entergy stockholders to the State of Mississippi, which kicked off fundraising for the Two Mississippi Museums project," said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO. "We were pleased and proud to be a part of preserving our state's rich history then, and now that it's a reality we want to share it with the world. This is our way of helping to do that."

The museums opened in December 2017 in celebration of Mississippi's statehood bicentennial.



Haley Fisackerly, Entergy MS president and CEO, speaks to the crowd

ennial.

"We congratulate Entergy on their 95 years in Mississippi, and we thank them for celebrating this special occasion by offering the public free admission to the Two Mississippi Museums," said Katie Blount, Mississippi Department of Archives and History director. "We have had no stronger partner in building these museums than Haley Fisackerly and

visit the Museum of Mississippi History or the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Entergy, who stepped up at the very beginning with a generous donation and continued to play a leadership role as we saw the project through.

"We're proud of what we have accomplished together at the Two Mississippi Museums, and we're grateful for all Entergy does for our state."

For information about the two museums and details on the free admission offering,

residents who work for them manage the company's nationwide nuclear power plant fleet and multi-state transmission grid.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 449,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations.

Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including nearly 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of approximately \$11 billion and more than 13,000 employees.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 449,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations.



"95" balloon and people celebrating on the Entergy Plaza at the 2 MS Museums.

## High School entrepreneurs shine at Annual State Competition

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A total of 20 Mississippi high schools delivered their business pitches as part of the 11th Annual Southern Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) State Competition held May 2 at The University of Southern Mississippi's Trent Lott Center.

Each year, the SEP engages more than 500 high school students across the state in an interactive exploration of entrepreneurial opportunities and resources. The program, launched in 2007, is an outreach of the USM College of Business' Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education.

Judges for the state finale represented a wealth of expertise and backgrounds, including business resource providers, financial institutions, university professors and serial entrepreneurs.

James Wilcox, director, USM Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education (CEEE) and SEP director noted that the initiative demonstrated by competing students and the overflow of excitement and support from the judges was phenomenal.

"The energy at this year's state competition was nearly tangible. Just being in the room, one could sense the gravity, the deep-rooted impact of this experience on each student, their teachers, their schools and their communities. These students aren't just aspiring entrepreneurs," said Wilcox. "They're already in the game, and Mississippi is all the better for supporting them in this journey."

Students competed within two separate divisions based on the status of their business. Those who already have customers and are generating revenue compete within the Startup Division, while ideas compete in the Concept Division.

Poplarville High students Janelle Johnson and Justin Rodgers were the competition's top winners. Their business pitch for J&J Metal Works earned not only first place in the startup division but also captured two individual SEP Industry Awards – the Georgia-Pacific Leaf River Cellulose INNOVATOR Award and The First, A National Banking Association MULTIPLIER Award.



Gulfport High School senior Myia Wilson won the Making Money Now! Award.

Second place in the startup division went to Richland High School students Amber Cook and Lauren Hill for their business Ooh La Lips. Third place in the startup division went to Greenville High School students Kala Young and Shandaesha Skinner for their business CK Kreations.

In the concept division, Greenville High School students Tarisha Moncrief, Drakeira Dorris, Mauriana Smith, and Khatia Wigfall earned first place for their business idea Color Splat. Second place in the concept division went to Poplarville High School students Janna Dutsch and Lindsey Storrs for their business pitch Food Dash, which also captured the USM College of Business SCHOLAR Award. Third place in the concept division went to New Hope High School student Rortrick Morris for his pitch Morris Funeral Home.

Wilcox said that the program's most envied prize each year is the Making Money Now! Award. Each year, SEP students are given a challenge to start a business with \$10 or less. The award criterion evaluates the student's Return on Investment (ROI), the idea's sustainability and the student's overall creativity in product development and marketing.

Gulfport High School senior Myia Wilson claimed this year's Making Money Now! Award with her artistic \$8 startup painting custom door hangers. Myia's ef-

orts embraced the seasonality of outdoor décor during the school year, seizing each change as an opportunity to generate additional sales.

The year-long program and competition earned rave reviews from many of the high school teachers and instructors on hand.

"This was my first SEP state competition, and it was the single best competitive event I've ever attended," said Poplarville High School instructor Donna Baxter. "This competition gave my students so much, including a new network, confidence and live business experience."

Kali Harris, New Hope High School instructor, said: "The SEP has helped me to be a better teacher in the classroom as well as have more student participation. I felt like we were in a real life episode of 'Shark Tank.' I will look forward to this every year."

The lead sponsor for this year's SEP state competition was the Mississippi Department of Education. Additional sponsorship was provided by the USM College of Business; the USM Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship; Georgia-Pacific Leaf River Cellulose; The First, A National Banking Association; and Java Moe's.

For more information about the Southern Entrepreneurship Program, contact Wilcox at: [james.b.wilcox@usm.edu](mailto:james.b.wilcox@usm.edu)

## Postal Service to host Brandon Reservoir Passport Fair May 12

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Does your vacation destination require a passport? If so, start your journey with a trip to the Passport Fair at the Madison Post Office, 990 Highway 51, Madison, MS 39110. Postal employees will accept your passport application from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 12. No appointment is required, but payment for the passport services must be made by check or money order. Customers will be able to purchase money orders with cash or a debit card.

U.S. citizens must present a valid Passport Book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a Passport Book, Passport Card or other travel

documents approved by the U.S. government.

**How to reapply for the Passport application process:**

- A completed application (form is available at [usps.com/passport](https://usps.com/passport); but do not sign it until the passport clerk instructs you to do so).

- Remember that everyone, including newborn infants, is required to obtain a passport in his or her own name. For children under age 16, the consent of both parents/guardians is required.

- Proof of identity (a valid permanent state driver's license, a government ID or military ID, previous passport, Certificate of Citizenship or Naturalization Certificate)

- Proof of U.S. citizenship (previous passport, original or certified birth certificate issued from the state with a raised, embossed, impressed or multi-

colored seal and registrar's signature and date of certificate filing)

- Two official passport photos (available at the Passport Fair for \$15)

- Social Security Number

The U.S. Department of State fees vary according to age and type. The fee(s) must be made by money order, check, bank draft or cashier's check made payable to the U.S. Department of State; debit and credit card payment is not available.

The Passport Book fee for under age 16 is \$80; for age 16 and older is \$110. The Passport Card fee for under age 16 is \$15 and for age 16 and older is \$30. In addition, all acceptance agencies, including the Postal Service, charge a processing fee of \$35 per application, which may be paid in cash, money order or check made payable to the Postal Service.

## Wood remanufacturer brings 50 new jobs to Vicksburg, Miss.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Wood remanufacturing company Industrial Wood Products is locating several of its existing product lines and capabilities to Vicksburg, Miss. The project is a corporate investment of more than \$2 million.

Industrial Wood Products of Mississippi will locate industrial component manufacturing operations and a paint line in its Vicksburg facility. The industrial division will include cut-to-length, resawing, ripping, notching and grading capabilities to service pallet and crate manufacturers. The paint line will be used for the company's existing Rustic Collection product line, which includes pre-stained shiplap boards to be sold in retail stores across the U.S.

The facility will also allow the company to provide a higher level of service and decrease shipment times to customers across the Gulf Coast region.

