

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great sadness that The Mississippi Link family announces the loss of one of our own, Lonnie Ross, who at the time of his demise was serving as online editor for the newspaper. Ross was found in his home Friday, May 9, by the landlord and a local pastor after family and co-workers could not reach him for approximately two weeks.

According to the Hinds County

Coroner, Ross had been dead for at least a week prior to his body being discovered. It is believed by the family that the cause of death was a brain aneurysm. Confirmation will be made pending a review of medical records.

The Mississippi Link publisher Jackie Hampton issued the following statement:

“Lonnie Ross was one of the smart-

est individuals I know. In addition to being the online editor for the newspaper, Lonnie was always able to assist us in sales and marketing, event planning, reporting and layout. He was a local business consultant and a web site designer. Lonnie also has served as church musician and choir director at various churches. I think I can speak for the entire Link family when I say he

will truly be missed.”

A tribute to Lonnie will be featured in the June 7 edition of The Mississippi Link.

Services for Lonnie Ross will be held Saturday, June 9, at College Hill Baptist Church, 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson at 11 a.m. Dr. Michael T. Williams is pastor of College Hill.



Ross

Lumumba: The City of Jackson failed

Jackson Academy senior Francis Fortner was set to graduate the day after the tragic accident

By Othor Cain
Editor
and Cianna Hope Reeves
Student Intern

In his weekly press briefing held Monday, Jackson’s Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba acknowledged that several calls were made about an uncovered manhole between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. to the police and public works departments that possibly claimed the life of Jackson Academy senior Frances Fortner.

Just hours before Fortner’s accident on Ridgewood Road near Venetian Way, another Jackson resident hit the same manhole, rupturing two tires; as a result, that individual contacted JPD dispatch and suggested an officer come to the scene to block it.

Lumumba said, after the officer completed a visual inspection of the hole, it appeared to them that a cover was in place.

Fortner was driving her mother’s red convertible in route to graduation practice Thursday, May 17, at Christ



Mayor Lumumba



Fortner

United Methodist Church when she hit the open manhole and flipped.

She was set to graduate the next day and had been accepted to attend the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism in the fall.

Laurilyn and Tom Fortner,

parents of the 18-year old, released a statement following the tragedy:

“Frances was the light of our lives and we are devastated by her loss. As all who knew her are aware she was smart, talented and a beautiful young lady who was also kind, gener-

ous and funny.”

During the press conference, the mayor expressed his condolences again to the Fortner family and shared new findings of the fatal accident.

Public Works Director Rob-

Fortner
Continued on page 3

100 Black Men of Jackson hosts Powell Middle School Annual Eighth-Grade Class Day



Powell eighth-graders enjoying a fun game at 100 Black Men Village.

By Cianna Hope Reeves
Student Intern

Eighth-grade students of Powell Middle School anxiously hopped off the school bus and ran onto a field of activities to celebrate their hard work throughout their academic years at the institution.

Built to mentor and empower youth to achieve life-long goals, the 100 Black Men of Jackson Inc. held a fun day for the mentorship sponsored school to make their transition to high school a memorable one.

Students signed their classmates’ shirts with sharpies for keepsakes, danced to booming music, lunched on food provided and participated in festivities such as basketball, volleyball, bing-bag toss and karaoke.

Teachers also joined and celebrated with their students one last time before the start of summer.

Serving the local area since 1990, as one of the organization’s founders, LeRoy Walker, said the group’s mission is to provide leadership and inspiration to youngsters in the community, specifically juvenile boys.

“We wanted to see students do better, ascend to higher heights, improve the quality of life for their own station in life, and to be able to make a difference through their exposure of other things,” stated Walker.

Comprised of lawyers, doctors, dentists, construction workers, government officials and more, the mentors currently work with 139 young males in the city.

Walker says the mentors are

significant models because they inspire the youth which gives them courage to achieve their own goals.

“If a child sees an individual that is propelling in his career, and if they believe that person has their best interest at heart, then, they will utilize their skill-set to try and duplicate what they see,” expressed Walker.

Not only does the association offer mentoring but it also lends financial assistance to surrounding public schools, colleges and universities by donating scholarships to help kids with their higher educational pursuits.

Justin Green, principal of Powell Middle School and member of 100 Black Men for nearly three years, says he has definitely witnessed the club’s impact on his students.

“The [organization] has really adopted Powell and brought the community into the school. When the community adopts your school, your school cannot do anything but grow,” admitted Green.

One student, Jaden Keys, will have the chance to fly across the southern states into Florida this summer to attend the National Flight Academy in Pensacola, Fla. and participate in a national convention in Hollywood, Fla. — an opportunity he received being in the mentorship program.

The soon-to-be freshman says he is appreciative of the organization’s guidance and has noticed a personal revolution since becoming a member.

100 Black Men
Continued on page 3

‘This Is Your Life’ Appreciation Banquet

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Saturday, May 20, family, friends, students, church members and well wishers gathered at the Country Club of Jackson to say thank you and celebrate the ten year milestone as pastor of Shekinah Glory Baptist Church for Pastor Karl Twyner.

When reached by phone Tuesday, Twyner said, “I’m still speechless.” It was a celebration he will never forget.

John A. Wicks Jr., pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Jackson, served as the Mastor of Ceremony. Opening remarks were given by First Lady of Shekinah Glory, Natalie Twyner.



Pastor and First Lady Karl and Natalie Twyner

Twyner

Continued on page 3



Board of Trustees appoints Alcorn provost as interim president

Alcorn State University

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning named Donzell Lee as interim president of Alcorn State University at its meeting held last week in Jackson. Currently serving as provost and executive vice president at the university, Lee will begin serving as interim president July 1.

Beginning his career at Alcorn State University as an instructor of music in the Department of Fine Arts, Lee has served in numerous capacities in more than 35 years at the university. He holds degrees from Xavier University, Stanford University and Louisiana State University.

“Dr. Lee has dedicated more than 35 years to serving the students of Alcorn State University,” said Trustee Shane Hooper, president of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. “He has excelled as a professor, scholar and leader at the university and I know he will continue to excel in this new role.”

He progressed through the professorial ranks, distinguishing himself as a professor and scholar, and was awarded the rank of professor with tenure early in his career. He has held numerous positions, including director of the Honors Curriculum Program, chairman of the Fine Arts Department, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

Through these roles, Lee’s many accomplishments included developing the first computer-assisted instruction music laboratory in Mississippi, working with other Alcorn personnel to develop study-abroad opportunities for Alcorn State University students, and working with higher educa-



Lee

tion institutions in Russia, India and Ghana to develop partnership for faculty and student exchange.

“I am thankful to the Board of Trustees and commissioner for their confidence in appointing me to serve as interim president of Alcorn State University,” said Lee. “I look forward to continuing to build on the solid foundation President Rankins has laid. Having spent nearly all my career as a faculty and administrator at Alcorn, I am passionate about our success. I see tremendous opportunities for the future of this great institution and look forward

to working more closely with the Alcorn family of alumni, faculty, students and staff to strengthen the university.”

In 2011, Lee was named vice provost, which gave him the opportunity to work closely with the provost/executive vice president to strengthen academic programs, policies and procedures. Upon retirement of the provost/executive vice president in 2014, Lee served one year as the interim provost/vice president for Academic Affairs before being appointed to the position in 2015.

A strong advocate for the arts, Lee has traveled extensively in South America, the Middle East, Egypt, and Russia as an arts advocate. He continues to perform as a soloist and accompanist. He also serves as an accreditation evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on College. Since 2001, he has conducted annual music master classes at the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Lee is a member of the National Association for Music Education, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (Board of Governors), the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Kappa International (chapter/member Liaison), Southern Regional Honors Council (past president), National Collegiate Honors Council (past president), and the National Association of African-American Honors Programs (past president and executive director). He is also a member of the Eminent Board of Directors of the Natchez Music Festival. In November 2010, Lee was included in the inaugural group of fellows of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Canton High School valedictorian and salutatorian



Valedictorian, Kayla Wilkes- \$80,862
AKA-Exie Thomas Williamson Scholarship
Canton Lions Club
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship
Jackson State University
J.B. and Juanita Sims Family Scholarship
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.
CPSD Superintendent Award
Topre America Scholarship



Salutatorian, Kenna Pierce Jr.- \$450,200
Dwight Luckett Award
J.B. and Juanita Sims Family Scholarship
United States Naval Academy & Prep School



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Fortner

Continued from page 1

ert Miller explained Superior Asphalt’s work in the area of the deadly crash in detail as to suggest they shared some of the blame for what happened.

According to Miller, the company was hired by city officials to reconstruct Ridgewood Road for better travel; the project was conducted in three stages.

Within the last two weeks, the company raised the dangerous manhole covers in an effort to even it with the surface of the street. At press time, the work in that area was still incomplete.

Miller stated new procedures to respond to infrastructure-prone accidents are in progress.

“We are reviewing our communications and response protocols to ensure a timely response by public works department staff when we receive notice of traffic hazard and infrastructure failure,” expressed Miller.

He added, “We are also working with the police that are traveling throughout the city to report any traffic hazards on emergency basis or at the end of their shift.”

Still, Lumumba said, “the city did not do its part in keeping citizens safe.”

“The city of Jackson failed to appropriately secure the site at the time we learned that the manhole cover was not properly in place,” he said.

He continued, “We owe responsibility

to the Fortner family and we owe that acknowledgement in taking responsibility to the citizens of Jackson.”

Lumumba stated the administration is unsure why the site was not barricaded or secured, but they [his administration] are taking full accountability for not reacting promptly.

“We don’t know if there was a manhole lid that was placed on a ring that did not fit; we are still investigating the infrastructure failure. What we are acknowledging as a city is that there was a failure to respond to an emergency,” Lumumba said again.

In order to prevent the situation from reoccurring, the chief executive promises better protocol in the future.

“We are assuring that when dispatch receives a call about an emergency, we have appropriate personnel who are dispatched to secure the site and appropriate people who are dispatched to repair the issue,” stated the mayor.

Miller said the city is also looking to restore the task force that only responds to calls of transportation dangers.

Visitation hours for Frances Fortner will take place Friday, May 25, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 26 at 2 p.m. at St. James’ Episcopal Church in Jackson, Miss. The funeral will follow at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 26, also at St. James’ Episcopal Church.

100 Black Men

Continued from page 1

ing a mentee this year; he specifically credits Green for his success.

“Mr. Green saw what I was actually capable of and after that he introduced me to the mentoring program. Since then, I have matured more,” said Keys with a smile.

Keys encourages others to become members due to the positive impact he directly receives from the group of men.

“It’s one of those groups that if you need somebody to talk to you’ve got them. They are your family, they are father figures and they care about us,” expressed Keys.

Freddrick Murray, JPS interim superintendent and club mentor, was also in attendance to celebrate the scholars’ matriculation into high school and said it was important to show up and offer en-

couragement to the students.

