



'Remembering Medgar Evers'
July 2, 1925 - June, 12, 1963

"You can kill
a man but
you can't kill
an idea."

Celebrating the life of civil rights activist and icon Medgar Evers

By Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

As news began to spread rapidly about the assassination of Medgar Wiley Evers, a prolific and profound civil rights leader in Mississippi, June 12, 1963, the black community was brought to its knees. The devastation would have a lasting impact. Because of Evers' unforgettable fight to attain justice, his legacy still lingers more than five decades later. Fifty-five years to the date of his death, citizens across the state of Mississippi gathered to commemorate and reflect on the heritage of Evers in Jackson at the recently opened Civil Rights Museum. The program included special and memorable performances by MAD-DRAMA Performance Troupe, singers DeAnna Tisdale Johnson and Pam Confer, spoken word poetry by Leigh McInnis, and ended with a panel discussion of Evers' former colleagues and acquaintances who reflected on past encounters with the legend. Evers' daughter, Reena Evers-Everette, recalled the influence her father had on many others and shared her personal experience of him as a father and the indelible impact he had on her and the entire family. "We are here celebrating a person that is so dear to me because his blood runs through my blood. A person that has touched so many of



Speakers recall experiences with Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers. (L to R) Grace Sweet, Hezekiah Watkins, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, Murlene Terry Taylor, Dr. Robert Smith and Rev. Ed King. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

us whether we knew him personally, whether we worked with him, broke bread with him or just honored him – that is my daddy, Medgar Wiley Evers," expressed Evers-Everette. As she continues sharing the legacy of her father, Evers-Everette said she is amazed by those who have worked to transform Mississippi just as he strived to do. "Each and every day I am awed by him. Each and every day, I am awed by the warriors in this state, some we know about and others we learn about," she proclaimed.

Moderator Michael Vinson Williams, who is also the author of the book, *Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr* and director of the African American Studies program at the University of Texas El Paso, said it is pivotal that individuals are exposed to the works of Evers. "Medgar Wiley Evers dedicated his life to fight for the right and privileges of the least served by society, and he chose to carry that fight out here in Mississippi. He actually felt and internalized civil rights activism more than many people at that time

understood and what people understand today, and that's what I want people to realize," said Williams. To better understand his humanity and his dedication to advocate for the equality of others, those who knew and worked with him, offered insight to those in attendance as a means to become closer to a man who fought daily for freedom not just for his family but all families struggling to live in a racially divided society.

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Black voters must hold all politicians accountable

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire Contributor



It's that time again. It occurs every year around the same time like clockwork. It's election season. Political signs infiltrate black neighborhoods, placed by campaign operatives hoping you remember their respective political candidate come election time. More importantly, these political operatives are hoping your familiarity with their respective candidate will drive you to the polls with the belief that their efforts will translate into votes for them at the ballot box. Establishing familiarity is quite an effective tool, especially when it comes to creating a sense of connection with people. Now be honest. If connecting with people through establishing a sense of familiarity weren't so effective, why would radio stations play the same song over and over again, or why would major companies spend an inordinate amount of money to consistently and strategically

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advertise their product or service to consumers on a regular basis? Seeking to connect with people by establishing a sense of familiarity is one of the first things any campaign team tries to do to help get their respective candidate elected. Have you ever noticed that during every election season, radio ads become more frequent, print mailers get sent out in bulk quantities and television ads get placed on any given network during key television shows in an effort to try and reach registered voters? Politicians have long been staples in our community.

Many of them visit a church here, walk the block and knock on doors over there; kiss babies, shake hands and even give the black community "stuff" to get them to come out to the polls and vote. It is fascinating the way some political candidates scurry around during election season trying to solicit the black vote so that they can get elected to a certain office or retain their current seat. It's an art. Many of these campaign operatives and elected officials have it down to a science. However, when it comes to developing key, solid policies that will help the black community, many of these same candidates disappear – never to be heard from again – until the next election cycle rolls around. Interestingly, many of these elected officials get a pass for doing nothing. Now, if members of the black community would be completely honest, they would admit that a lot of these elected officials are often treated like high-profile celebrities, rather than public servants who have the power to advocate for substantive policies that can literally change the economic landscape and quality of life of their communities. One act of familiarity that has been a go-to approach to reach the black community has been the tactic of political candidates using certain gimmicks to solicit votes. You know what I'm talking about: offering the black community chicken dinners, BBQ cookouts, fish plates, steak days, gift cards, air conditioners for senior citizens, etc. Many of these politically-motivated gimmicks are being used right now to get black people to vote for a particular candidate. You know the routine. Black voters get out to vote, then there is very little reciprocity from many of the candidates towards the black community, if they are elected. Think about it for a moment and ask yourself