"Industrial Wood Products'

decision to open its first Mississippi operations in Vicksburg is a great example of a public-private partnership benefiting the local economy and its citizens through job creation and new investment, both of which are vital to a healthy economy," Gov. Phil Bryant said.

"Our company is excited to have chosen Mississippi and Vicksburg as our location for this project. We found in Vicksburg a set of unique location advantages that will be of great importance to our company as we continue to grow our market share and expand our business," said Industrial Wood Products President Ryan Hilsinger. "We worked closely with the Mississippi Development Authority and the Warren County Port Commission, and we found them to be agile and pro-business partners that were effective in helping us navigate the site selection process."

The Mississippi Development Authority is providing as-

sistance for building repairs and renovations. The city of Vicksburg is providing in-kind assistance to help with water runoff affecting the facility and site.

"Vicksburg's proximity to Industrial Wood Products' customers, coupled with a skilled, committed workforce, will enhance the company's tradition of excellence for many years to come," said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough Jr. "We salute our economic partners at the Warren County Port Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Foundation, the city of Vicksburg, the Warren County Board of Supervisors, Greater Jackson Alliance and Entergy for their teamwork to bring Industrial Wood Products to Mississippi."

Industrial Wood Products has committed to fill the 50 new jobs in Vicksburg over the next four years. The company also has two locations in North Carolina.

## Be Not Slothful

PART 1

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



We read in Proverbs 6:6-11 these words: "6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep - 11 so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

In this text of Scripture, the writer said, "Go to the ant, you sluggard (one who is idle)." I want you to see that when God saves a person, He gives him work to do. When a person does the work that God has called him to do, then Heaven is the reward. The Proverb writer said to go to the ant and consider, or

study, her ways.

The dictionary tells us that a sluggard is one who is idle. The ant has no guide, overseer or ruler; nevertheless, she provides her meat in the summer and gathers food in the harvest so that her needs can be supplied when the weather gets bad and she cannot work.

The Proverb writer said we need to consider these things, because if we are idle our want is going to come. Just as a man who travels, no matter how fast or how slow he goes, if he stays on the road, he will end up at his destination, regardless of where he goes.

This is the way it is when a person is idle in the things of God. He is going to end up in poverty and his want will be as an armed man.

As we consider this text of Scripture, I want us to realize that God made a law from the beginning that one must work to accomplish anything. Genesis 2:2 tells us, "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done,

and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done."

The word work is used in the Word of God four hundred nineteen times, and the word labor is used about eighty-nine times. As we can see, the Bible teaches work.

We are living in a casual age. The word casual means "careless." We are living in a time when people want to be casual in their dress, in their appearance and in their attitude. Because of this casualness, many carry that same careless attitude in their Christian experience.

If you find someone who is not particular concerning his appearance and how he conducts himself, you will find someone who is careless in his spiritual experience.

I want us to realize that we are coming down to the end of time, so the devil is doing everything he possibly can to defeat us. If he can get us to become careless, he will. You see, we are living in a lukewarm age or a careless age.

God has warned us of this throughout His Word, so that we do not have to be caught up in it. He let us know that we could save ourselves from this lukewarmness.

Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!" There is a great work to do and there is no place to let down, spiritually speaking.

Many souls are lost - your neighbors, your families and perhaps even your own companion. They need help. They need someone to light up the pathway so they can see.

If you get careless and do not work, then they might be lost simply because you failed to meet the requirements that God expects of us! Next week, "Be Not Slothful," Part II.

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

PRESERVED

## A Mother's Wisdom

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



One of the most memorable images from the media coverage of the civil unrest in Baltimore a few years ago was of Toya Graham, the single mother of six who physically beat her teenaged son when she realized that he was participating in the rioting.

Regardless of whether you think she should have "whipped" him, it worked. Her refusal to accept anything less than what she thought was the best for her son kept him out of trouble. Because of her actions, her son was not arrested along with over 200 others on that day. Graham illustrated the lesson of the teachings of Proverbs 1:8 to "not forsake your mother's teaching."

In honor of Mother's Day, I'd like to share one of my favorite writings about mothers. In this very poignant piece, Dallas area author Lisa-Lin Burke shares how Mother's Day may not be a day of celebration for her and other whose mothers are deceased. Whether your mother is deceased or alive, she shows why it is important to be thankful for the blessings mothers are.

"Mother's Day: my day of dread. The card aisle was to be avoided, like poison ivy. Envy, not blood, flowed through my veins when I watched daughters and mothers. They talked, laughed and loved together. Did they know how lucky they were? I did. My mother died when I was thirteen. Mother's Day became just another Sunday without football."

Twenty years after her death, I began to ask myself questions. Did I honestly blame her passing for my every stumble? Why not try to embrace her death? Could I learn from her life to live my own? The Word helped me find solace with Psalms 121 (NIV): I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? I knew Who I had to trust.

The road had its bumps and curves. I almost gave up, but He stayed with me. I bloomed into a woman I prayed my mother would be proud of. Mother's Day was no longer my day of dread. She taught me the changes a young girl goes through are a celebration. Each night ended with her words, "Mama love." The card aisle isn't poison ivy anymore. Now I pick the perfect one. It's signed with love and then tucked away with the others.

Life on Earth with my mother was too short. Our time together was more valuable than rubies. Remember to treat your mother like the queen she is. You are the jewel in her crown. Not only on Mother's Day, but always. My mother's spirit dances within me every second, every minute, every day. I am truly blessed." - Lisa-Lin Burke

My hope is that this weekend we are reminded to honor those mothers, mother figures and even men acting as mothers who have made a positive difference in our lives. Happy Mother's Day!

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

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## A smile for every child: Free dental day at Kool Smiles Sunday May 20

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



While Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide a safety net, access to dental care is a big issue, especially for children of color. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, "tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among U.S. children, five times as prevalent as asthma, and dental care is one of the nation's greatest unmet children's health needs." Why? Sometimes children's parents simply did not arrange for them to see a dentist. Sometimes, dental services were not available in particular areas, for example, dental needs are sometimes more likely to be addressed in emergency rooms than dental clinics. And, a 2016 report from the Department of Health and Human Services says that dental provider shortages were at least part of the reason some children, especially low-income black and Hispanic children, lack dental care.

Children pay a big price when their dental needs are unmet. In the worst and most extreme cases, as in that of Maryland's Deamonte Driver, children can die because they do not have access to basic dental services. More frequently, says Dr. Diane Earle, managing dental director for Kool Smiles, "Childhood dental decay can lead to pain, difficulty eating, speaking and sleeping and more serious infections, some of which can be life-threatening."

To address some of the need, Kool Smiles is offering free dental care to children in need Sunday, May 20. Forty-nine offices in 13 states plus Washington, D.C. will be open to provide dental exams, extractions, fillings, sealants and other emergency services. The free day is open to children who either lack insurance or are underinsured.

To be sure, Kool Smiles can't possibly provide a smile for every child, but they are taking a step in the right direction. This year represents the fourth year that the organization has offered the free service. It's first-come, first-serve; so if you are interested, check out [mykoolsmiles.com/sharing\\_smiles](http://mykoolsmiles.com/sharing_smiles), where you can register for a free appointment. In the past three years more than 1,400 children have received free dental care, with more than 500 being treated last year. Kool Smiles hopes to serve even more children this year.