“I wanted to come because this is exciting and being here is why I do the work. I am also showing them that we can come out and they can see us in a different light as opposed to us being behind a podium or standing in front of a classroom.”

In addition to continuous service in the local area geared to help and teach the future generation of professionals, Powell Middle School’s Class Day was one of many examples that demonstrates the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s commitment to remain true to their pillars.

See photos page 19.

Twynier

Continued from page 1

Helen Young, First Lady of New Hope Baptist Church and National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. brought greetings. She also represented her husband, Pastor Jerry Young, as she spoke of the Twyners being their long time neighbors.

Twynier said he was humbled that not only his church members were there to honor him but also many individuals whom he had worked with over a spectrum of nearly 40 years. As an educator, he has served as a choral music teacher, choir director, principal, superintendent of schools, curriculum coordinator and education consultant. He is CEO of his education consultant firm, TEACH, LLC, which stands for Training Educators and Creating Hope.

“I’m so undeserving; it was so beautiful,” Twynier said.

Former students, staff members and friends gave expressions and musical tributes throughout the celebration.

Anita Brashears, a 1982 graduate of Murrah High School, said when she was a sophomore at Murrah High School she was mesmerized by the beautiful blends and music of the choir, directed by Twynier. She said she auditioned for the choir by singing the theme from “Mahogany” and became a member during her junior and senior years. Referring to Twynier, Brashears said “Daddy T was not only our director and teacher but our mentor, confidante and big brother.”


Twynier stated that he hoped in the next 10 years he can feel more deserving of this honor which touched him so deeply. During dinner a “This is Your Life” video was presented by his niece Charlotte Johnson; music by a men’s ensemble consisting of singers he had worked with at New Hope, Alcorn and Shekinah Glory; a musical tribute from Minister Lannie Spann McBride; and music from One Accord, a former group that Twynier had directed while at New Hope.

The following Sunday, the pastor’s anniversary service was held at his church, Shekinah Glory Baptist Church, located at 485 W. Northside Drive in Jackson.


See photos page 5.



Minister Lannie Spann McBride



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I've spent my life fighting for everyday Mississippians against powerful special interests. I led the struggle in the MS House of Representatives to keep Republicans from cutting education funding and giving huge tax breaks to big corporations. I've been speaking out for equal pay and increasing the minimum wage.

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As the elected leader of the Democratic Caucus in the Mississippi House of Representatives, David Baria has fought to:

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- Make corporations pay their fair share of taxes
- Improve our infrastructure and put Mississippians to work
- Improve access to quality healthcare
- Protect our seniors

Photo by Greg Gaudin for MississippiLink.com

Pastor Carl Twyner's 10 Year Anniversary

Country Club of Jackson • Jackson, Miss. • May 19, 2018

PHOTOS BY JOY BRASHEARS



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Graduation schedule for Jackson Public Schools

The JPS graduation ceremonies for the 2017-2018 school year will be held May 23 and May 24, at Jackson State University Athletic and Assembly Center located at 1400 John R. Lynch Street in Jackson. Below is a list of the graduation dates and times:

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

School	Time
Murrah High	1-2 p.m.
Provine High	3-4 p.m.
Jim Hill High	5-6 p.m.

Thursday, May 24, 2018

High School	Time
Callaway High	1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Forest Hill High	3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Wingfield High	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Lanier High	6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Please do not block the path of graduating students with camera equipment as they march in and out during the ceremonies. All media representatives are asked to wear employment identifications or credentials at this event.

Jim Hill soccer standout headed to University of the Ozarks



Jonathan Smith (center) signs his University of the Ozarks scholarship letter with members of his family and coach Fred Davis (top left).

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jonathan Smith, captain of the soccer team at Jim Hill High School, is headed to Clarksville, Arkansas. He will attend University of the Ozarks on a soccer scholar-

ship next fall. Smith plays at the fullback and midfielder positions. He is one of only two seniors on the team. Frederick Davis is the head coach of the Jim Hill soccer team.

JPS Career Development Center inducts 12 new Honor Society members

Mississippi Link Newswire

The JPS Career Development Center held its National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony May 3. The center inducted 12 new students into the prestigious organization. This brings its total current membership to 19 students, representing all seven JPS high schools.

The National Technical Honor Society recognizes the achievements of top technical education students. NTHS provides scholarships to encourage students to pursue higher education. It also cultivates excellence in today’s competitive workforce. For over 30 years, NTHS has been the leader in the recognizing outstanding achievement in career and technical education.

2018 National Technical Honor Society members:

Prince Artis, Culinary Arts I
Ashlei Banks, Cosmetology II
Autumn Brown, Digital Media II
Aaron Darby, Engineering II
Kamya Douthard, Lodging Hospitality & Tourism Mgmt. II
Kenjeffery Harmon, Simulation & Animation Design II



2018 Career Development Center National Technical Honor Society members and sponsors

Jazmine Hirt, Culinary Arts II
Tatyana Lenard, Culinary Arts I
Nakengee Lowe, Culinary Arts I
Aureauna Nelson, Early Childhood Education I
Preston Powell IV, Simulation & Animation Design I
Tarreanna Ricks, Simulation & Animation Design II
Tonie Tarrio, Simulation & Animation II
Jonathan Tate, Business Fundamentals (J. Mann)

Corleesha Taylor, Culinary Arts II
Norcelia Tobias, Culinary Arts II
Jazzmyne White, Culinary Arts II
Kristian Wiggins, Culinary Arts II
Cleveland Yankovitz, Simulation & Animation II
The Career Development Center’s NTHS advisors are Tabatha Kenney, Jodie Johnson and Dorothy McChester. The administrators of the school are Brenda Jackson, principal, and assistant principals Eric Cook, Dina Givens and Calvin Melton.

Murrah High School’s 30 Plus Club growing

Mississippi Link Newswire

Although six seniors from last year have graduated, the 30 Plus Club at Murrah High School has grown from 12 to 16 members. There are eight seniors, seven juniors and one sophomore in the mix. As the name suggests, membership is based on achieving a score of 30 or above on the ACT college entrance exam.

But these high achievers weren’t satisfied with reaching that over 30 score themselves. They started what Principal Alvanette Buchanan called a “for-us-by-us movement” to teach their peers how to ace the test. They planned and conducted several ACT workshops for other students at the school.

“To students who want to get a high score on the ACT, you can do it,” said Kelcie Bolden, a Murrah junior and 30 Plus Club member. “I went from a not so good score, in my opinion, to getting a 30. So, it’s very possible to reach your goal and achieve something that a lot of people might not think that it’s possible for you to achieve.”

Composite scores of 30 or higher on the ACT puts students in the 95th percentile of everyone who took the test. This significantly increases postsecondary opportuni-



Murrah 30 Plus Club (from left, 1st row): Jamyracle Jefferson (12th), Kelvin Bolden (11th), Shyuanna Rodgers (11th), Evan Morrissey (10th), Courtney Drake (12th), Kaitlyn Fowler (11th), Dyanhante Bennett (12th); 2nd row Kilando Chambers (11th), Sean Collins (11th), Jayden Smith (11th), Jazzmyne White (12th), Sophia Bowley (12th), Oluwatosin Akinyemi (12th), Justin Bell (12th), Christian Johnson (12th), and Armand Grant (11th).

ties for these students.

Scores of 29 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 qualify students for the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant. The scholarship adds \$2,500 a year to other awards if students enroll at a state college or university.

Schools, in and out-of-state, also offer

institutional awards for higher ACT scores.

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. All U.S. four-year colleges and universities accept ACT scores as part of the admissions process.

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State Board approves statewide assessment contract for new science, U.S. history tests

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Board of Education voted recently to approve a \$3.3 million statewide testing contract with Data Recognition Corp (DRC) for the 2018-19 school year to administer 5th and 8th grade science assessments and the biology I and U.S. history assessments for high school. The science tests are required by federal law.

DRC was selected from among five proposals submitted. DRC’s contract may be renewed annually up to five years based on the successful completion of the preceding year’s work.

The Mississippi Department of Education solicited competitive written proposals in February for 5th and 8th grade science assessments and biology I and U.S. history assessments that are aligned to the new Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards (MCCRS) for science and social studies.

New science standards were ap-

proved in 2017 and piloted in school districts in the 2017-18 school year. New social studies standards will be piloted in the 2018-19 school year. As such, the U.S. history test for 2018-19 will be a hybrid of the current test and field test items. The fully revised U.S. history test will be used starting in 2019-20.

Academic standards are typically reviewed and updated every five to seven years.

“I appreciate the thoughtful process the evaluation team used to select the assessment vendor,” said Rosemary Aultman, chair of the Mississippi State Board of Education. “The goal of these assessments is to provide useful information about how well students are meeting the learning targets that Mississippi teachers have designed.”

The other vendors that submitted proposals are Measurement Incorporated, Measured Progress, Inc., Questar Assessment, Inc. and Scantron Corporation.

99 percent of Clinton third-graders pass reading state test

The Mississippi Link Newswire


Nearly all of Clinton’s third-graders passed the recent reading state test and will move to fourth grade this fall.

The Clinton Public School District enrolls 449 third graders, and only one did not meet the requirements for promotion. Mississippi’s Literacy-Based Promotion Act requires that all third-graders must pass this test before they can pass to fourth grade, with some exceptions for learning disabilities.

“There is no magic formula that can ensure that each individual student gets what they need,” said Mandy Ambrose, principal of Clinton’s second- and third-grade school Northside Elementary. “The magic is in the ability of the classroom teacher to pinpoint what each child needs and do whatever is necessary to ensure that each child is successful.”

Northside uses a data-driven approach to pinpoint each student’s strengths and weaknesses using formative assessments throughout the year. Teachers use this data to give extra support where a need is shown.

Ambrose said the use of data to drive instruction and giving 100 per-



cent effort has allowed Northside to be more successful than ever before on the first administration of this test. Students who don’t pass on the first try have two more attempts to take the test.

“Literacy is so important in the early grades and lays the foundation for success throughout the rest of students’ academic career,” said Tim Martin, superintendent. “We focus on literacy starting in kindergarten and work hard at Clinton Park and Northside to instill a love of reading and learning.”

One of the side effects of preparing students for a successful life is that it also equips them with the strategies and confidence to succeed on state assessments, Ambrose said.

“Our teachers are incredibly invested in the all-around success of their students,” she said.

Canton Public Schools 3rd Grade Gate Data

95.7 percent of CPS 3rd grade students passed the state test. The comparison data chart shows just how well students performed.

Note McNeal Elementary tested 3rd graders for the first time this school year.

Schools	2017 3rd Grade Gate	2018 3rd Grade Gate	Increase/Decrease
Canton Elementary	88.7%	97.3%	+8.6%
Goodloe Elementary	84.7%	94.8%	+10.1%
Myers-Canton School of Arts and Sciences	88.3%	91.3%	+3%
McNeal Elementary	N/A	97.8%	N/A
DISTRICT	87.7%	95.7%	+8%

Northwest Rankin High School student awarded Metro-Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter scholarship

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Each year the Metro-Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter, Inc. awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving metro-area senior who has been accepted and will be enrolled at Alcorn State University (ASU). The 2018 recipient is Alvin Edney, II, a senior at Northwest Rankin (NWR) High School.