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Federal judge holds annual Court Watch program for Jackson youth

By Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

In a city of heightened crimes, high school drop-outs, and a lack of mentorship in the community, one judge has committed his time to engage students by welcoming youngsters into his world. Students from Jackson Public Schools' J.R.O.T.C. program and other high school students around the metropolitan area participated in the 18th annual Court Watch Seminar held by United States District Judge Henry T. Wingate at Jackson's Federal Courthouse Building from June 4-9. Throughout the six-day session, students observed court proceedings and listened to professionals within the court and law system such as United States Attorneys, Special Agents of DEA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service. Students also obtained knowledge about financial literacy, learned the importance of higher education, toured the Yazoo City Federal Correctional Institution and spoke with the staff of the Federal Bureau of



Judge Henry T. Wingate and DEA Special Agent Brooks Benson and speak to Jackson Public Schools' JROTC about the importance of abstaining from drugs and alcohol. PHOTOS BY CIANNA HOPE REEVES

Prisons and more. Wingate said his motive for starting the program was to show youth the plethora of career opportunities and educate them about laws in order to become effective citizens in society. "When I set the program up, the purpose was to expose young people to all careers, not just to say you want to be in the criminal justice system as a defendant, but that you also want to have an idea of how the justice system works as a citizen,"

said Wingate. During Friday's session, high schoolers received lectures on the importance of not submitting to peer

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CEO Carol Burger celebrates decades of service

By Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

After serving the local community for 34 years, Carol Burger is stepping out of her position as chief executive officer and president of United Way of the Capital Area and into a new chapter of her life.

To celebrate her acclaimed reign, United Way Board of Trustees held a retirement bash to honor the legacy that has impacted many across local and state levels.

United Way's past board members, staff, corporate partners, family and public and elected officials joined together at the Mississippi Museum of Art June 5 to commend Burger on her milestone and shared sincere remarks about the selfless donor.

1995 board chair, Red Moffat, credited Burger for the company's success and the improvement of the city.

"We have a better United Way, we have a better city, we have healthier non-profits and a host of other attributes of our community because of Carol and her work," said Moffat.

Joseph Moss, who is a current board chair, labeled her an idol.

"The lives she has touched is countless. The generations of families she has touched and the paths she has helped changed is countless – she is truly a hero," stated Moss.

Burger started her career with the non-profit organization in 1984 where she served the capital through effective leadership by partnering with community-based programs to help provide opportunities for disadvantage families and children.

In 1994, Burger was elected by the Board of Trustees to become the local organization's president and CEO.

Wanting to expand the company in a way that would change the outlook of United Way from being a "pass-through agency of raising money" to an active organization which focuses on real issues



Senator Hillman Frazier and Senator David Blount award Burger a certificate for her work within the state of Mississippi.



Burger and her extended family pose for photo after retirement celebration.



Burger and United Way's Board of Trustees of the Capital Area.



Burger and staff of United Way. PHOTOS CIANNA HOPE REEVES

and solves problems, she made it her responsibility to achieve that aspiration.

For the next 34 years, Burger would transform the face of United Way and touch the lives of families and children in Hinds, Madison and Rankin County through three focuses – education, financial stability and health.

One pillar she is proud to have emphasized during her tenure is pushing the importance of education in the tri-county area, specifically within the Jackson and Canton Public School Systems.

As a former teacher prior to serving as CEO, enrolling into Tougaloo College at age 15, and having a mother who was an educator, education has always been a major constituent in her life which is also the reason for her ongoing pursuit to aid the young to reach new educational heights.

"I am passionate about education and I believe every child can succeed if they

are given the proper education," said Burger.