Access to safe and affordable health care has been part of my portfolio for some years. In 2015, I had the privilege of spending a week at Meharry Medical College, lecturing on health policy. The challenges that people of color face around health care can be distilled to the 3 A's – access, assets and attitudes. All too often access is limited because people live in the wrong areas, because providers are unavailable, or because there are other reasons people can't physically get to the care they need. Assets determine almost everything – if you don't have the dollars, no matter what the proximity, you won't likely have the care you need.

Finally, the attitudes of both providers and patients make a difference in who seeks care and in what kind of care is provided. Recent work on maternal mortality among African-American women, regardless of race, suggests that racial attitudes in treatment make a difference. Consider the case of our superstar, Serena Williams, who almost died giving birth to her precious Alexis Olympia, partly because of some preconceived notions about black folks on the part of misguided medical professionals.

Mental health and dental health are the two parts of health care that are most frequently ignored. It is not enough to simply get an annual checkup. Increasing research shows that mental health and physical health are inextricably intertwined. Dental health, all too frequently, is ignored. Even those with "good" health insurance may have limited dental insurance. And lower-income folks rely on Medicaid and CHIP, but may not have anywhere to go to get the help they need.

Dental practitioners like Dr. Earle, a second-generation Meharry-trained dentist, stand in the gap for those who may not have access to health care. "Sharing Smiles Day is an opportunity for our dentists and staff to put a smile back on the faces of children who need dental care but whose families cannot afford it," she said.

Pew says that more than 18 million low-income children had no access to healthcare in 2014. Kool Smile's effort to see 500 or more children May 20 doesn't begin to deal with the enormity of the challenge. But it's an effort that will make a big difference for the children who are treated. And it's an opportunity for us to reflect on the importance of dental health that the role that organizations like Kool Smiles can play in closing the dental health gap.

Full disclosure – I've worked with Kool Smiles and their dental service organization, Benevis, on a program called Watch Yo' Mouth, featuring Dr. Diane Earle and healthy living author Debra Peek-Haynes. We plan to offer more of these programs in coming months. Meanwhile, though, I am excited about Sharing Smiles Day and about developing ways more low-income children can have access to dental care, so that there can be a healthy smile for every child in our nation... <https://www.mykoolsmiles.com/sharingsmiles>

## Trump's 'New Deal for Blacks' was dealt from the bottom of the deck

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



African-American unemployment has reached its lowest levels ever. President Donald Trump boasts about this on the stump, naturally claiming credit for a recovery that began after his predecessor, Barack Obama, saved an economy that was in free fall. Trump says he's delivering on his promised "new deal for blacks."

Don't fall for the hype. A low top line unemployment rate is a good thing. Tight labor markets force employers to compete for workers. More African Americans who are too often the last hired find jobs.

Those who have lousy jobs are more confident about looking for better ones. Even harsh employers like Wal-Mart find it necessary to lift wages to attract and keep decent workers. Wages should start going up. But we haven't seen much of that in this economy.

That's because while the topline rate is down, it doesn't count millions who have given up looking for work and have dropped out of the work force. Only if the economy continues

to grow and unemployment continues to decline are we likely to see wages starting to improve.

The big problem, however, is that most of the jobs are simply lousy. Virtually all of the new jobs aren't secure — they are part-time, short-term contract jobs, with variable hours, few benefits and low wages. Not surprisingly, African Americans are more likely to be caught in these kinds of jobs than whites.

Like most Americans, African Americans find that the costs of what they need are rising faster than their wages are. Paychecks don't buy what their paychecks used to buy. Health care costs are exploding. College debt is now higher than credit card debt and auto debt.

Housing costs are at or near record highs, both for those who want to buy a home and those who want to rent. As bad as this is for everyone, it is worse for African Americans. Black unemployment rates remain nearly twice as high as white unemployment rates.

Black households make less income and have dramatically less wealth than white households. This is true at all levels of education and in every region. According to a report from the Asset Funders Network, the median wealth of single African-

American women is a stunning \$200. It is \$300 for single African-American men. It is \$15,640 for single white women and \$28,900 for single white men.

There is less poverty now than there was 50 years ago. African Americans have started to close the education gap — in graduating from high school, getting a college or advanced degree. Yet in 1968, the median black household only earned 63 percent what a median white household earned. In 2016, the gap was worse, with blacks earning only 61 percent of what a typical white household earned.

Much of this is due to discrimination. Study after study shows that job seekers with a "white sounding name" are more likely to be called back than those with a "black sounding name." Some of it is due to the failure of the minimum wage to keep pace with productivity or inflation. Some of it comes from the decline in labor unions, with wages stagnating across the board. Trump boasts about the unemployment rate. He promised in the campaign a "new deal for blacks."

He claims that cracking down on illegal immigrants has helped lift black wages by reducing competition for low-skilled jobs. The reality is that Trump's poli-

cies are perversely designed to make things harder for African Americans. His administration is rolling back enforcement of civil rights laws across the government. It is cutting back on enforcement against wage theft and payday lenders.

It is reversing Obama's order to provide millions more with overtime pay. Trump boasts that he has dismantled Obamacare. The result is millions more losing coverage or unable to afford the prices that are rising in part as a result of Trump's attacks.

The administration plans to reduce funds for Pell grants and college loans. Its tax cuts will go overwhelmingly to the already rich, while it calls for reducing the resulting deficits by slashing spending on Medicaid and Medicare, on food stamps and education.

Low-wage white workers will be the most numerous victims, but African-Americans and Latinos will be hit disproportionately. A good economy with full employment can help solve many problems.

But Trump's "new deal for blacks" is a bad deal from the bottom of the deck. We know what to do to reduce poverty and entrenched discrimination. It isn't a mystery. It is simply a matter of will — and of power.

## State of Black America® finds African-Americans drastically underrepresented in tech industries

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



*"It is our hope that this document will pierce the dark veil of neglect that has thus far smothered efforts to right the wrongs of the past and present. It is presented as an alternative to failed public policies. I hope that it will be read closely in the White House and in the Congress and that it may influence decision-makers to open their eyes to the plight of black Americans. I hope it will be read by all of the candidates in both parties, whose campaigns thus far largely exhibit a refusal to grapple with real issues and with the concerns of black citizens. And I hope it will be read closely by the press and the electronic media, whose neglect of black interests and black concerns in 1975 was as pervasive as Washington's. And I know it will be read by black Americans, in order that they may document their grievances and understand the terrible dilemma they face." — Vernon E. Jordan, State of Black America, 1976*

A nationwide assessment of the digital economy has found that black Americans are over-represented as tech consumers, but drastically underrepresented as tech employees, according to

the 2018 State of Black America®.

The State of Black America, the National Urban League's seminal annual publication, has become one of the most highly-anticipated benchmarks and sources for thought leadership around racial equality in America across economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice and civic participation.

The report is available on [www.StateOfBlackAmerica.org](http://www.StateOfBlackAmerica.org)

This year's report, "Save Our Cities: Powering the Digital Revolution," set out to answer the question, "Are the new job, business and educational opportunities created by increased digitization of our world being equally shared?"