Edney, the son of Alvin and Shala Edney, has a 4.0 grade point average. At NWR, he is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, NWR Student Government Association, varsity football team, track team, soccer team and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In his community, he has participated in health fairs and blood drives. He has traveled abroad to serve as a People to People Student Ambassador in Australia and a Foreign Mission Project in Honduras. Edney has served as a Mississippi House of Representatives Junior Page, Mississippi Senate Junior Page and an ac-



Pictured (l-r): Michael Gines, scholarship committee member; Shala Edney, mother of scholarship recipient; Alvin Edney II, scholarship recipient; Ava Edney, sister of scholarship recipient; and Frank Branch, scholarship committee chairman

tor in James Brown’s Biopic, Get on Up. Edney plans to enroll at ASU in the fall and plans to major in agricultural science and wildlife.

For more information, please email metrojacksonalcornalumni@gmail.com.

MSU remains top ‘Best Value College’ in Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State University is once again being recognized for providing the highest value of any college or university in the state of Mississippi.

In a recent analysis from SmartAsset, a financial technology company, Mississippi State is ranked as the top “Best Value College” for the third year in a row. MSU graduates also earn higher average starting salaries than their peers from other state colleges and universities, according to the analysis.

To determine which school provided the most value to students, SmartAsset examined cost of tuition, student living costs, student retention rate, average scholarships awarded and average starting salary. The different categories were weighted to determine each institution’s College Education Value Index. MSU’s Education Value Index was 31.98, more than a point higher than the University of Mississippi, the second school in the ranking. Mississippi College is ranked third.

According to the study, MSU graduates receive an average starting salary of \$47,900, which is \$2,200 higher than the next highest university in the rankings. The average starting salary for all Mississippi higher education graduates is \$43,042.

Mississippi State is consistently recognized for providing a high value to both on-campus and distance education students. Last fall, Money Magazine listed MSU among the top 50 best



For the third year in a row, Mississippi State University ranks as the top “Best Value” College in Mississippi by SmartAsset, a financial technology company. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

colleges in the south in its “Best Colleges for Your Money” rankings.

MSU provides access and opportunity to students from every area of Mississippi, all 50 states and from nearly 80 countries throughout the world. Enhancing its historic strengths in agriculture, natural resources, engineering, mathematics and natural and physical sciences, MSU offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs. These include architecture, the fine arts, business, education, the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and veterinary medicine.

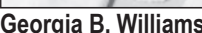
Building on its land-grant tradi-

tion, MSU strategically extends its resources and expertise throughout the state for the benefit of Mississippi’s citizens, offering access for adult learners through its Meridian campus, Extension Service and distance learning programs. MSU is among the National Science Foundation’s Top 100 research universities.

To view SmartAsset’s rankings for Mississippi Colleges and universities, visit <https://smartasset.com/student-loans/student-loan-calculator#mississippi>.

MSU is Mississippi’s leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu.

Dr. Mary M. White, keynote speaker PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH



Office of the President
Mr. James Dole, Police Officer – 7 Years
Mr. Willie Gray, Emergency Manager – 5 Years
Mr. Lindsey Horton, Associate Vice President – 3 Years
Ms. Calvin Matthews, Deputy Chief – 3 Years
Mr. Luther Samuel, Sergeant – 12 Years
Mr. Dwayne Thomas, Planning and Research Officer – 3 Years
Ms. Belinda Turner, Security Officer – 5 Years

College of Business
Ms. Ella King, Secretary – 24 Years
Dr. Mary M. White, Chair and Associate Professor – 33 Years

College of Education and Human Development
Dr. May F. Bridges, Enrollment Recruitment-Executive Ph.D. – 15 Years
Dr. Linda Channell, Associate Professor – 14 Years
Dr. Dorothy Stokes Gentry, Assistant Professor – 3 Years
Dr. Ruben Gentry, Professor – 45 Years
Ms. Sarah Oatis, Instructor – 43 Years
Dr. Albert Simon, Visiting Professor – 14 Years
Dr. Daniel Wentland, Visiting Assistant Professor – 4 Years

College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Demoral Davis, Associate Professor – 39 Years
Dr. Carol Schweitzer, Instructor – 29 Years
Ms. Esperanza M. Velasquez, Instructor – 28 Years

College of Science, Engineering & Technology
Dr. M. Edwin Barnett, Associate Director – 8 Years
Dr. Gordon Skelton, Professor – 12 Years
Ms. Evette Stewart, Student Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant – 29 Years

Division of Academic Affairs
Ms. Cathy Bryant, Budget Administrative Assistant – 32 Years
Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Associate Provost – 10 Years
Dr. Evelyn Leggett, Senior Vice President/Provost – 44 Years

Division of Student Affairs
Ms. Carol Goodwin, Residence Life Coordinator – 19 Years
Mr. Percy Goodwin, Receptionist – 8 Years
Ms. Tuelane Price, Residence Life Coordinator – 26 Years

Division of Library and Information Resources
Ms. Jama Lumsaba, Assistant Director – 38 Years

Division of Business & Finance
Mr. Leon Brown, Maintenance Laborer – 11 Years
Mr. Mark Brown, Director of Maintenance, 4 Years
Mr. John Dixon, Maintenance Manager – 7 Years
Ms. Maudie L. Hunt, Senior Accountant – 19 Years
Mr. Kenneth Overstreet, Electrician – 18 Years
Ms. Carolyn Taylor, Student Financial Counselor – 10 Years
Ms. Georgina B. Williams, Office Coordinator/Administrative Assistant – 18 Years

Division of Federal Relations and Sponsored Programs
Ms. Lois Beasley, Administrative Assistant – 24 Years
Dr. Saffya Omari, Associate Vice President – 10 Years
Dr. Ora Rawls, Director – 12 Years

Division of Information Management
Ms. Carolyn Laury, Office Manager – 28 Years
Ms. Shirley Lowery-Luallen, Customer Service Specialist – 33 Years

Division of Undergraduate Studies
Ms. Priscilla Edwards, Administrative Assistant – 17 Years



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Federal lawsuit demands HUD enforce fair housing

By Charlene Crowell
TriceEdneyWire.com

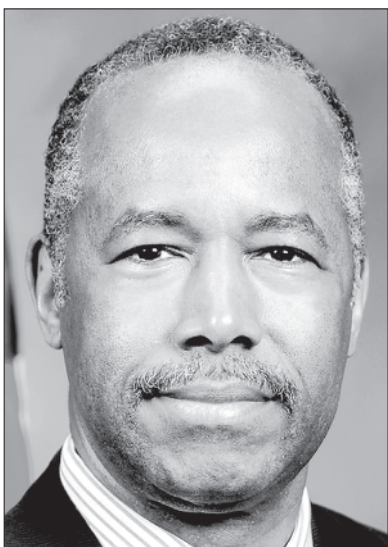
In 1965 and as part of a vision-ary public policy strategy known as The Great Society, President Lyndon Johnson created a new cabinet level agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The agency became responsible for developing programs and crafting policies that would support urban America with decent housing, homeownership opportunities and more. Following enactment of the Fair Housing Act in 1968, HUD was further charged with its enforcement.

But the current HUD Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson, appears to either not know, or willfully ignores the vital mission of the agency he was appointed to lead. From proposing billion-dollar budget reductions, increasing rental fees for public housing and halting efforts that require local communities receiving HUD funds to address fair housing needs, Carson’s tenure has been troublesome to a growing number of consumers and advocates alike.

Now, his retreat from enforcing fair housing has led to a federal lawsuit filed by housing and civil rights advocates who are calling upon a federal court to reinstate a key rule used to fight segregated housing. On May 8, the National Fair Housing Alliance, Texas Appleseed and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (Texas Hous-ers) jointly asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to reinstate a HUD rule that Carson suspended this past January.

The rule, known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), implemented the legal requirement that federal agencies and federal grantees further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act by dismantling residential segregation. The rule took effect in July 2015, after wide-spread documentation over several years revealed how many HUD grantees made no discernible effort to end segregated housing in their locales.

In response, the AFFH rule specifically required any organization receiving HUD funds to have a plan and timeline that incorporates community concerns to actively address local housing problems. This planning approach was structured to enable HUD grantees to take meaningful and measurable actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation. Additionally, the rule promotes fair housing choice and fosters inclusive communities that



Carson

are free from discrimination.

“Each day HUD holds up requiring jurisdictions to fully comply with the law is another day that millions of people are being denied fair housing opportunities,” said Lisa Rice, president and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance. “HUD’s action is a clear example of ‘justice delayed, justice denied.’”

According to the complaint, HUD suspended the rule January 5 without providing any prior notice or opportunity to comment. HUD also did not offer any explanation or evidence as to why the agency felt justified in suspending the rule.

Unless the federal court intervenes, the rule suspension will remain in effect until either 2024 or 2025.

Across the country, an estimated \$5.5 billion in HUD funding is awarded each year. Nearly two-thirds of these funds go to approximately 1,210 grantees through HUD’s Community Development Block (CDBG) Grant program. With this year’s rule suspension and continuing for several years, grant recipients – largely state and local government jurisdictions – can obligate their allocations without any concern for compliance with the Fair Housing Act rule.

A permanent rule reversal could also signal a return to the kinds of actions that necessitated the rule.

For example, a 2007 False Claims Act case was brought against Westchester County, New York. Thanks to a whistleblower organization, it was disclosed that the county defrauded the federal government in its use of \$50 million in HUD revenues over several years. This county regularly certified HUD compliance with the Fair Housing Act even though the local jurisdiction was deliberately concentrating affordable housing in a

small number of black and Latino cities. The county also shared its CDBG funds with overwhelmingly white suburbs that refused to allow affordable housing.

In a 2010 report to Congress, the General Accounting Office found many jurisdictions lacked any oversight or accountability with HUD funds. Nearly one-third of local jurisdictions failed to make a minimal effort to write a report known as “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice”; in housing parlance the report is known as an AI. The GAO found that 29 percent of jurisdictions did not complete this report over a five- year period. Another 11 percent had not done so in a decade. Others could not identify a date of completion or had no AI at all.

In short, HUD did not meaningfully oversee its grantees in this process. However, after the rule took effect, communities responded with forward strides.

In Philadelphia where wide-spread evictions in communities of color were cited as a serious barrier to fair housing, the city began an Eviction Prevention Project that included legal assistance for consumers facing unjust evictions.

In other examples, Paramount, California began an initiative to increase access to group home housing for people with disabilities. New Orleans promised to create 140 units of affordable rental housing by 2021.

These and other positive housing developments are now on hold with the rule suspension.

“For Secretary Ben Carson and HUD to wipe away the rule just as it was beginning to take effect is shameful and contradicts what has been a fundamental principle of HUD’s mission,” said Sherrilyn Ifill, NAACP Legal Defense Fund president and director-counsel.