She added, "If we can get our kids educated, then we don't have to worry about financial stability or worry about their health because they can afford themselves and their families. I strongly feel that if we create the right pathway for education, those two issues will be resolved," Burger said.

One major program she has adopted to help improve early childhood literacy rates is Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Imagination Library is a book giving program where newborns to children of age 5 in the local area can receive one free age-appropriate book every month, and with the support of United Way it has become a thriving and impactful platform each year.

The Boys & Girls Club of Central Mississippi and United Way are also key

partners and work together to prepare the youth for their future. With the vision to increase high school graduation rates, through their partnership, they have graduated 104 children in the last five years, offered tutors in the club's afternoon school-care program, and provided scholarships to high school students attending college.

President Penny Ainsworth of the local Boys & Girls Club shared her appreciation for Burger's commitment throughout their years of collaboration.

"During the 21 years I have worked with Boys & Girls Club, United Way has been one of the most pivotal community partners that we have had in all of our organizations in the United States," expressed Ainsworth.

After influencing countless lives and leading United Way to achievement, Burger said she has accomplished all of her goals during her tenure and is ecstat-

ic to experience her new journey of life.

"I have done what I have needed to do to position United Way. I am happy with where we are and I am happy to pass the torch to someone else," said Burger.

The renowned advocate is confident that her successor, Ira Murray, who previously served nine years as the company's community impact coordinator, will move the organization to new levels and hopes that the community will support his endeavors.

"One of the things that Ira brings to the table is passion, and I just hope the community will get behind him and give him the support that he needs to help accomplish his vision as we move United Way forward because no United Way president can serve without its community," Burger said.

Though Burger is retiring from her role as chief, she assured her involvement within the community will continue.

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Students listen closely as speakers discuss their experiences in their chosen career fields of law and the justice court system.

pressure and listened to Secret Service Agent Kelley Adcox, who spoke about the duties of his profession and experiences thus far.

The youth also engaged with Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Special Agent Brooks Benson, who talked about his involvement in his career field and presented a video of the rigorous training that agents encounter to combat drug trafficking in the United States.

The high school cadets and teenagers gazed at the film, smiling, inspired and intrigued with the agents’ efforts to catch criminals under threatening circumstances.

In addition to showing the clip, Benson encouraged the group of young boys and girls to say no to drugs, especially if desiring to thrive in any federal career field.

“I know peer pressure may be irresistible. I know you all listen to the rap songs and [drugs] seem cool, but if you have any type of desire to be successful in life and want a federal job, you have to stay away from drugs or it will be difficult to maneuver and see which agency you can qualify for,” said Benson.

With the drug epidemic on the rise and its serious national crisis on economic and social well-being, the special agent also touched on the use of opioids – prescription pain relievers, heroin and synthetic opioids.

To relate the powerfulness of drugs, Benson referenced two prominent rap artists – Lil Wayne and Rick Ross – who have suffered from health complications due to their usage of illegal substances and alcohol.

Benson said it was imperative that he shared his knowledge about drugs to prevent them from ruining their lives early.

“When I saw those group of people, I saw a lot of potential. I want them to know its plenty of ways to have fun out here, and it’s important that they stay away from drugs and alcohol because it will screw you up for the rest of your life,” expressed Benson.

On a local level, two Jackson native ex-prisoners who were jailed for drug trafficking and sentenced to several years in prison also joined in and talked about their life before committing crimes, the consequences they faced and life after incarceration to encourage the millennials to take the high road.

Wingate hopes the group of millennials received valuable lessons from the different professionals and speakers and become inspired to live better.

“All of the presenters have talked about people who made wrong steps in life, and I hope they will profit from those mistakes, so that we can have a better next generation,” said Wingate.

Medgar Evers

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vided country.

Robert Smith, a physician in Jackson during the Civil Rights Movement who treated the injuries of many activists during the height of the movement, referred to Evers as a proud African American.

“He was a person who loved Mississippi and who loved his country as much or more than anyone. He also created an awareness for all of us on how our country had failed in terms of our rights to vote, the ability to have healthcare and the ability to be educated... it was Medgar who emphasized that to us,” said Smith.

Murlene Terry Taylor, Evers’ secretary during his tenure as the NAACP state field secretary, called him a family man, and a memory that she will always remember about the icon is his willingness to help her family.