African Americans make up less than 5 percent of the workforce at social media and technology companies vs. more than 50 percent for whites. Less than 6 percent of total black employment in 2017 was in the tech industry vs. 8.5 percent for whites.

Historically, while great industrial breakthroughs have profited our nation, African Americans have often been exploited, rather than elevated by these advancements. Fortunately, the digital revolution is still in its youth — and ripe with potential for black Americans. While it has positioned itself such that the barriers of entry

are few and low, the findings of the National Urban League's 2018 Digital Inclusion Index are unambiguous: we must separate the signal from the noise.

The Digital Inclusion Index is a brand-new iteration of the report's traditional Equality Index™ — a mathematical representation of the relative social and economic status of black Americans relative to whites. The 2018 Equality Index remains 72.5 percent, unchanged from 2017, while the Digital Inclusion Index is slightly higher at 74.1 percent. An index of 100 percent would represent full equality.

Inspired by the Three-Fifths Compromise of the 1787 United States Constitutional Convention, the Equality Index is calculated using an array of statistics in five categories: economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement. The Digital Inclusion Index is calculated based upon digital skills and occupations, digital access and digital policy.

The report includes the commentary and analysis of more than 50 thought leaders in business, government, science and the arts.

Technology is a study in contrasts for black America. Black families continue to remain less likely than white families to have dedicated internet access at home, yet African Americans are the second-largest multicult-

tural group, after Asian Americans, for mobile device ownership, with 91 percent owning smartphones. Black millennials are influential, leading users of mobile technology and platforms, and voracious consumers and creators of digital content, but lag behind in tech employment.

The report found some areas of above-average digital equality. Although African Americans were less likely, in general, than whites to receive degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), one kind of STEM degree actually is more common among African Americans — computer and data science. In 2015-2016, 2.8 percent of African Americans vs. 2.6 percent of whites earned such degrees.

While African Americans with doctoral degrees in science and engineering don't have the same outcomes as their white counterparts, they are closer to parity than the average worker — almost 93 percent.

The report also includes a Hispanic-White Equality Index which calculates the same categories as the Black-White Index. This year's index is 79.3 percent, a slight gain over the 2017 index of 78.5 percent. Both the Black-White Index and the Hispanic-White Index reflect slight gains in household income, graduation rates and college enrollment.

## Waters

Continued from page 9

to it, she's true to it." Waters is one of President Trump's most vocal critics on Capitol Hill, even calling for his impeachment.

"[President Trump] has defined himself as someone who is not deserving and that should be our mantra, that should be the

conversation, that should be what we talk about with our newspapers and our radio stations...we need to speak up," Waters said. "We have to let everyone know we don't accept this and we don't feel helpless like victims in all of this. We are going to resist him and we are going to fight him."

Waters said that black newspapers should run stories about the Trump Administration, every week, monitor digital media, especially social media, and pay attention to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Waters said that the Black Press must cover President Trump in a way that allows the average person to stay up-to-date and to understand what's going on in the White House.

"That conversation can help people get more involved, get people excited about registering

to vote and to get out to vote... and see what we have to do to change this government."

Black millennials need to know that they can make a significant difference in the upcoming midterm elections, Water said.

"If our millennials vote, we win," Waters said. "We can take

back the House, we will keep many of our state legislature seats...if [millennials] go to the polls, we win."

This article was originally published at [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).

Freddie Allen is the Editor-In-Chief of the NNPA Newswire and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).

# Mississippi College supporters praise naming of the Royce Medical Science Center

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi College students are elated to see the signs go up on the exterior of the Royce Medical Science Center.

Fifteen inches tall, the black letters were posted by workers Tuesday at the 22,000-square-foot facility. The signs are seen on one side of the spacious brick building along College Street, and the other along Capitol Street.

Featuring cadaver and histology labs, lecture halls, additional research space, as well as faculty offices, the 21st Century building remains one of the academic treasures on the Clinton campus.

Retiring in late June, President Lee Royce provided superb service as the leader of the Christian university for 16 years. Naming the building in his honor is truly fitting says MC senior Alex Rodriguez of Houston, Texas.

"His legacy is pretty big. He changed a lot about the campus," adds Rodriguez, 20, a former Student Government Association vice president. "This is great."

A business administration student Rodriguez has many friends majoring in the sciences at MC. And they rave about the many academic strengths of the building that opened in January 2013. It is home to fully furnished classrooms, labs and the latest technology to prepare students for medical and dental schools. Many courses in the university's pre-med curriculum are taught at the medical school level.

As they packed up their cars and trucks to head home with final exams wrapping up, students like junior Liz Skirkey spotted the Royce signs on the Medical Science Center May 1.



Royce Medical Science Center at Mississippi College

"It looks very beautiful," says Skirkey, an interior design student from Merrimack, New Hampshire. Moments later, she returned to her task of loading the truck to make the journey home.

Nursing major Abby Rowland spent many hours learning in the medical building. The sophomore from Jackson has taken biology and chemistry classes there, among others. The facility, is "very state of the art."

When it opened, the building was viewed as a huge recruiting tool for students. Its 4,800-square-foot gross anatomy lab is a must-see stop for parents, other family members and prospective students. The structure is adjacent to the Hederman Science Building.

Prior to the building's opening, Dr. Stan Baldwin, dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, said the new facility meets expansion needs. It will

accommodate "the phenomenal growth in the biology program," he said.

Baldwin created and headed the master of medical science program that trains graduates for medical and dental schools or engage in medical research. The MC program began with fewer than 20 students in 2005. It enrolls more than 200 full-time students from over 130 colleges and universities across the USA and Canada. It also has enrolled physicians from India who study at MC before taking medical boards allowing them to practice in the United States.

Students enrolling at Mississippi College completed undergraduate studies at such prestigious institutions as Harvard, Duke, UCLA, Notre Dame and Johns Hopkins.

"The acceptance rate into medical school for students who complete this program is very

good," Baldwin said.

The Royce Medical Science Center is aptly named for a Mississippi College president who's done so much for the Baptist-affiliated university, says MC junior Rebecca Lee, 21, of Clinton. Dr. Royce also has stayed closely involved with students since arriving in 2002.

"When it snowed in Central Mississippi, including Mississippi College, a few months ago, Dr. Royce didn't remain in his office in Nelson Hall," she said. The MC leader took part in a friendly snowball fight with students. He's also known to toss Frisbees on the Quad with undergraduates.

Other tributes commending the extraordinary service of Lee Royce and his wife, Rhoda, are visible on the Clinton campus. The Rhoda Royce Prayer Garden near Alumni Hall was recently named in her honor.

# MDE announces Student Testing Task Force members, application for students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced today members of the Mississippi Student Testing Task Force that will examine current student testing on the state and local school district levels and to determine best practices for monitoring student progress in meeting grade-level and subject area learning goals.

Mississippi high school students, who will be seniors in the fall, have an opportunity to apply to be a member of the task force. Four students, one from each congressional district, will be selected to represent their peers in discussions about how to ensure the state prepares them for college, the work force or the military.

The first monthly meeting of the task force is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, in the 4th floor boardroom of the Central High School Building. Meetings of the task force will be live streamed and archived. The task force will produce a report on its findings and recommendations by December 2018.