For Michael Allen, a partner in the civil rights law firm Relman, Dane & Colfax, the suspension crossed an important line.

“Flouting the rule of law,” noted Allen, “HUD’s action signals to every jurisdiction in the country that there will be no consequence for civil rights violations, and that HUD has no interest in helping cities, counties and states to expand housing opportunities for their residents.”

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending’s deputy communications director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Slavery, Civil War still debated in former confederate capital

By Johnnie L. Roberts
TriceEdneyWire.com

The Clarks, who were slaves rooted in Tennessee, outlasted brutal bondage, fled the wrath of white supremacy shortly after Emancipation and became founding settlers of Eatonville, Fla., one of the country’s earliest self-governing black municipalities.

The Clarks’ experience, like that of many enslaved individuals, shows “their incredible resilience, resolve and a certain dignity” in the face of unspeakable inhumanity, says Christy Coleman, chief executive officer of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, one of the most authoritative museums on the nation’s ugliest chapter.

Had the Clarks been able to look into the future as Coleman is able to see the past, they likely would have considered Coleman, a Clark descendant, to be incredible, too. Ensnared in the cradle of the former Confederacy, Coleman, 54, presides over a downtown cultural institution and the Monument Avenue Commission Civic Panel seeking to advance a broadened and inclusive meaning of the war and its aftermath.

Quietly marking her 10-year anniversary at the museum, the public historian has been asserting the perspective of, among others, slaves and their immediate descendants into or alongside whitewashed narratives of the Confederacy, Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction. As a result, the history of that anguished era is gaining new dimensions that now increasingly incorporate the arc of not only the Clarks’ experience but of every slave.

Aside from her duties at the museum, Coleman also presides in the shadow of an imminent and momentous decision on the fate of Richmond’s monuments to the Confederacy. Despite its tragic overshadowing by a racist murder during a rally of neo-Confederates and white supremacists last August in Charlottesville, Richmond, the capital of the former Confederacy, is where America’s most far-reaching fault line over race, history and heritage runs.

It runs deepest along iconic Monument Avenue, home to five imposing statues of Confederates, including its military mastermind Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis, the Confederacy’s president. Coleman is guiding the Monument Avenue Commission with a co-chairman. Mayor Levar M. Stoney, who appointed the 10-person commission last summer, charged it to gather public comment to boil down into recommendations for the monuments’ disposition.

Coleman and her colleagues will be culling options for possibly exiling the monuments or letting them stay put, but depicting their darkest sides, including the misery of chattel slavery. The commission expects to report to Stoney before the end of May, which would nearly overlap with Virginia’s Confederate Memorial Day – May 28 – honoring the war dead.

The coincidence is said to have some civic leaders, Richmond officials and others worried that Monument Avenue could become a holiday gathering point for extremists. A decision on the statues by Stoney and Richmond City Council is likely to come during the summer.

Legal showdowns, the Virginia General Assembly and even the federal government could have a decisive say, ultimately.

“Christy is independently minded, fact-oriented and direct,” says Stoney, who introduced himself after she impressed him with a public speech a few years ago. “She has the ability to also listen without any sort of partisan color and just take it all in.”

Those traits are evident in Coleman’s mother, Liz Montgomery. In the early 1970s after a brief stay in Washington, the young and growing family of Florida transplants settled in Williamsburg, the only African-American household on their



Coleman

street. The next-door neighbor proudly flew a Confederate flag.

“I remember very well,” says Coleman, who was 7 or 8 at the time. “I knew what it meant.” Yet, Coleman’s mother and the woman of the home next-door became good friends. “She had the right to put the flag in her yard,” Montgomery says. The women “talked about her history and my history,” Montgomery recalls. “Her interpretation and mine were a little different. But the loyalty lines were very much the same for what we stood for.”

Drawn to theater arts while attending the College of William & Mary before earning degrees in museum management at Hampton University, Coleman was propelled to worldwide public notice because of a provocative interpretation in 1994. She cast herself to be sold in a re-enactment of a public slave auction, which she produced at Colonial Williamsburg.

So fierce was on-scene protest by the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and others that plain clothes police or security mixed in with the crowds. Undaunted, Coleman, waded into the crowd. An eyewitness that day was Gregg Kimball, now Coleman’s Monument Avenue Commission co-chairman and a top official at the Library of Virginia.

“This (the auction re-enactment) is exactly what would have happened; why shouldn’t we show this part of the legacy?,” Kimball remembers Coleman explaining to the protesters.

The explosive passions around the monuments issue is reminiscent of the slave auction, but more intense. Because of that experience and others since, Coleman “has always kept a clear head, and is wonderful at managing the public conversation,” Kimball says. Before Coleman became the most visible face of public historians proselytizing for updated Civil War history, the fan base for and study of the field was the domain largely of white men.

“Very few women have leadership role in big museums with annual budgets of \$10 to \$15 million,” Coleman notes. By her account, Coleman encounters too many sexist microaggressions to swat them all – for example, men interrupting her, the CEO, when she has the floor. Occasionally, a man must be put in “check” robustly, she says.

Once, while advising “a major museum” out of “an ugly mess,” she recalls, the troubled CEO began pressing her to quit the American Civil War Museum and come work as his underling. The overture was insulting, coming from a man who had had to enlist her help from the outside.

“The thing is, I would be coming for your job,” Coleman says she replied. “Women aren’t invited to the table. They’ll bring us in to fix their stuff. But give us the reins? No.”

Besides, Coleman, who is a wife and mother of two daughters, is happy with her conscious lifestyle choice of heading the small, groundbreaking American Civil War Museum. She has the honor of being the rare woman at not just one table in her field, but two – counting the Monument Avenue Commission. Occupying the lead seat in both, she is determined to continue broadening the voices and vantage points on history.

Smokey Robinson testifies before Congress

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com

William “Smokey” Robinson recently testified before Congress about giving musicians greater copyright protection amid a love fest for him.

Women embraced and kissed Robinson, who is now 78. Men stood in line to enthusiastically shake his hand and hug him. Even Chuck Grassley, the Republican chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, called Robinson a “legend.”

Through it all Robinson, leader of the Miracles and writer of many iconic hits, including “I Second That Emotion,” “Tears Of A Clown,” and “My Girl,” which led Nobel Peace Prize winner Bob Dylan to call him America’s greatest poet, captured the room with his bright smile and the joyful memories his songs evoked.



Robinson testifies before Congress.

C-SPAN broadcast the hearing.

Robinson testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the support of the Music Modernization Act that would reform the way songwriters and musicians are compensated. The Act, which has unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives, would extend copyright protection to songs recorded before

1972.

“My message is simple. Musicians who recorded before February 15, 1972, deserve to be compensated the same way as those who recorded after that date,” Robinson told Judiciary Committee members.

Most of Robinson’s hit records were recorded before 1972, and although the songs are sometimes streamed 50,000 times a day, the Miracles don’t receive any compensation.

Artists now earn more from on-demand services like Spotify and Apple Music than selling CDs. Streaming services have supplanted the way people hear and buy music.

Joining Robinson in speaking before the committee were other R&B headliners, including Dionne Warwick, Mary Wilson of the Supremes and backup singer Darlene Love.

New U.S. Energy and Jobs Report shows growth, less diverse workforce

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Energy jobs are growing faster than the national average and energy-related sectors are less diverse than the national workforce, according to the 2018 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER).

“The nation’s energy sector employed 6.5 million Americans in 2017, up 133,000 jobs from the year prior,” a press release about the report noted. “This two percent growth rate exceeded the national average of 1.7 percent. Jobs in the energy sectors accounted for nearly 7 percent of all new jobs nationwide in 2017.”

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) released the report last week. NASEO is the only national non-profit association for the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories, according to the group’s website. EFI provides policymakers, industry leaders, NGOs with data driven, unbiased policy recommendations, “to advance a cleaner, safer, more affordable and more secure energy future.”

The report said that the companies surveyed anticipate roughly 6.2 percent employment growth for 2018.

Despite the positive growth trends, ethnic and racial minorities account for a smaller share of the workforce in the energy-related sectors than their corresponding national averages, the report said. Hispanic or Latino workers account for 10-19 percent of the labor force in energy-related sectors, compared to 17 percent in the overall economy. Black workers hold 5-9 percent of the jobs in energy-related sectors and account for 12 percent of the national workforce.

The USEER examines four sectors of the energy economy: Electric Power Generation and Fuels; Transmission, Distribution and Storage; Energy Efficiency; and Motor Vehicles.

According to the report,



Melissa Colorigh listens to heart of her mother Daphne Williams in heart recipient Doris Arnold. Doris received Williams’ heart in 2016.

Electric Power Generation covers all utility and non-utility employment across electric generating technologies including fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewable energy technologies.

“Energy Efficiency employers project the highest growth rate over 2018 (9 percent), followed by Electric Power Generation (8 percent); Motor Vehicles (almost 7 percent, including a 6 percent increase in manufacturing), Transmission, Distribution, and Storage (3 percent), and the Fuels sector (2 percent),” the report said.

According to the report, Electric Power Generation covers all utility and non-utility employment across electric generating technologies including fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewable energy technologies. Employment totals for any firms engaged in facility construction, turbine and other generation equipment manufacturing, as well as wholesale parts distribution of all electric generation technologies are also included in that metric,

the report said.

The Electric Power Generation sector included 883,842 jobs in 2017, up nearly 2 percent from the previous year’s 867,434 workers, and employers report a projected 8 percent growth over 2018, the report said.

Blacks account for 9 percent of the electric power generation workforce (76,985) compared to white workers who hold 70 percent of the electric power generation jobs (615,696).

Fuels employment includes all work related to fuel extraction and mining, including petroleum refineries and firms that support coal mining, oil and gas field machinery manufacturing, the report said. The Fuels sector employed 1,074,935 workers in 2017, compared to the previous year’s level of over 1,081,000 jobs, according to the report.

“Workers across both the forestry and agriculture industries that support fuel production with corn ethanol, biodiesels, and fuel wood are also included in the fuel employment esti-

mates,” the report said.

Blacks workers account for 5 percent of the Fuels workforce (53,488) and whites account for 84 percent of the Fuels workforce (903,045).

According to the USEER, Energy Efficiency employment covers both the production of energy-saving products and the provision of services that reduce end-use energy consumption.

“However, the USEER only captures employment with certified energy efficiency products or those installed according to ENERGY STAR guidelines, as well as advanced building materials such as insulation,” the report said.

African Americans account for 8 percent of the energy efficiency workforce (176,303) compared to white workers that hold 78 percent of the jobs in that sector (1,748,399).