“My mother and father tried to register to vote many times and was turned away, but he made it possible for them to register to vote...Thank you God for our gentleman; he certainly had an impact on my life,” said Taylor.

In order to continue the legacy of Evers, Chris Cockrell, Evers’ great nephew, believes it can only advance through love and respect for one another.

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some questions.

What evidence do you have to prove that any of your elected officials have actually advocated for you? Ask yourself, when it comes to developing sound policies and legislation for the black community, when was the last time your elected officials drafted any policy or advocated for any legislation at the local, state and/ or federal level that has positively impact you?

Now, you may have been invited to a fish fry, steak dinner or community social event, but ask yourself when was the first or last time any of your elected officials educated, equipped and informed your community about any key issues that would have an impact on their lives.

Truth be told, the black community has been short-changed when it comes to advocacy by many of their elected officials, regardless of the elected official’s race or ethnicity. Blacks have also been deprived of having progressive and substantive policies drafted by many of their elected officials. In many cases, instead of talking to elected officials about substantive policies and key legislation, elected officials are often sought after to attend an event or take a picture with someone, as if they are a Hollywood star, versus a public servant who was elected to serve the people. Again, it’s about familiarity.

The black community deserves to be treated more like a partner in a serious relationship and less like some fling on the side, easily plied with whispered sweet nothings in our ear in exchange for the only thing they really, truly want from us – the black vote.

The black community must stop allowing disengaged elected officials to continue making empty promises in order to get their vote, and then turn around, close the deal (get their vote), and never hear anything from these individuals again – until they need our votes again. The same thing goes for political candidates who don’t win when they run for office as well.

Elected officials are not highly-paid Hollywood entertainers.

“The main thing we have to do is love one another, to not feel like you are better than anyone. He died for equality, not just for blacks but for everybody,” expressed Cockrell.

President of the Mississippi State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Charles Hampton stated Evers – who was the former the field secretary of the NAACP for the state of Mississippi – would be happy yet filled with disappointment if he could watch the occurrences in the world today.

“I think he would go through a happy period if he could look down on us and see that we were making progress, and we were changing how things were going in Mississippi and in America. However, I think if he looked down on us now, he would be sad because we have become complacent, our young men are going to prison, our healthcare is bad and poverty is rampant in Mississippi still,” said Hampton.

In a society where change is everlasting, Hampton encourages citizens to unite and be the model of change.

“If we are going to make a change, we have to get involved, and we have to continue the fight that Medgar Evers started,” declared Hampton.

Elected officials are public servants. The black community must stop treating elected officials, as if they are the hottest celebrity and start demanding sound policy offerings from them. The black community must embrace accountability and adopt a realistic expectation of having their elected officials be the advocates they need to get things done and fight for them, by any means necessary.

This year, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade group representing over 200 black-owned media companies across the U.S., is focused on encouraging five million blacks to register to vote before the midterm elections. We need to elect politicians who care about creating sound legislation and being advocates for the black community year-round.

The same energy and efforts that these elected officials use to get elected, or re-elected, should be the same energy they use when it comes to sitting down with the black community to better understand our needs and advocate for policies that positively impact their community.

If the constituents of these elected officials have not progressed since they have been in office, and are no more advanced as a result of their leadership, it is time to start looking for new leadership.

Elected officials can keep giving out chicken dinners, BBQ cookouts, fish plates, steak days, gift cards, air conditioners for senior citizens, etc., but what the black community really needs, however, are sound policies, legislation and advocacy from their elected officials.

Jeffrey L. Boney serves as associate editor and is an award-winning journalist for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey is a radio personality and an international speaker, experienced entrepreneur, business development strategist and founder/CEO of the Texas Business Alliance. You can reach him at jboney1@forwardtimes.com. or Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

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Raise fuel taxes to repair crumbling infrastructure

By David Hampton
Mississippi Journalist

I've always liked post-apocalyptic science fiction movies. You know, movies like Planet of the Apes, The Time Machine, Mad Max, On the Beach, Book of Eli. Mankind has blown it up and all is a wasteland. The characters struggle to survive. They scavenge the crumbling remains of the civilization their ancestors once built.

The good science fiction message, of course, was about the folly of war and mankind forgetting what is important and letting things slip away.