The MDE will be accepting public comment on student testing at the following address: [testingtaskforce@mdek12.org](mailto:testingtaskforce@mdek12.org). All comments will be posted online each month.

Members of the task force are:

- Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education
- Senate Education Chairman Gray Tollison
- House Education Chairman Richard Bennett
- Buddy Bailey, Mississippi State Board of Education
- Sean Suggs, Mississippi State Board of Education
- Kristina Pollard, principal, Earl Travillion Attendance Center, Forest County School District
- Rachel Canter, executive director, Mississippi First
- Tim Martin, Clinton Public Schools
- Amy Carter, Meridian Public Schools
- Eddie Peasant, Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District
- Jennifer Wilson, Greenwood Public School District
- Robyn Killebrew, 2017-18 Milken Educator, principal of

Pass Christian High School

- Howard Savage Jr., 2018 Administrator of the Year, principal of Quitman High School
- Robert Sanders, principal, Mendenhall High School

• Jessica Broome, 2017 Administrator of the Year, principal of Pearl Junior High School

• Whitney Drewrey, 2018 Teacher of the Year, 3rd – 5th grade special education teacher at Lafayette Upper Elementary School, Lafayette County School District

• Luke Daniels, 2017 Teacher of the Year, 6th grade mathematics teacher at Petal Upper Elementary in the Petal School District

• Lora Rance Evans, 2016 Parent of the Year, Greenwood Public School District

• Kelly Riley, executive director, Mississippi Professional Educators

• Joyce Helmick, president, Mississippi Association of Educators

• Rep. Randy Boyd, R-Man-

tachie

• Steven Hampton, research and accountability director, Lamar County Schools

• Krystal Cormack, chair, Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board

• Jay Smith, retired Long Beach School District superintendent

Ex-officio members

• Dr. Kim Benton, chief academic officer, MDE

• Dr. Paula Vanderford, chief accountability officer, MDE

• Dr. Christy Hovanetz, Foundation for Excellence in Education

• Dr. Chris Domaleski, associate director, Center for Assessment

• Rebecca Staples, Lieutenant Governor's Office

• T.J. Taylor, Speaker of the House's Office

The task force will discuss student assessments with the goals of determining the types, quality and amount of tests students take on the state and district level and making recommendations on ways to ensure student testing is streamlined but measures the learning goals designed by Mississippi teachers.

More information and resources on student testing can be found on the MDE website.

# Wes Sigler named CEO of UMMC Grenada, UMMC Holmes County

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hospital administration veteran Wes Sigler is the new chief executive officer of the University of Mississippi Medical Center Grenada and UMMC Holmes County in Lexington.

He will begin his duties May 14, reporting to Kevin Cook, University Health System CEO, and Dr. Charles O'Mara, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs.

"We are thrilled Wes is joining the UMMC family," Cook said. "He is an experienced hospital administrator and will be an outstanding addition to the team. Wes will have a big impact on the organization and the Grenada and Holmes County communities."

"I am excited to be joining the teams in Grenada and Lexington," Sigler said. "There are tremendous opportunities for these two hospitals. I look forward to working with our physicians and staff to improve the health of the patients in the communities they serve."

Sigler received his bachelor of accounting from the University of North Alabama and his master of professional accountancy from Mississippi State University. He comes to UMMC from North Mississippi Medical Center's Eupora hospital, where he has served as administrator since October 2014. There, he



UMMC Grenada



Sigler

oversaw a 43-bed acute care facility and 36-bed nursing home with net revenues of \$25 million and 200 full-time employees. Sigler also implemented a self-managed hospitalist service, added digital mammography

technology and oversaw \$2 million-plus in capital projects.

Sigler served from August to September 2014 as interim administrator for the Quitman County Hospital in Marks, overseeing the 25-bed critical access hospital and its 60-bed nursing home. From May 2011 to July 2014, he was CEO of Tri-Lakes Medical Center in Batesville, a 112-bed acute care and behavioral health facility with 300 full-time employees and \$25 million in net revenues.

At Tri-Lakes, he oversaw \$10 million in capital projects, re-opened an ICU that was closed by the previous owner, and recruited dozens of physicians

and sub-specialists to the market and the medical center staff.

Sigler led Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland as CEO from July 2008 to April 2011, recruiting 16 physicians to the 165-bed, acute care hospital and 35-bed nursing home. Sigler also added a geriatric psychiatry unit, wound care center and pain management program. Sigler led \$10 million in capital projects and grew the interventional radiology service from fewer than 100 procedures annually to more than 1,000 annually.

Sigler also has served in executive roles at a number of hospitals in Tennessee and Alabama.

# MS Conference NAACP calls for continued investigation into the death of hanged Scott County man

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Conference NAACP (MS NAACP) is calling for the continued investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of Willie Andrew Jones Jr., an African-American man whose body was discovered hanging from a tree in the front yard of a Scott County, Mississippi residence in February of this year. MS NAACP has joined the Jones and Townsend families to request a full examination of the facts by the FBI.

"We continue to support the Jones and Townsend families' search for answers," said Charles R. Hampton, MS NAACP president. "The families deserve a complete and thorough accounting of the facts surrounding Mr. Jones'

death."

Earlier this year, the MS NAACP called for a full and transparent investigation after the Scott County Sheriff's Office elected not to report the incident to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation until the week following Jones' death. The Scott County Sheriff's office initially ruled the incident a suicide without the benefit of a full investigation.

"We want justice for Willie," said Tammie Townsend, Jones' mother. "We can't get justice without all of the facts, and we can't get all of the facts without a complete investigation."

MS NAACP will continue to support the family and work with local, state and federal law enforcement to obtain all of the facts surrounding this incident.

**LEGAL**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS  
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-007-18  
MAY 9, 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 June 15, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for services in connection with the Solid Waste and Recycling Services, Project No. 6000-007-18, 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 June 15, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference 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: "Solid Waste and Recycling Services, JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-007-18." 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.

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

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208  
Telephone: (601) 939-5631  
Email Address: dherndon@jmaa.com  
Attention: Deutangus Herndon,  
Procurement Specialist

The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deutangus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at dherndon@jmaa.com or 601-360- 8622.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 23, 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 for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid 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 (<http://jmaa.com/rfqrb-center/>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 20% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
DATE: May 9, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.  
Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

5/10/2018 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR THE  
FONDREN HOSPITALITY PROJECT  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI,**

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "Governing Body" of the "City"), will hold a public hearing on May 22, at 6:00 o'clock p.m. at the regular meeting place of the Governing Body at the City Hall of the City of Jackson, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on the Tax Increment Financing Plan: Fondren Hospitality Project, City of Jackson, Mississippi, May 2018 (the "TIF Plan"), for consideration by the Governing Body and requesting that the TIF Plan be approved in compliance with The City of Jackson, Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan, and further, to designate the project described in the TIF Plan as appropriate for development and tax increment financing.