The U.S. Motor Vehicles sector employed roughly 2.46 million Americans in 2017, increasing by nearly 29,000 employees over 2016. The Motor Vehicles jobs measure doesn’t

include dealerships and retailers. According to the report, 39.7 percent of employment in that sector consists of manufacturing and 37.8 percent involves vehicle repair and maintenance. Nearly 20 percent of workers are involved in direct transport of motor vehicle parts and supplies via air, rail, water, or truck, as well as merchant wholesalers for motor vehicle parts and supplies, the report said.

Blacks hold 180,031 of the jobs in the Motor Vehicles sector accounting for 8 percent of the workforce compared to white workers who hold 1,832,239 of the jobs and 78 percent of the Motor Vehicles workforce.

The Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage sector encompasses the jobs associated with constructing, operating, and maintaining this infrastructure. It also includes workers associated with the entire network of power lines that transmit electricity from generating stations to customers as well as

activities that support power and pipeline construction, fuel distribution and transport, and the manufacture of electrical transmission equipment, the USEER said. Like the Motor Vehicles sector, black workers account for 8 percent of the Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage sector labor force and 97,084 of the jobs. Whites make up 71 percent of the workforce in that sector and hold 854,224 of the jobs.

“The USEER has proven to be an important tool for state energy officials, who will use this unique set of ‘all of the above’ energy jobs data to inform policy development and planning,” said David Terry, the executive director of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO).

During a presentation about the report on Capitol Hill, Ernest J. Moniz, the former energy secretary under President Barack Obama, called the report a foundation for state governments, non-profit organizations and businesses to analyze the data and develop policy proposals.

Moniz noted that although many industry leaders expressed concerns about hiring challenges in a very tight labor market, there were still opportunities to recruit and train people to fill jobs. The former energy secretary added that apprentice programs prosper when there are partnerships between state agencies and labor union groups; pre-apprenticeship programs can also aid in addressing some of the diversity issues found in the energy industry today.

“The competitiveness of this sector is important,” Moniz said. “We know that the definition of full employment does not mean that there aren’t people who are available, with appropriate training, to come in to the jobs.”

Freddie Allen is the editor-in-chief of the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Follow Freddie on Twitter @fred-dieallenjr.

Janelle Wood and the Black Mothers Forum are champions of parental engagement

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Janelle Wood is on a mission.

The Arizona State University and Phoenix Seminary graduate has been on that mission since she gave birth to a son, years ago.

Her prayer, she said, is that she’ll be a “radiant light in dark spaces” who leaves a legacy of hope, peace and love.

Wood and other parents in the Phoenix area’s Black Mothers Forum are seen as game-changers in the fight for education equality for black children.

Led by Wood, who has served as a pastor in a women’s prison and as chief of staff for the Phoenix City Council, the group has taken the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the education law passed during the Obama Administration, very seriously. The black parents’ group is using ESSA to leverage their awareness and involvement in their children’s education and to ensure that African-American students excel in the public school system.

“We, as black mothers, have come



Wood

together to collectively address the concerns that we have with our black sons and daughters being pushed out of their schools at an alarmingly higher rate than their white peers all over the nation,” Wood said.

The mission of the Black Mothers Forum, Wood explained, is to educate parents on their rights with respect to student discipline and a culturally-inclusive curriculum, while also getting organized through focus groups that

allow members of the forum to execute a course of action to effectively make structural changes.

“We do this by meeting multiple times a month and having various experts come in from various organizations to educate and train our mothers on knowing their rights, sharing a culturally-integrated curriculum and learning [the signs and symptoms] of any mental health challenges our children may be experiencing,” Wood said.

For instance, the group has entered partnerships with the ACLU’s Demand 2 Learn program, Arizona State University’s Center for the Study of Race and Democracy and other initiatives.

Members of the Black Mothers Forum, also completed a 13-week course on black history to help develop a deeper understanding of their ancestors so that they could properly inform their children.

“We attend high school and grade school district board meetings regularly and address the disproportionate suspensions and dismissals of our students of color for minor infractions,”

said Gwendolyn Payton, a Black Mothers Forum member, who also serves in the equality division of the organization. “As a result of speaking out, schools are contacting us to come on campus and be visible and interact with our students of color. We challenge the schools to include more culturally diverse curriculum and activities and to hire more teachers and principals of color.”

In February, when a black Phoenix charter school student was pulled out of school after officials claimed the boy’s hair braids violated school policy, the Black Mothers Forum sprang into action to defend the youth causing the district to issue a mea culpa and welcome the child back to school.

“The dress code at the school was specifically created as another means of targeting and harassing our black children,” Wood said.

But, it’s just one reason why the group must encourage black mothers to attend school board meetings and request study sessions be conducted publicly to address the disproportionate disciplinary practices with respect to black children, Wood said.

“When we show up in large numbers to address an issue we have seen positive results,” Wood said. “We have found that in order to dismantle the school to prison pipeline it starts with us focusing on ensuring our children are in safe and supportive learning environments and that means we need to address the punitive disciplinary actions administered by implicitly biased school administrators and teachers.”

Wood continued: “We strongly believe that, as parents, we have the power to change the current school system when we collectively communicate the same message.”

According to Wood, that message is simple:

“We, as black mothers, will no longer remain silent while our children are blatantly disrespected, threatened, harassed, intimidated, provoked, neglected and set up to fail through policies, disciplinary practices, curriculum, regulations and/or laws deeply rooted in racial stereotypes.”

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act and your rights as a parent at nnpa.org/essa.

Be Not Slothful

PART 3

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



Romans 12:1 I says, “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;” In other words, this is simply telling you to give your employer a good, fair, full day’s work and do it with enthusiasm. You may ask, “Why should I do it with enthusiasm?” You ought to thank God that someone has employed you because no one had to hire you.

I want you to consider some examples concerning physical labor to see what God has for us. Romans 12:11 mentions three things that I want you to consider. This verse says to be fervent in spirit or on fire for God. Why should one be fervent in spirit? Anyone who worships God must worship Him in spirit and in truth. God will not accept worship that is cold or lukewarm. If you are going to serve God, you must

serve Him wholeheartedly and be on fire for Him.

God dislikes this thing of people claiming to be children of God, yet they have no praise for Him. My friend, God has been good to you. He picked you up out of the quagmire of sin, turned your life around and set you free. You need to appreciate that and get on fire for God and serve Him from the depths of your heart.

He made you a new creature and changed your desires. That is something to praise Him for. You cannot be fervent in spirit unless you live close to God and keep a prayerful attitude and pray and be at the house of God every time you can possibly get there.

Romans 12:12 reads, “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;” Too many times people fluctuate in their experiences. One time you see them and they are on fire on God and praising God but the next time you see them, they

are pressed down and do not have any praise for God whatsoever. This ought not to be. The reason people are doing this is simply because they have their eyes on the wrong values.

When things are going well, it is easy to rejoice and be happy and praise God. So many times when things do not turn out as people want them to turn out, then people are in a sad place. This is exactly what Jesus witnessed and He gave people the answer for it. He sent out the seventy disciples and they came back happy as they could be and in essence, said, “Master, even the devil is subject to us!” Jesus said, in so many words, “Hold it, brethren. Do not rejoice because the devils are subject to you, because there will be a day when you will tell them to go and they will not leave. You need to rejoice that your name is written in the Book of Heaven where man cannot change it.”

Our scripture text states in

verse 6, “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” The ant does not have any overseer or one there to drive it to do what it does. It simply goes out and does what it is supposed to do. That is exactly what God is trying to get you to do.

God will not be satisfied unless you work where He places you in the body. Can He count on you to do your work? Can He count on you to carry your cross? This is serious. One of these days, He is going to declare that time will be no more, and He will gather His kingdom, the people who have worked where He placed them in the body. He is going to catch us up to meet Him in the air to be with the Lord forever. Can God count on you?

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

P R E S E R V E D

Distraction Free Christianity

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



The pledge was very simple: “I pledge to make my car a No Phone Zone. Beginning right now, I will do my part to help put an end to distracted driving by committing to drive as responsibly as I can.” In the first month that talk show billionaire Oprah Winfrey announced her cell phone safety campaign in April 2010, over 300,000 people quickly signed the online pledge. The public service campaign was designed to raise awareness about the dangers of talking and texting while driving.

Talking on a cell phone while driving won’t prevent you from getting to your destination. It may make the trip seem like it goes faster but talking on a cell phone actually makes it riskier. In fact, most people believe they can talk on a cell phone and multi-task. Studies show that is not true.

Our ability to fully concentrate on a task is significantly reduced by something as simple as answering a phone call while driving. For an instance, you take your eyes off the road and, in some cases, one of your hands off the steering wheel, to answer the call. Even using new technology like voice commands on cell phones does not reduce the risk.

Distractions while driving are very much like distractions we have in our lives as Christians. There are some behaviors that we justify indulging in because “God knows my heart. He knows I’m weak when it comes to _____ (fill in the blank).” Others are behaviors that we somehow don’t see as


bad because they didn’t make it into the 10 commandments.

Proverbs 6:16-19 explains the behaviors that “God hates, and one more that he loathes with a passion: eyes that are arrogant, a tongue that lies, hands that murder the innocent, a heart that hatches evil plots, feet that race down a wicked track, a mouth that lies under oath, a troublemaker in the family.” Looking at a few of these it’s easy to see why they are dangerous distractions in the lives of Christians.

For example, Proverbs 16:18 warns that “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” There are many more scriptures that caution about thinking more highly of yourself and the impact it can have on your life. Next, lies can damage even the most morally sound reputation. Some of the recent news stories we’ve seen about young students being bullied and committing suicide show how lies told cause overwhelming emotional pain. Luke 6:45 addresses how “the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

Like the No Phone Zone pledge, we should make a pledge to keep these and other distractions from our spiritual lives. These behaviors can hinder our desire and ability to develop an authentic relationship with God. More importantly, they can distract and even delay us as we strive to fulfill his purpose for our lives.

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



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Michael T. Williams
Pastor



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Who will protect solar consumers?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Thanks to President Barack Obama, the solar and wind industries are expanding rapidly. He provided tax credits and subsidies for renewable energy (part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009). Despite the stunning failure of the solar company Solyndra, which left taxpayers liable for its \$535 million collapse, our nation's capacity for solar and wind boomed under Obama, with the cost of rooftop solar dropping by 54 percent during that administration, and with the number of U.S. households with solar panels exceeding a million households by 2016.

Just this month, California has passed legislation requiring that all new homes use solar power, an amazing boost to the industry. And the United Nations announced that solar attracted more investment in 2017 than any other power source, clean or dirty.

For all the support Obama offered the solar industry, his administration didn't offer consumers enough protection against unscrupulous solar panel sales persons. Thus, consumer advocates have had to be aggressive in protecting consumers from illegitimate business practices in the solar industry. A year ago, three members of Congress wrote to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau asking that these shady business practices be investigated. I wrote a column about the flawed practices and had the opportunity to meet with Abby Hopper, president of Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

The organization says it is working to increase pro consumer policies around the country, and has a Consumer Protection Committee, a set of free tools to help consumers understand solar agreements, and projects to include underserved communities in the solar industry, including a supplier diversity program. Some of the members of the industry group are also involved in community colleges, STEM programs and employment training.