We haven't blown everything up, but perhaps we are letting things slip away. Our post-apocalyptic scenario has to do with lost political institutional knowledge and public wherewithal to provide for basic needs of our state. It appears that our government is incapable of building and maintaining an adequate, safe system of roads and bridges needed for transportation and our economy. Oh, we know how to build roads and bridges, but we have forgotten what it takes politically and governmentally to act to build and maintain our roads and bridges.

Building roads and bridges ought to be simple, right? Either do it or don't; reap benefits or suffer consequences. There is no vexing, complicated public policy question here. But the members of the Legislature and its leadership, selected by we the people, cannot agree on a plan, any plan, to fix the highways and maintain bridges. Now, they will make all kinds of excuses and rationalizations, but the reality is that to build highways and bridges, government has to pay for highways and bridges. And that requires revenue from taxes. We either raise money to pay for roads and bridges, or we don't. It's yes or no, build or don't build, and, so far, the answer is "no."

Now there once was a time when men and women of good will came together to form governments to ac-



Hampton

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complish societal tasks that private entities or individuals could not. That took compromise, common sense and some effort. And, yes, it took sacrifice of we the people. We have to vote, get involved and pay taxes. In this post-political apocalyptic Mississippi, we have forgotten that. We are basically leaderless. Like the movies, we have a few warlords over their fiefdoms, but no real overarching, common-goal, vision-driven leadership that looks at a problem and comes up with a solution. Our elected officials argue and posture. They even whine and say there is "no political will." But, instead of trying to create "political will," they just shrug their shoulders.

It's not fair to blame it all on elected officials. We can look in the mirror here. Our body politic is such that any proposal any, all, no exceptions, to raise taxes is politically toxic. Elected officials believe, and with good basis, that they will suffer dire political consequences if they support a basic fuel tax increase to fix roads and bridges.

So instead, we get smoke-and-mirror, duct-tape-and-bailing-wire schemes (lotteries, tax swaps, sports gambling) to try to repair some roads and fix a few bridges in a way that elected officials can say they did something without raising taxes. The problem is those schemes don't add up to enough to do the job, and they

can't agree on one anyway.

Next will come the age-old political strategy of delaying so long as to create the crisis in hopes of forcing action. The problem is, with roads and bridges, not acting makes the long-term costs higher and could hurt people. You don't play politics with infrastructure safety.

So, let's look back to what our ancestors did before the big anti-tax bomb dropped. They funded roads with fuel taxes, which is the most and effective way to pay for roads and bridges. It is fair. It is a use tax. People who use the roads pay for the roads. Most other states have figured that out and raised their fuel taxes. We need to raise our fuel tax, allow it to adjust for inflation and include electric vehicles in the tax mix.

There was a time when our elected officials knew how to do these things. There was a time when voters understood that everybody has to chip in to pay for society's infrastructure. There was even a time when elected officials were willing to make difficult decisions to do what was needed, even if it meant they might not be so popular. Roads should be easy. What about the real difficult issues that also need investment and commitment? Education? Economic development? Health care?

But all of that political ability and social responsibility is lost, forgotten somewhere in our past. Lost knowledge, lost wisdom, lost technology. Like Charlton Heston looking at the ruins of the broken Statue of Liberty in the Planet of the Apes, we are staring at the crumbling remains of the roads and bridges built by past generations, wondering why were we so foolish to let it all slip away?

Dang it, even Mel Gibson in Mad Max chased the bad guys through the wasteland on smooth highways.

David Hampton is a Mississippi journalist. He retired as editorial director of the Clarion Ledger in 2012 and now teaches journalism. Write to him at dhampl@comcast.net.

AABE hosted the 27th Annual Scholarship Awards program



L-R: , Rekea' Williams, Jon'na Bailey, Miesyah Garrett, Kayla Tate, Camryn Johnson, Terrance Myles, Rehyan Grims (Not pictured)

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Associations of Blacks in Energy (AABE) recognized minority students from across Mississippi at the 27th Annual Scholarship Awards reception.

The Association awarded six \$1,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship in honor of Don E. Meiners, former CEO of Entergy Mississippi.