The general scope of the TIF Plan is a proposal that the City will issue tax increment financing bonds (the "Bonds"), in one or more series in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), in order to provide funds necessary to pay for the cost of acquiring and constructing various infrastructure improvements in connection with the Project (as defined in the TIF Plan), which may include, but are not necessarily limited to, installation, rehabilitation and/or relocation of utilities such as water, gas and sanitary sewer; construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of drainage improvements, roadways, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, site improvements, structured and surface parking; relocation of electrical lines; lighting and signalization; landscaping of rights-of-way; related architectural/engineering fees, attorney's fees, TIF Plan preparation fees, issuance costs, capitalized interest, and other related soft costs (collectively "Infrastructure Improvements").

The Bonds shall be secured solely by a pledge by the City of the incremental increase in sales tax rebates and real and personal property ad valorem tax revenues generated within the TIF District, as described in the TIF Plan, and will never be a general obligation of the City, will not be secured by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City, and will not create any other pecuniary liability on the part of the City other than the pledge of the incremental increase in the ad valorem taxes and sales tax rebates set forth above. If deemed necessary and appropriate, the City may require additional security from the developers of the Project.

Construction of the Infrastructure Improvements and payment of the Bonds issued pursuant to the TIF Plan will be paid as hereinabove set forth and will not require an increase in any kind or type of taxes within the City. Copies of the TIF Plan and the Redevelopment Plan are available for examination in the office of the City Clerk in Jackson, Mississippi.

The City may exercise its authority under Chapter 45 of Title 21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "Act"), as authorized by Sections 21-45-1, et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

This hearing is being called and conducted, and the TIF Plan has been prepared as authorized and required the Act.  
Witness my signature and seal, this the 8th day of May, 2018.

KRISTI MOORE, City Clerk 5/10/2018, 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS  
AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT—TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE)  
CHEMICAL MONITORING  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER: 7000-006-18**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide Environmental Consulting Services at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN") related to a Trichloroethylene (TCE) Chemical Monitoring Project.

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 2:00 p.m. central time on Tuesday, June 12, 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 <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 2:00 p.m. central time on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, in the Staff Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 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, and the opportunity to received detailed scope related information from the project owner.

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 10% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

5/10/2018 5/17/2018

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND  
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Thursday, 06/21/2018, for:

RE: GS# 350-022 Hail Damage (PH II - Woolfolk)  
Office of Capitol Facilities  
(Department of Finance and Administration)  
RFx Number: 3160002247

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Shafer & Associates, PLLC  
Address: 510 University Drive  
Starkville, Mississippi 39759  
Phone: 662-323-1628  
Email: s-a@shafer-architecture.com

A deposit of \$200.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

5/3/2018, 5/10/2018

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**Advertisement for Bids**

**Bid 3075 Site Care (Lawn Services)  
Bid 3076 Pest Control  
Bid 3077 Waste Disposal**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 23, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning Bid 3075 project (Site Care Only) will be held at Enochs Building, 101 Holloway Drive, Jackson, MS 39203, on May 14, 2018, at 2:00 P.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. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at HYPERLINK "http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us" www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

5/10/2018, 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle**

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

2007 Chev M/T – Vin: 2G1WK15K079254370  
Registered to Angie and Timothy Crogier  
Credit Acceptance Corp., Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 18, 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.

5/3/2018, 5/10/2018, 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle**

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

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Registered to Michael J. Williams  
Global Lending Service, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 18, 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.

5/3/2018, 5/10/2018, 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle**

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

2009 Niss MSV 1N4AA51E19C813289  
Registered to Hicks Chelsey and/or Cros by Pam  
Bridgecrest Acceptance Corp., Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 18, 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.

5/3/2018, 5/10/2018, 5/17/2018

**LEGAL**

**Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle**

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

2011 Chev EQU – Vin #2CNFLFE59B6205346  
Registered to Alfredia Dionna Arman  
Magnolia Car Max Business Services LLC, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 18, 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.

5/3/2018, 5/10/2018, 5/17/2018



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5/10/2018, 5/17/2018, 5/24/2018

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5/10/2018, 5/17/2018, 5/24/2018

**LEGAL**

**RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BOBBIE MCCLAIN, DECEASED

CAUSE #:17-428

BY: Veronica Holden

**SUMMONS**

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

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

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or peti-  
tion filed against you in this action at 9:30 o'clock a.m., on the 19th day  
of June, 2018, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi,  
before Honorable Dewayne Thomas and in case of your failure to appear  
and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other  
things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 19th day of April, 2018.

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

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

**LEGAL**

**Advertisement for RFP**

**RFP 2018-03 Digital — Full Color Production Printing System**

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Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M.  
(Local Prevailing Time) May 17, 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 accep-  
tance of any rip if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps  
are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained  
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5/3/2018, 5/10/2018

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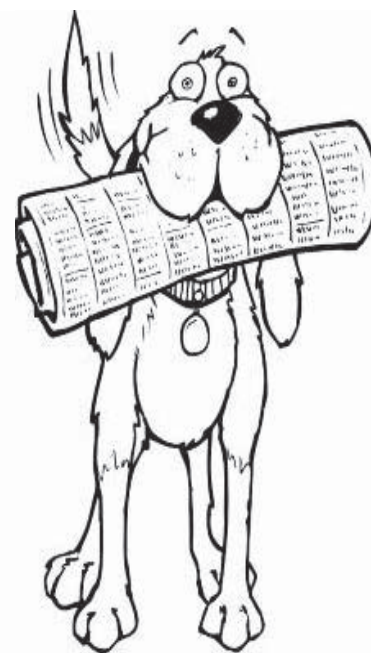
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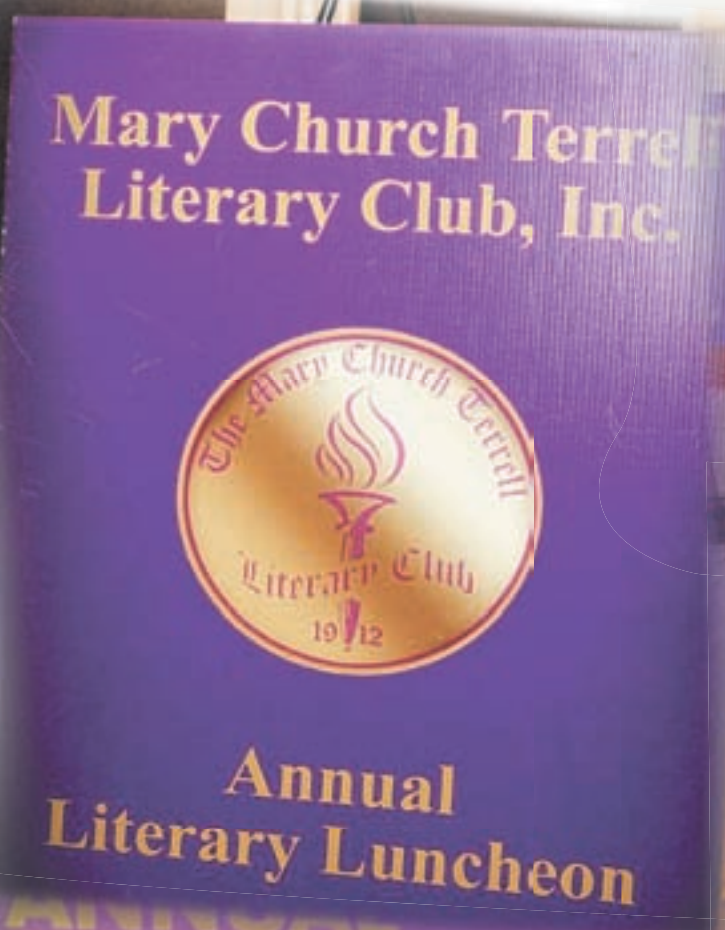
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# Mary Church Terrell Literary Club

# Annual Literary Luncheon

## JSU Student Center • Jackson, Miss. April 7

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





# FILM REVIEW: “AMERICAN”

## INTER-GENERATIONAL DRAMA RECOUNTS INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CITIZENS DURING WWII

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

A couple of months after the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. In accordance with this directive, over 100,000 U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry were herded up and taken to internment camps for the duration of World War II.