So why did Hector Balderas, attorney general of New Mexico, recently file a 17-count civil complaint against Vivint, a Utah-based rooftop solar company, accusing them of fraud, racketeering and unfair business practices. Balderas says Vivint employed "high-pressure sales techniques and procedures designed to mislead consumers" and lock their customers into contracts lasting 20 years, with rates that increase "by over 72 percent," as the agreement matures.

Vivint is not a minor player in the rooftop solar industry. In fact, they are one of the largest companies, selling solar panels to consumers across the United States. Still, SEIA has no comment on the Vivint situation in New Mexico on their website, which shouldn't be too surprising, since Vivint is a member of SEIA.

To be sure, the website says all the right things. It highlights its consumer protection work, mentions diversity and inclusion, speaks of environmental awareness and provides updates on public policy. Beneath a sunny exterior, though, there is a problem with unscrupulous solar companies.

When rooftop solar companies lose money, as SolarCity did, los-

ing more than \$800 million in FY 2016, they get extremely aggressive, desperate to keep growing, and seek out new customers, taking advantage of those who are less sophisticated. That's what New Mexico says Vivint did, and they aren't the only ones.

Another major player in the rooftop solar industry is Sunrun, which has had its own ethical concerns. Last year, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is investigating whether Sunrun (and SolarCity) misled investors. In the Journal piece, the reporter cites Freedom of Information Act requests, which found, according to the Journal: "Hundreds of complaints have been filed against solar companies in Texas, Oregon, California and Florida, with customers saying they are paying more on their utility bills, not less as they were promised, and have been sold expensive systems they cannot afford."

What also strikes me as odd, is that in their latest filing with the SEC, the CEO of Sunrun, asserts that the cost of maintaining the electrical grid – such as transformers, power stations and transmission lines – over the next few decades does not make financial sense, and that we should instead be encouraging Americans to install solar panels.

I am supportive of renewable energy and believe that allowing the utilities to totally dominate the electric market is problematic. But, I am also extremely leery of the government mandating more rooftop solar because the industry is seemingly rife with bad actors, who prey upon unsuspecting consumers. If we were to employ policies at the state and federal levels, that would divest from our electric grid and instead invest in rooftop solar, why should we believe that companies like Vivint would suddenly behave themselves? We shouldn't, which is why I agree with the Consumer Federation of California's call for government to "create a framework of consumer protections."

Solar companies love to highlight the immense investment that is needed to modernize our existing electricity grid. The companies are right that work needs to be done and they are also right in the unfortunate conclusion that these investments are likely to result in higher rates for customers. However, the solar companies conveniently ignore the fact that as more and more well-off households spend thousands of dollars to install solar panels, the cost to sustain and modernize the grid will be shifted to the poorer Americans without solar panels. No matter how much we support renewable energy, we cannot ignore this unfair reality and we need to make sure that government subsidies don't accelerate this regressive cost shift.

The need for renewable energy has led the federal government, and many states, to provide subsidies for solar energy. We also need to provide protection for the consumers who are being ripped off by those unscrupulous actors in the solar industry!

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

Diane Nash: A Civil Rights icon celebrates her 80th birthday

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"She would not be moved. I felt my voice go up another decibel and another decibel and soon I was shouting. 'Young woman, do you understand what you're doing? You're going to get somebody killed!' And there's a pause, and she said, 'Sir, you should know, we all signed our last wills and testaments last night before we left. We know someone will be killed. But we cannot let violence overcome non-violence.' Here I am, an official of the United States government, representing the president and the attorney general, talking to a student at Fisk University, and she, in a very quiet but strong way, gave me a lecture." – former assistant to the Attorney General John Seigenthaler, on trying to talk Diane Nash out of the Freedom Rides in 1961.

Happy birthday to Diane Nash.



Nash

Women have always been the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, at every point in our history, but many never seem to garner the acclaim they deserve. Nash, who turned 80 this week, has been a leader among leaders.

Unlike many African Americans of her generation, Nash as a child in Chicago was seldom confronted with the depth and breadth of segregation's brutality. She has said her family rarely spoke about racism when she was young, and her first real encounter with serious prejudice was her rejection from a modeling school that did not accept black students.

"I had never traveled to the south at that time," she told an

interviewer for the PBS documentary *Eyes on the Prize*. "And I didn't have an emotional relationship to segregation."

Her arrival at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a transfer student from Howard, changed all that.

"When I actually went south and saw signs that said "white" and "colored" and I actually could not drink out of that water fountain or go to that ladies' room, I had a real emotional reaction to that," she said.

It would have been easy for Nash to retreat to Chicago, back to her comfortable middle-class life and loving family. But she chose to confront injustice head-on.

She quickly discovered James Lawson, who was then the southern director for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was conducting non-violence workshops in a church basement.

In 1960, at age 22, she led the Nashville Sit-Ins, aimed at desegregating lunch counters. A few months later, she helped coordinate the Freedom Rides,

riding interstate buses into the south to challenge the southern states' failure to enforce a desegregation ruling by the Supreme Court.

She would be jailed dozens of times over the years – once while pregnant and facing the possibility of giving birth in prison. She and her then-husband James Bevel initiated the Selma to Montgomery marches, credited with spurring passage of the Voting Rights Act.

She and Bevel soon turned their efforts toward protesting the war in Vietnam. She had her passport revoked after traveling to Moscow, Peking and Hanoi, where she participated in an interview with North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

Though she often is described as the only woman within Martin Luther King's inner circle, she told a local television interviewer in 2016 she never considered King her leader. "I always considered myself at his side and I considered him at my side," she said. "I was going to do what the spirit told me to do. So if I had a leader, that was my leader."

A royal wedding that affirms noble values

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



Prince Harry of Wales, sixth in the line of succession to the British throne, has married the American actress Meghan Markle with all of the ceremony and global hoopla that the British royalty inevitably attracts.

Harry is the son of Charles, the Prince of Wales, and the late Princess Diana. What's notable about Harry, however, is not so much the royal blood that he inherited, but the royal values that he has chosen to express. Harry chose a military career, training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

He was pressured to take safe assignments far from the line of fire. But unlike the many leaders and national security advisers who posture tough but evade the draft or service in the military, he fought hard to stay with his unit and go into battle. He stood with his unit in times of war. With them he shared risk.

In 2007-2008, he served on the front line in Helmand, Af-

ghanistan, but was pulled after his presence was revealed and the Taliban pledged to throw all their resources into getting him. He then trained as an Apache attack helicopter pilot and returned to Afghanistan in 2012 with the British Army Air Corps. That was more than a display of patriotism. It provided him with real world experience in battle – an experience that is always sobering, making leaders less casual about sending young men and women into combat across the world.

Those who experience battle are often those who best understand why the use of military force should be avoided, undertaken only as a very last resort to avoid greater loss of life.

After leaving the military, Harry devoted time and energy to veterans, launching the Invictus Games for injured servicemen and women, and he remains a supporter of its foundation.

He has traveled often to Africa. As a counselor of state, he visited children's homes in Lesotho and later launched Sentebale, the Princes' Fund for Lesotho, a charity to aid children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, a disease that has been a scourge in much of Africa.

Last year, he became the president of African Parks, a conservation group. He joined volunteers to translocate elephants to repopulate areas that have been decimated by poaching and environmental destruction. He has called Africa his "second home," and will continue to play a role in mobilizing concern for its challenges and attention for its accomplishments.

Harry's decision to wed Markle, an African-American actress, showed remarkable independence. Markle, a politically progressive, divorced, biracial, feminist American, does not exactly fit the royal tradition. Despite slurs of the tabloid press, she has captivated the British and people across the world like a breath of fresh air.

Talking of her experience, she quipped, "It's time to focus less on glass slippers and more on glass ceilings." In full swoon, the press has suggested that the enthusiastic reaction of the public to the remarkably stylish and thoughtful young woman might transform race relations in Britain, revolutionize the house of Windsor and help strengthen U.S.-British relations strained in the time of Trump. That's far too much

to load onto her shoulders, but there's no question that the union is a symbol of change.

"It is difficult to overstate how important it is to have a member of the royal family ... who is mixed race and embracing her heritage and stating that is very much part of her," historian Ted Powell told the Observer: "It is hugely positive for Britain, particularly in the wake of Brexit and the controversies of immigration policy and race."

As an heir to the throne, Harry's marriage needed the formal consent of his grandmother, the Queen of England. When she provided it, it provided an unprecedented royal seal of approval not simply of Markle but also of the diverse peoples of the Commonwealth.

In itself, the marriage won't change race relations in Britain, or erase the legacy of colonialism across the commonwealth. It is a marker, not a motor force of change. But in a time of growing racial division and of leaders fanning hatred and nationalist fires, it is a marker that points in a hopeful direction. And that is worth celebrating.

We wish the newlyweds well.

Fear can immobilize you

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Every time we turn on television, we hear "Breaking News" and it's always something worse than the last news. It's beginning to make many fearful of what could possibly be next. Even former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ventured out this week to say, "Without personal honor there is no

leadership." I think that was his way of saying our country is currently leaderless.

When we think about all that's going on that's a scary thought. Rex went on to say that we have a growing crisis of ethics and integrity. He invoked the Bible by saying, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." If we're free, we should have no fear. Fear negatively impacts our health. Yet, I see many people experiencing fear every time they hear what

#45 has done or said.