AABE Mississippi Chapter President Wilbert Corley, with Entergy Mississippi Inc., congratulated the 2018 recipients for achieving academic excellence in the classroom, and wished them continued success as they pursue degrees in S.T.E.M. related disciplines.

The awards ceremony was held May 18 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson where students, family members and guests were moved by an inspiring message on "Steps to Success" delivered by keynote speaker Gloria B. Johnson, retiree from Entergy Mississippi.

The following scholarship recipients were honored.

- Terrance Myles – St. Joseph Catholic High School – (Don E. Miner) scholarship recipient

- Miesyah Garrett – Velma Jackson High School

- Reyhan Grims – MS School for Math and Science

- Jo'anna Bailey – Holmes Central High School

- Camryn Johnson – Terry High School

- Kayla Tate – Hillcrest Christian School

- Rekea' Williams – Vicksburg High School.

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy is one of eight chapters in the Southwest region of the organization. Member companies include (but are not limited to): Atmos Energy, Entergy-Mississippi, Mississippi Development Authority and the State Government of Mississippi.

Professionals in all energy and energy-related disciplines (oil, gas, electricity, nuclear, renewables, government, technology, energy services and water) are welcome to join and give our membership a broader knowledge about the industry when topics arise. College students at accredited institutions studying energy-related fields are also encouraged to participate in AABE.

Community Foundation for Mississippi and Better Together Commission hire contractors to support ongoing work



Mississippi Link Newswire

The Community Foundation for Mississippi (CFM) and Better Together Commission (BTC) are pleased to announce the engagement of four independent contractors to support the commission's ongoing efforts to identify solutions to improve student outcomes in the Jackson Public School District (JPS).

Paheadra Robinson has been selected to serve as project lead. Robinson previously served as the chair of the engagement action table for the commission. While she will step down as a committee chair for the commission, she will maintain her role as a commissioner. In her new role as project lead, Robinson will work with commissioners, contractors and partners to monitor the progress of the project and help coordinate commission activities. Before joining the commission as a contractor, Robinson served as the partnership specialist for the United States Census Bureau, and as the director of consumer protection for the Mississippi Center for Justice. She earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1994.

Aisha Carson and Rosaline McCoy have been selected to serve as community engagement support staff. Carson and McCoy will facilitate knowledge and understanding of BTC and its work, coordinate community engagement sessions and build stronger, more meaningful relationships with community members, organizations and leaders.

Carson previously served as the advocacy coordinator for educational opportunities and criminal justice reform for the ACLU of Mississippi. She earned her masters of public administration from Belhaven University. McCoy, a graduate of both Mis-

issippi State University and Mississippi College, brings her experience in communications and time serving multiple community organizations, such as the Jackson Council PTA Board of Directors and Jackson NAACP as the education chairperson and city youth council advisor. She previously served as the program coordinator for Alignment Jackson at the United Way of the Capital Area.

Monique Bouyer Mosley also will serve as grants administrator. In this role, Mosley will perform administrative functions for the community foundation and the commission working with staff and contractors, external partners, constituencies, donors and volunteers. Mosley has previous experience as the general manager and director of project development for Professional Staffing Group, LLC, oversight account analyst for Horne, LLC, and as an independent consultant for Alerion. She received her master's in accountancy from Millsaps College.

"We are thrilled to add these four contractors to our team," says Jane Alexander, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for Mississippi. "We believe that these individuals will be an asset to the commission and will help the commission achieve its goal to ensure all students in JPS receive a high-quality education." The contractors will support the work of the commission for a 12-month contract period. Contractors were selected from a pool of applicants for the positions, advertised earlier this year.

For more information on the Community Foundation for Mississippi, contact Jane Alexander at 601 974-6044.

For more information on the Better Together Commission, send an email to info@bettertogetherformississippi.org.

HEAD START

Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

To Qualify:

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

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

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

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

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

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

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-5935.

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Helping Families. Strengthening Communities.