American, though set in the present, revisits that shame-

ful chapter in our history. It is appropriate that the poignant picture stars George Takei, best remembered as Lt. Sulu of Star Trek fame, since at the tender age of 5, he and his family were forced out of their home at gunpoint and relocated to parts unknown.

In American, he plays Clinton Nakamoto, a 94 year-old veteran who proudly served his country in WWII, despite having been shipped to a con-

centration camp on account of his Japanese heritage. At the point of departure, we find him volunteering at the Japanese American National Museum as he recounts his unfortunate ordeal on U.S. soil to a visitor (Rachel Michiko Whitney) with an impressionable young daughter (Araceli Prasartongsoth) in tow.

As Clinton conducts an impromptu tour for them, we learn what life had been like for him

when housed behind barbed wire. Ironically, he started every school day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the country imprisoning him. Nevertheless, when he came of age, he opted to enlist in the army.

The plot thickens when the little girl shows him a picture of her grandfather, who had also been a member of the 442, a Japanese regiment which suffered very heavy casualties while fighting the Nazis

overseas. The photo triggers a battlefield flashback in Clinton which ultimately leads to a couple of touching tableaux it would be unfair for me to spoil.

Directed by Richie Adams (Of Mind and Music), American is a character-driven drama which packs quite an emotional punch, given its duration of less than 18 minutes. Kudos to George Takei for this labor of love doubling as a very timely teachable moment about racial

tolerance.

Excellent (4 stars)

Unrated

Running time: 18 minutes

Production Studio: River

Road Creative

Distributor: River Road Creative

For more information, visit: <https://www.americanshortfilm.com/>

To see a trailer for American, visit: <https://youtu.be/XpNy0d-hZsfs>



## Melinda Janko | The “100 Years: One Woman’s Fight for Justice” Interview

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

Melinda’s Native Agenda!

Upon graduating cum laude from Emerson College, Melinda Janko founded Turning Point Productions, a company that specializes in producing promotional videos for the non-profit sector. In 2003, she relocated to Southern California where she formed Fire in the Belly Productions after learning about Elouise Cobell’s lawsuit over the mismanaged Indian Trust Fund.

Outraged by the injustice, she vowed to bring the story to the world. She spent the next two years researching and building relationships of trust with Native American leaders, and was eventually granted exclusive permission to crisscross the country with Elouise.

Filming of 100 Years: One Woman’s Fight for Justice began in Washington, D.C. and took place on tribal lands in



Janko

many states. Melinda gained access to previously tight-lipped, high-level officials of the Department of the Interior, and to U.S. senators, congressmen, the judge presiding over the case and the lead attorney, and a number of Native American beneficiaries of the Indian Trust Fund.

In March of 2018, she was recognized by the PBS “Shatter the Lens” campaign celebrating women “in front of and behind

the lens” in honor of Women’s History Month. Earlier this year, Melinda also received the Outstanding Achievement Humanitarian Award from the Indie Fest Film Awards.

Here, she talks about the making of 100 Years: One Woman’s Fight for Justice, now on Netflix.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Melinda, thanks for the interview.

**Melinda Janko:** Thank you Kam, it’s my pleasure.

**KW:** How did you become aware of Elouise Cobell?

**MJ:** In 2002, I read a story in Mother Jones magazine about the broken Indian Trust and Elouise Cobell’s fight for justice.

**KW:** What inspired you to turn her story into a movie?

**MJ:** I was so outraged by the injustice that I vowed to bring her story to the world. I thought, if the United States government can treat a minority of people

this way, then how safe are the rest of us?

**KW:** Her fight with the government lasted 30 years. How did you go about telling that story in less than two hours?

**MJ:** Very carefully. I realized that her story was long and dealt with a very complicated lawsuit. It was a huge challenge. At first, I set out to tell it as an advocacy piece. But I never imagined that Elouise would win. That was before I met her. After following her for many years and hearing her say, “the stars are aligned for justice for Indian people,” I just knew in my gut that she would overcome. So, as we were waiting for more funding, the story was unfolding, and it came to pass. In the end, we came full circle. It was a long 14-year wait, but it became a stronger story because of the wait. Also, I had an incredible team behind me to collaborate on such a complicated story, which took over two years in post-production.

**KW:** Was it hard balancing between the exploitation of Native Americans and Elouise’s dedication to her people’s cause?

**MJ:** No, I always felt that this story was about contrast. It was about the power of big government versus the powerlessness

of the people. And I was very lucky to have Elouise Cobell as my main character to drive the story. It was extremely hard seeing the exploitation of Native people, and there were many moments after filming when I had to step aside to pull myself together. That’s what I wanted the audience to feel, their pain and her resolve.

**KW:** Why do you think the U.S. government got away with breaking treaty after treaty after treaty for so many generations?

**MJ:** Because it’s not merely above the law... it is the law! I don’t believe there was any treaty it really intended to keep.

**KW:** How was Elouise able to succeed in her class action lawsuit?

**MJ:** Pure grit and determination. She was tough as nails and would not back down. She came from a long line of very strong warriors in her family and was also motivated by what occurred at Ghost Ridge in the winter of 1894 when 600 Black-foot Indians starved to death because of a shortage of government food rations. She was very much fighting for them.

**KW:** Native Americans continue to languish on reservations where they lag behind virtually all other ethnic groups in terms of education, income and

housing. What do you see as the solution for their plight?

**MJ:** I feel very strongly that, if the United States government adequately provided for housing, education and healthcare as promised through the treaties, they would be much better off. But because they have to fight for everything they get, it perpetuates a vicious cycle of grinding poverty. There’s a joke in Indian country that if you’re going to get sick or need an operation, you better do it before June, because the funds will run out after that. Not too funny to me, but the Native people are resilient and laugh more than any people I know.

**KW:** What message do you want people to take away from 100 Years?

**MJ:** I want people to be inspired by Elouise Cobell’s story. If an indigenous woman from a poverty-stricken tribe can face down the most powerful government in the world and win, then there are no excuses for any of us. Her story is about the power of one.

**KW:** Thanks again for the time, Melinda, and best of luck with all your endeavors.

**MJ:** Thank you, Kam for recognizing the importance of 100 Years: One Woman’s Fight for Justice.

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# BOOK REVIEW: “THE ADVENTURES OF WRONG MAN AND POWER GIRL!”