Let's think about what the Bible says about fear. In 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT), we're told "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." If we believe that, why are we allowing fear to immobilize us? Power, love and self-discipline can get us through this if we unite against the lies we're told daily by the man charged with leading our nation. As #45 pushes against all that's good about our na-

tion, let us push back just as hard against the evil he's spewing against just about every bit of progress we've made in perfecting our union.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT), tells us, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." Yes, we are experiencing a strange and challenging season under #45, but if we reject the bad behavior he's exhibiting, and do what we know to be right, we

Read more online at www.themississippilink.com

Congressman Thompson addresses failure of grant paperwork submission in Hosemann letter

The Mississippi Link Newswire

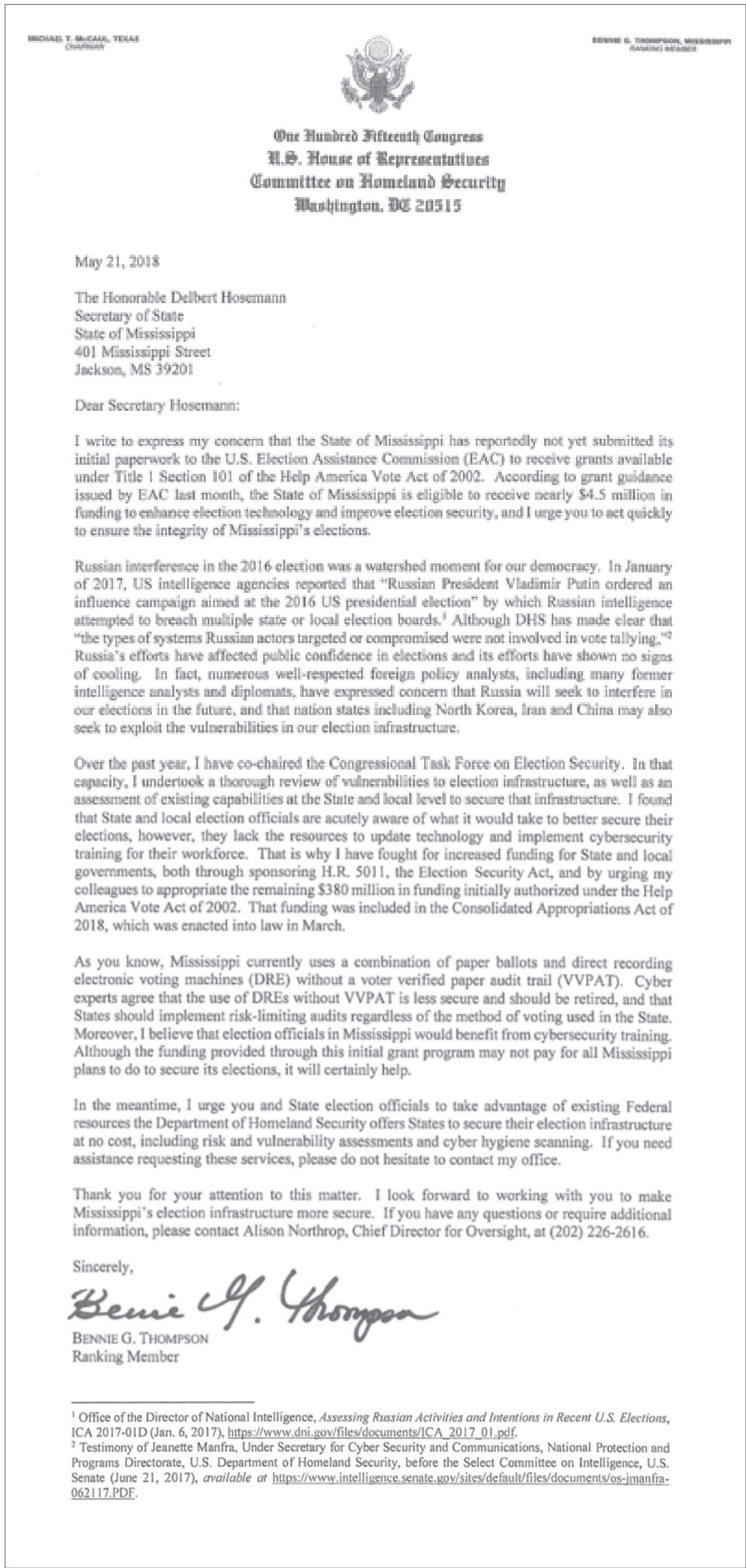
Yesterday, U.S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02) sent a letter to Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, urging him to submit paperwork on behalf of the state required to receive grant funding from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

“Russian interference in the 2016 election was a watershed moment for our democracy,” Thompson wrote in the letter. “Russia’s efforts have affected public confidence in elections and its efforts have shown no signs of cooling. Mississippi currently uses a combination of paper ballots and direct

recording electronic voting machines (DREs) without a voter verified paper audit trail (VVPAT).” “Cyber experts agree that the use of DREs without VVPAT is less secure and should be retired and that states should implement risk-limiting audits regardless of the method of voting used

in the state. Moreover, I believe that election officials in Mississippi would benefit from cybersecurity training. Although the funding provided through this initial grant program may not pay for all Mississippi plans to secure its elections, it will certainly help.”

Read entire letter below:



B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center to participate in Blue Star Museums



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center announced its participation in the ninth annual Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The mission of the B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center is to empower, unite and heal through music, art and education and share with the world the rich cultural heritage of the Mississippi Delta. “Visiting a museum is a great way to get to know a community – whether it’s in your hometown or a stop on a road trip,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “We appreciate the enthusiasm of museums all across the country who open their doors for military and their families to spend time together and have new arts experiences.”

This year’s participating Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, zoos, nature centers and children’s museums. Museums are welcome to sign up for Blue Star Museums throughout the summer by emailing bluestarmuseums@arts.gov. “As many military families spend the summer months moving from one duty station to another, or reconnecting with a parent who has returned from deployment, Blue Star Museums helps service members and their families create memories,” said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. “Blue Star Families has great appreciation for the generosity of the museums across the country who roll out the red carpet for the families who serve alongside their service members. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.” A list of participating museums nationwide is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Forrest General Hospital among nation's top performing hospitals for treatment of heart attack patients

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General Hospital has received the American College of Cardiology’s NCDR ACTION Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2018. Forrest General is one of only 203 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor. The award recognizes Forrest General’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that Forrest General has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations. To receive the ACTION Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award, Forrest General has demonstrated sustained achievement in the ACTION Registry for eight consecutive quarters and has performed at the top level of standards for specific performance measures. Full participation in the registry engages hospitals in a robust quality improvement process using data to drive improvements in adherence to guideline recommendations and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients. “I am pleased that our team at Forrest General is receiving this honor again. This marks the fifth consecutive year that we’ve proven to be leaders in the performance measures required by The American College of Cardiology. This is further proof to the communities we serve that we strive every day to provide the best quality care for the best possible outcomes for our patients,” said Thad Waites, MD, MACC, cardiologist. The Center for Disease Control estimates that over 700,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. A heart attack occurs when a blood clot in a coronary artery partially or completely blocks blood flow to the heart muscle. Treatment guidelines

include administering aspirin upon arrival and discharge, timely restoration of blood flow to the blocked artery, smoking cessation counseling and cardiac rehabilitation, among others. “As a Platinum Performance Award recipient, Forrest General has shown it is a leader in implementing standards of care and protocols for its patients,” said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC, Chair, ACTION Registry; Executive Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs, Brigham and Women’s Hospital Heart and Vascular Center; and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. “By meeting the requirements set forth in the registry and establishing a culture of providing guideline-recommended therapy, Forrest General is saving lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients.” ACTION Registry empowers health care provider teams to consistently treat heart attack patients according to the most current, science-based guidelines and establishes a national standard for understanding and improving the quality, safety and outcomes of care provided for patients with coronary artery disease, specifically high-risk heart attack patients. The American College of Cardiology is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College and its more than 52,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The college operates national registries to measure and improve care, offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions, provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications. For more, visit acc.org.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS
EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 1
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001-18
May 2, 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 8, 2018 (the “Bid Deadline”), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, Project No. 6000-001-18, 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 8, 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: “East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service Phase 1, JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001-18.” 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: Deuntagus Herndon
Procurement Specialist

Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 16, 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 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: May 2, 2018
/s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.

Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

5/24/2018, 5/31/2018

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS
EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18
May 2, 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 8, 2018 (the “Bid Deadline”), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the “Work”).

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:35 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 8, 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: “EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18.” 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.

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Procurement Specialist

Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.

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JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 16, 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 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: May 2, 2018
/s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.

Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

5/24/2018, 5/31/2018

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI RESPECTFULLY GIVES NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT TWO EMPLOYEES FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HAVE APPLIED FOR THE LEAD SAFE JACKSON HOUSING PROGRAM UNDER THE CITY'S FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES. THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL PROVISION 2 CFR 200.112, 24 CFR 92.356 (A)(D)(E) AND 24 CFR 570.611

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF JACKSON DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT (601) 960-2155. ATTENTION: VALERIE TUCKER

5/24/2018

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
NON-EXCLUSIVE IN-TERMINAL
ADVERTISING CONCESSION
AT
JACKSON MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JMAA PROJECT NO. 7000-008-18

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) is issuing this request for proposals (“RFP”) from qualified business entities for the development and operation of the In-Terminal Advertising Concession (“Concession”) at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (“JAN”).

JMAA will receive proposals at the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on July 20, 2018 (“Deadline”). JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

Information for Respondents relating to this RFP is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Byrd, JMAA's Procurement Manager, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Dr, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson MS 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Byrd, Procurement Manager
Telephone: (601) 360-8616
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on June 6, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is not mandatory, however highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Contractor for the Concessions and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractors. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities, as well as being on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference. In addition, a detailed review of the scope of work will be provided and discussed. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.

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

JMAA has established an Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (“ACDBE”) participation goal of 20% of Goods and Services solicited by this RFP.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

5/24/2018, 5/31/2018

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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

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Two beautiful weeks of artistic brilliance opening June 10.

Dancers of the renowned **Joffrey Ballet** perform at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson June 10 as the 11th USA International Ballet Competition opens. A colorful Parade of Nations introduces top dancers from 18 nations who will compete for gold June 11-23. For tickets, visit usaibc.tix.com or call **601.973.9249**. See the full competition schedule at usaibc.com/attend.

Opening Ceremony sponsored by the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation.



Joffrey Ballet dancers, under artistic direction of Ashley Wheeler, funded in part by a grant by South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission.



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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





FILM REVIEW: “THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ” RIVETING RETROSPECTIVE CHRONICLES CAREER OF FLAMBOYANT FASHIONISTA

By Kam Williams
Columnist

André Leon Talley was born October 16, 1949 in Washington, D.C., but raised in Durham, N.C. by his maternal grandmother, Bennie Davis. Even though she was a housekeeper who scrubbed floors at Duke University to keep a roof over their heads, she was also aristocratic in the highest sense of the word.

Through Mamie, André cultivated the values and sense of dignity which would serve him well once he made his way out of the Jim Crow South. For, after earning his BA at North Carolina

Central University and an MA at Brown in French, he headed to New York City to begin what would be an incomparable career in the world of fashion.

That impressive accomplishment is chronicled in very compelling fashion in *The Gospel According to André*, an intimate retrospective directed by Kate Novack (Eat This New York). A profusion of pop icons pay homage to the flamboyant fashionista in the biopic, including will.i.am, supermodel Isabella Rossellini, designer Diane von Furstenberg and Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, who kisses his hand.

However, the cameos pale

in comparison to André’s own revealing account of how he overcame his modest roots with the help of his mentor, doyenne Diana Vreeland, as well as Andy Warhol, Karl Lagerfeld and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Win-tour. We learn that he arrived in the Big Apple a diamond-in-the-rough, given how he’d been appreciating style since childhood.

He explains that he’d been treated to a weekly fashion show by the ladies in his church’s congregation. While many of these proud black women might have toiled as lowly domestic servants during the week, they would invariably arrive decked

out on Sunday. André’s thirst for haute couture was further whetted by magazines like *W* and *Vogue* which enabled him to mentally escape the limitations of life in racist North Carolina to a fantasy universe filled with pleasant and beautiful pictures.

On his way up the ladder, the 6’ 6” tall trailblazer studiously avoided the traps of drugs and indiscriminate sexual liaisons that destroyed the future of so many others in the Seventies and Eighties. André does confess to being a regular on Studio 54’s dance floor, but he just never participated in any of the self-destructive behavior.