JPS seeks community support on bond issue for building improvements

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson residents will soon get the opportunity to vote on whether to allow the Jackson Public School District to borrow approximately \$65 million needed to address aging schools and facilities across the district. Approximately \$15.5 million of the total will be used to satisfy all of the facilities' citations identified in the audit performed by the Mississippi Department of Education. Jackson Public Schools has the opportunity to issue general obligation bonds (GO Bonds) to fund capital improvements at various schools in the district. The total amount of approximately \$65 million will be used directly toward making building improvements, renovations and/or construction at our schools. Potential projects include:

- Replacing HVAC units at Forest Hill High School and Callaway High School
- Completing the renovation of Newell Field
- Adding science labs at all middle and high schools
- Redesigning libraries to build internet cafés for students
- Updating the auditorium/performance space at Power APAC
- Building a performance space at Forest Hill High School for APAC programs
- Various infrastructure projects at schools, such as replacing carpets and windows, paving parking lots and other such projects.

The district paid off some existing debt in April 2018 and now has the opportunity to reissue the debt to get these additional funds. Because the existing debt was already being paid by taxpayers, reissuing the same amount will not cause any increase in taxes paid by homeowners for Jackson Public Schools.

Jim Hill JROTC cadet to represent mississippi at Boys Nation

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jim Hill High School JROTC cadet and rising senior Ruben Banks was elected governor during the recent American Legion Boys State conducted May 27–June 2 at the University of Mississippi. Banks will represent Mississippi at the upcoming Boys Nation to be held July 20–28 in Washington, D.C.

In 2016, Banks was selected as the top student at the Military Order of World Wars Youth Leadership Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama. In 2017, he completed a prestigious engineering program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency selected Banks to serve on its 15-member National Youth Preparedness Council. The Jackson Free Press highlighted Banks as an Amazing Teen for 2018.

“Cadet Banks is truly an exceptional young scholar,” said JPS JROTC Director Paul Willis. We salute him as a shining example of excellence.”

Banks along with 14 other male cadets from JPS joined over 200 other rising seniors at the recent Mississippi Boys State. Boys State is the premier leadership program for rising high school seniors in Mississippi and 48 other states across the U.S.

Delegates compete for election to various local, county and state government positions. The top two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at



Cadet Ruben Banks meets Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant at Boys State.

Boys Nation in D.C. There, the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of the federal government.

At the event, each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. The young lawmakers' caucus at the beginning of the session organizes into committees and conducts hearings on bills submitted by program delegates. Senators learn the proper method of handling bills, according to U.S. Senate rules.

Participants organize party conventions and nominate and elect a president and vice president. Delegates also visit federal agencies, national shrines, memorials and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, many of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

JPS salutes 2018 retirees

Jackson Public Schools celebrated its retiring employees during a ceremony held May 8. The annual event is our way of bidding a fond farewell to employees who have served with excellence and dedication to the school district. Honorees who attended the farewell celebration are pictured below.



Edna Adams



Dana Anthony



Verna Armstrong



Mary Barnes



Claudine Blakey



Stephany Brown



Catherine Calendar



Curtisstine Carey



Violet Child



Sonja Coleman



Rose Dunn



Deborah Elder



Elizabeth Green



Arthur Harris



Annie Henderson



Laura Hicks



Doris Johnson



Donna Jones



Teresa Jones



Gwendolyn LaBranche



Joanna Marshall



Malinda McCune



Yavonka McGee



Ann McNally



Janice Middleton



Deborah Newsom



George Norman



Isaac Norwood



Mary Odems



Marilyn Palmer



Alpha Robinson



Violet Russell



Roslyn Simpson



Gwendolyn Stevenson



Shelton Taplin



Helen Tardy



Eloise Thompson



Daphne Wilson



Pamela Wilson






Donald Wright

Retirees not pictured are Julius Allen Jr., Gregory Bell, Jannie Booker, Crispus Bright, Lisa Brown, Rosie Brown, Elaine Carr, Alfred Carter, Charles Chatman, Dorothy Clark, Wanda Cobb, Valerie Dixon, Lillie Douglas, Richard Fleming, L. E. Funchess, Dwight Gary, William Gatlin, Felica Hardy, Cute Harrell, John Horton, Debbie Hubbard, Charles Hutton, Sandra Irvin, Willie Jacobs, Leifi Ji, Basheba Johnson, Karen Jones, Sharon Kelly, Pamela Kinsey, Elizabeth Lee, Alfred Mikel, Christi McAlpin, Elbert Martin, Emma Magee, Phyllis Morrow, Sally Maddox, Norma Nichols, Carlee Odom, Vernon Perry, Roy Ramsey, Willie Rattler, Beverly Reed, George Reid, Hal Richardson, Darrell Saunders, Edna Scott, Jeremiah Shelby, Curtis Shepherd, Ashley Sheppard, Debra Sikes, Angela Smith, Juanita Smith, Larry Stewart, Barry Taylor, Bettye Thames, Matilda Thomas, Merrill Thomas, Lucille Thornton, Parkash Trehan, Abby Webley, Gloria Whitley and Pearl Williams.