BY FRANK MORRISON  
C.2018, PHILOMEL  
\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 32 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You are a pretty super kid. Mom and Dad say that all the time because you're kind, smart, and you always like to help others when they need an extra hand. Even so, there are times when you might help too much and in the new book “The Adventures of Wrong Man and Power Girl!” by C. Alexander London, illustrated by Frank Morrison, mistakes happen.

When the worst thing you can possibly imagine occurs, what do

you do? Who do you call when you need a hero to fix a bad situation? Young Janice hollers for a superhero she knows quite well, and Wrong Man comes to the rescue!

Or, well, he sort of rescues a little bit. Mostly he does the wrong thing, like bringing stinky cheese to a disaster site. Fortunately, Janice has seen this before and she “knows what to do” so she calls 9-1-1, and asks for help.

Sometimes, disasters can happen back-to-back. In a flash,

Wrong Man is on the scene with his dance moves but the truth is that you can't catch crooks by waving your arms or shuffling your feet, so Janice calls 9-1-1 again. There's just no doubt about it: Wrong Man can be a clumsy fool with inappropriate solutions and bad judgment, and he really has a knack for making a mess, causing big problems to get even bigger.

Even so, Janice knows that he's only trying to help!

And so is she. People sometimes try to avoid Wrong Man,

but they're always happy to see Janice – also known as Power Girl – because they know that Power Girl is a very smart superhero who does what's needed. Of course, she still loves Wrong Man very much, even when he messes up, and she's always glad when he's around. There are days when Power Girl is powerless, disasters get out of hand, and sometimes “Even Wrong Man is right....”

The world is full of scary things, no matter how old you are. Think about that – and then

remember that it's harder when you're five years old. Now imagine the most perfect superhero you can – and then read about him in “The Adventures of Wrong Man and Power Girl!”

For your child, this book speaks to the part of her that needs a hero, not just when disaster occurs but every day of the year. Fortunately, as author C. Alexander London shows with a delightful sense of humor, kids don't have to look far to find that super person in their lives. Young Janice, furthermore, shows kids

that resourcefulness is important, too, and that quick-thinking can also save the day.

Now, here's the bonus: as an adult, this book will appeal to the child in you because its illustrations by Frank Morrison are old-school comic-book style, but with a modern feel to the artwork.

Read this book for your 3-to-7-year-old and see if it doesn't take you back a few years. Read it, because “The Adventures of Wrong Man and Power Girl!” is pretty super.

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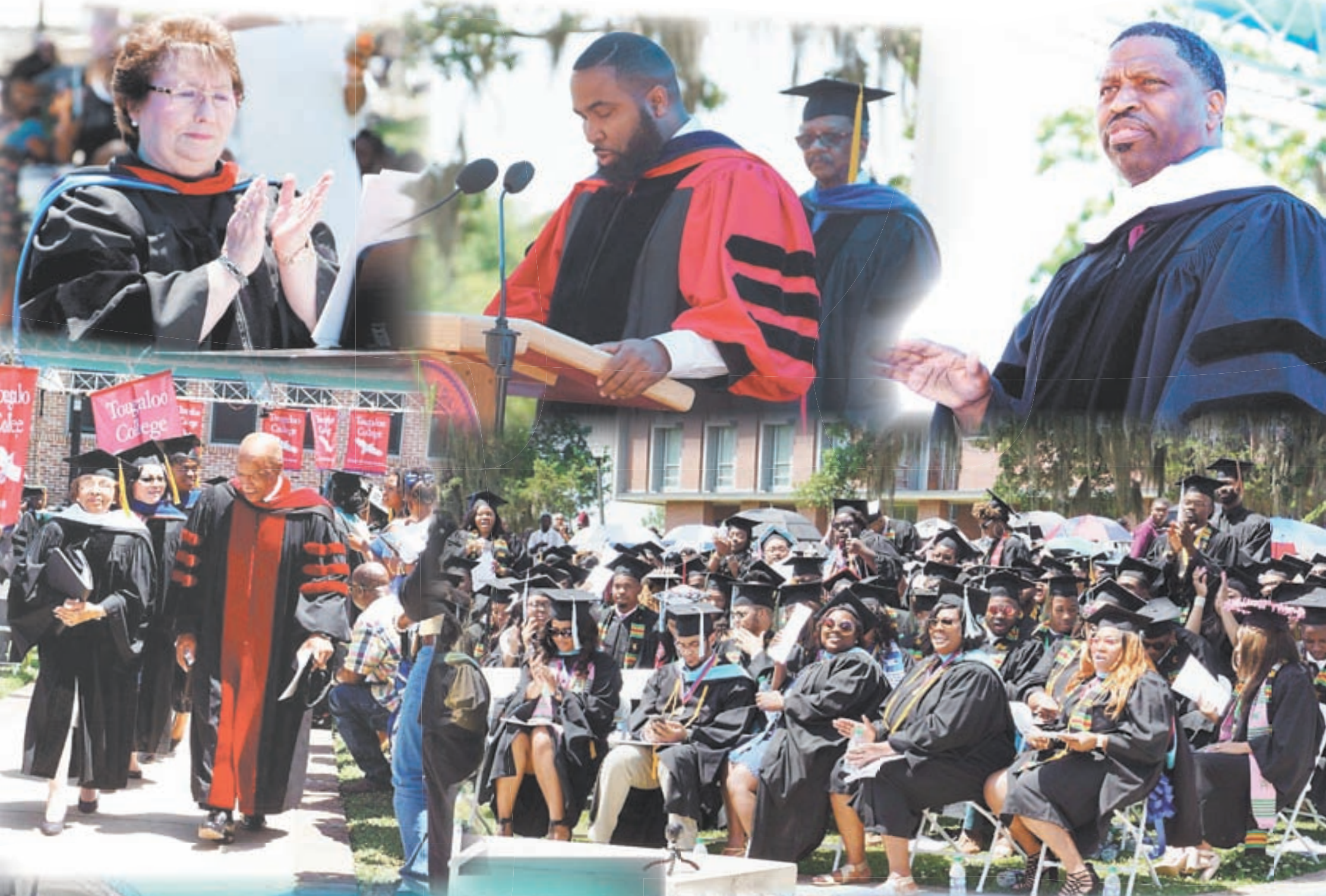
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# Tougaloo College 2018 Spring Commencement

## Tougaloo, Miss. • May 4-6, 2018

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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Class of 2018



Tougaloo College  
Class of 1968



Tougaloo College  
Class of 2018

Jay Johnson

May 9 - 15, 2018

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**CRESCENT ROLLS**

8 OZ. ....

**2/\$3**

SUGAR FREE / REG.

**JELLO PUDDING**

4 PACK .....

**2/\$4**

BORDEN

**SHREDDED CHEESE**

7-8 OZ. ....

**2/\$4**

SELECT SIMPLY

**ORANGE JUICE**

32 OZ. ....

**2/\$5**

**GORTON'S**

BREADED FISH STICKS, FILLETS, POPCORN SHRIMP,  
14-24.5 OZ. ....

**\$4.99**

### FRESH PRODUCE

FRESH EXPRESS SHREDS

**LETTUCE**

8 OZ.

**\$1.19**

RED SEEDLESS

**GRAPES**

PER LB.

**\$1.99**

**BAGGED RUSSET POTATOES**

8 LB.

**\$2.69**