Instead, he parlayed successes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Warhol’s *Interview* magazine and *Women’s Wear Daily* into a gig as *Vogue*’s fashion news director. In that capacity, he became a fixture on the front row of leading runway shows, cutting an imposing figure in his signature flowing capes.

And what sage advice does the trendsetting André have to offer today? “Fashion is fleeting. Style remains. Create your own universe, and share it with people you respect and love. Beauty comes in many forms. It could be a flower. it could be a gesture.”

Precious pearls of wisdom, indeed, from a legendary gentleman.

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for mature themes and some suggestive content

In French with subtitles

Running time: 95 minutes

Production Studio: RossVack Productions [Andrew Rossi/Kate Novack]

Distributor: Magnolia Pictures

To see a trailer for *The Gospel According to André*, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzZkVGCY5rY>

Interview | Legendary thespian reflects on mistreatment of Japanese-Americans during WWII

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Despite an enviable career spanning six decades, George Takei remains best-known around the world for his founding role in the acclaimed television series *Star Trek*, in which he played Lt. Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the *Starship Enterprise*. But his story goes where few stories have gone before.

From a childhood spent with his family wrongfully imprisoned in Japanese-American internment camps during World War II, to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ

rights and marriage equality, George is still a powerful voice on issues ranging from politics to pop culture.

Here, he talks about his short film, *American*, a historical drama about the above-mentioned roundup and relocation of over 100,000 Japanese-American citizens during World War II.

Kam Williams: Hi George, thanks for the interview.

George Takei: Thank you, Kam. Where are you located?

KW: I’m in Princeton, New Jersey.

GT: I see. My grand-niece considered going there. But she decided to attend Brown in Prov-

idence instead.

KW: They’re both excellent Ivy League schools. I went to Brown.

GT: And now here you are in Princeton. [Chuckles]

KW: Yeah, and my son went to Princeton and my wife worked at Princeton, but I’ve never been affiliated with the university. I think Princeton’s a little stodgy and preppy compared to Brown which I think is thought of as the most open-minded and progressive of the Ivies.

GT: I’ve spoken at Brown, but I’ve never even visited Princeton, so I don’t know what it looks like, but she was very im-

pressed with the campus.

KW: Both the campus and the town are beautiful.

GT: Well, I’ll make a point of visiting Princeton one of these days.

KW: Let me know when you’re coming, and I’ll give you a great tour.

GT: Wonderful!

KW: In preparing for this interview, I was stunned to learn the breadth and depth of your career. You’ve done so much more than *Star Trek*, both before and since the TV series.

GT: I’m glad you did some research on me.

KW: What inspired you to mount your latest project, *American*? The movie made me weep.

GT: That chapter of American history is still so little-known. Were you familiar with the imprisonment of loyal, American citizens of Japanese ancestry?

KW: Yes, since I’m also an attorney, I studied the landmark *Korematsu vs. the United States* case in my Constitutional Law class. That Supreme Court decision was as shameful as *Dred*



Scott.

GT: One of the reasons I’ve made it my life’s mission to raise awareness about it is that east of the Rockies, so many people I consider to be well-informed and well educated are totally aghast when I tell them about my imprisonment as a child. They can’t believe anything like that was done in the United States by the U.S. government. That’s why we produced a Broadway musical about it [*Allegiance*] and founded the Japanese American National Museum where I served as one of the founding chairs of the board. It’s an official affiliate of the Smithsonian. I think

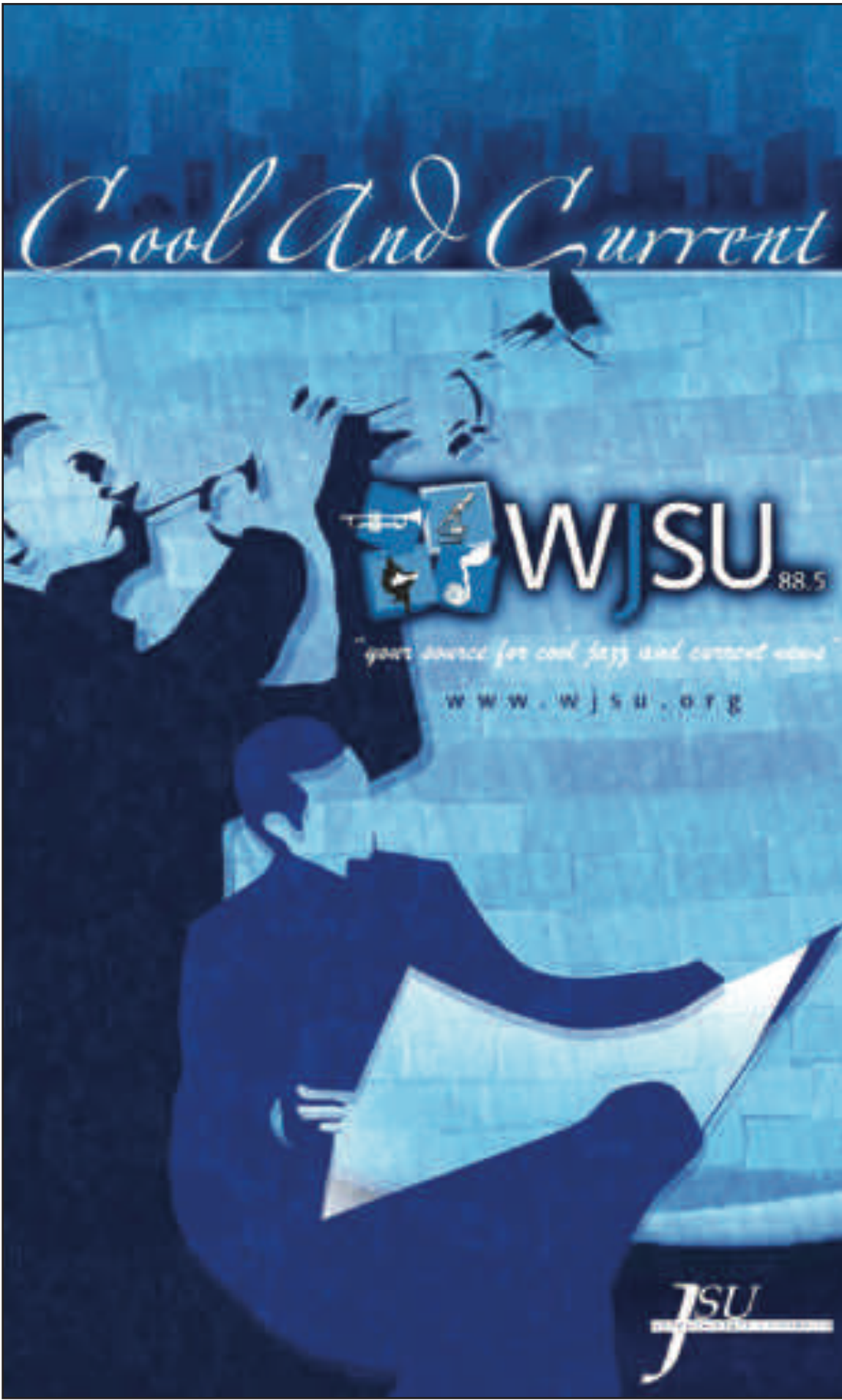
you get a better understanding of our country and of our democracy by knowing that chapter of our history.

KW: Is that the actual museum in the movie?

GT: Yes, that’s the museum we founded.

KW: What really hit home was seeing the handbills directing Japanese-Americans to relocate to one of ten internment camps where they were expected to recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day, despite being imprisoned behind barbed wire fences.

Read more online at www.themississippilink.com





BOOK REVIEW: “WELL, THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY” BY FRANCHESCA RAMSEY C.2018, GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING \$27.00 / \$35.00 CANADA • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You sat down to check your email. And there you were an hour later, still logged on. Your email was checked but then you watched a newsfeed, four kitten videos, posted three opinions, RSVP'd two grad parties, and wasted sixty minutes. And judging by the new book “Well, That Escalated Quickly” by Franchesca Ramsey, you got off easy. The internet was practically a toddler when Ramsey posted

her first YouTube video, a tutorial on hair. That was in 2006, just a year after YouTube was founded; before then, Ramsey secured her own domain name and had already blogged about her life, so she knew her way around the web and the drama and trolls that go with it. Six years later, she finally found fame through a video she calls “SWGSTBG,” which took advantage of a craze lampooning racism. That millions of people saw her video in a very short time was a surprise – a pleasant one that led Ramsey

to look for new ways to make it as an online entertainer. She was the star of other videos, but they didn't have quite the appeal as SWGSTBG. She won a YouTube contest, and a week-long series of classes-as-prize let her learn from the pros. Another contest allowed her to rub elbows with Hollywood's elite and hone her interviewing skills. By this time, Ramsey had an agent, cash in the bank, and a strong online presence. She also had internet trolls, who hurt her feelings day after

day. She says she spent many hours in workplace bathrooms, crying, until literally, Ramsey had the last laugh: after a disastrous SNL try-out, she landed an MTV show and a gig as a writer for a Comedy Central series while she continued to boost her presence online. Today, she's a comedy writer, social justice advocate, MTV host and, though she cautions that she's not an expert on the subject, she offers this: there's a way to avoid racist terms, misogynistic words and accidental offense. Trying to get it

right is absolutely worth it. So you're not all that into computers, and social media is a foreign language. That's the first thing you'll want to know about this book: it's steeped in web-ese, so “Well, That Escalated Quickly” may not be for you. But then again, while internet natives will eat up the memoir and backstory of an online personality they've come to enjoy, the latter part of this book is different: it's more about the social justice, equality and dealing-with-racism

side of author Ramsey's life. This is, in fact, where Ramsey does magic, explaining nuances, new meanings and unintentional hurts from language and attitude. It's where anyone, from any angle, can learn to do no harm. For Ramsey's millions of fans, this book will be a true delight, and an insight to their favorite star's life. If you're not so versed but still need the social justice aspect of what it so thoroughly teaches, then “Well, That Escalated Quickly” is a book to check out.

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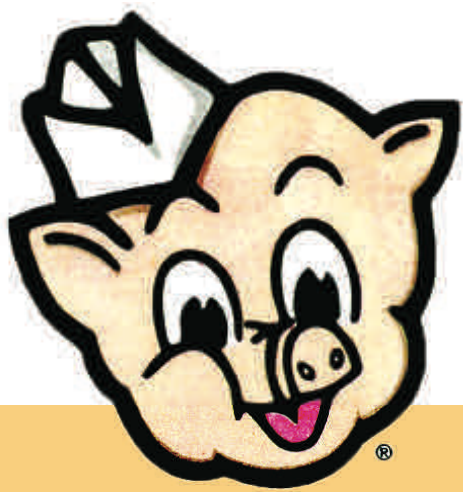
Jackson, Miss. • May 16, 2018

PHOTOS BY CIANNA HOPE REEVES



May 23 - 29, 2018

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