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Othor Cain
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson
Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Ayesha K. Mustafa

Member:



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MVSU, Hinds CC sign agreement ensuring seamless transfer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College (Hinds CC) recently signed a 2 Plus 2 agreement with Mississippi Valley State University to offer junior and senior level courses for students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in environmental health, biology or chemistry. Representatives from both institutions gathered April 27, at Hinds CC-Raymond Campus for a signing ceremony to formalize the new partnership, designed to better serve students and to promote successful undergraduate educational experiences for students who wish to attend both institutions.

Before signing the agreements, Hinds CC President Clyde Muse and MVSU President Jerryl Briggs Sr. discussed the benefits of the partnership for both institutions.

“This is a good opportunity that we have to come together as institutions to confirm our relationship and to have the opportunity to further it with this agreement,” said Muse. With this agreement, we have made the process of transfer much simpler, and that’s an advantage for the student.”

During his remarks, Briggs stated that higher education is not just about providing students with a degree, but rather an education. “I think that this partnership will speak to that – our students receiving an education from both institutions and moving on to build and grow their lives,” he said.

According to Briggs, the agreement serves as an example of both institutions moving forward. “One thing that we’ve established at Valley is that vision of ‘ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY.’ and now that’s ‘...In Motion.’ It means that we’re moving in the right direction, and this is the right direction, I think, for both institutions,” he said.

Alluding to her own start as a community college STEM major, MVSU Vice President of Academic Affairs Constance Bland reiterated how vital it is for community colleges and 4-year institutions to work together. “50 percent of graduates from 4-year institutions get their start at community colleges, so it’s very important for us to embrace those community college students and make a pathway as large as we possibly can...I’m just really excited about this from an academic perspective,” she said.

Bland added that she’s excited to



Muse



Briggs

see the partnership expand to include other majors. “It’s wonderful that we’re starting out with our STEM departments, and we’d like to fan this opportunity out to any majors that want to matriculate and make that pathway on to Mississippi Valley State University.”

As part of the agreement, MVSU will accept all Hinds CC courses outlined in the articulation agreement, providing students pursuing bachelor’s degrees in natural science and environmental health with a seamless transfer.

In addition, MVSU has agreed to provide junior/senior and graduate level courses on Hinds’ campus. It will also offer two transfer scholarships to Hinds CC graduates with a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

Hinds CC has agreed to provide MVSU access to its campus for classes, registration, recruiting and support services. According to MVSU Assistant Vice President for Online and Distance Education Kenneth Done, MVSU will begin offering courses on Hinds’ campus as early as the Fall 2018 semester.

MVSU names social science auditorium in honor of alum Attorney Carver Randle Sr.



Randle (3rd from left) surrounded by family and friends at ribbon cutting of auditorium named in his honor at MVSU.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney Carver Randle Sr. of Indianola, Miss. came to Mississippi Valley State University for the chance to play football and earn a solid education by way of an athletic scholarship. However, he graduated in 1965 with so much more – unforgettable memories, life-long connections and a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship with his beloved alma mater.

That relationship will now be solidified for years to come with MVSU renaming its social science auditorium in Randle’s honor. MVSU’s Carver A. Randle Social Science Auditorium was unveiled May 5, during a special ceremony hosted in the W.A. Butts Social Science Building.

“It is indeed a privilege to honor our dear alum, Carver Randle Sr. with the naming of his auditorium,” said MVSU President Jerryl Briggs Sr. “Mr. Randle has been an unwavering supporter of his alma mater. We’ve truly appreciated all that he has done and will continue to do to assure our university remains ‘IN MOTION.’”

Randle said he’s humbled by the gesture. “It’s unimaginable. It’s quite rewarding and it’s a distinct pleasure to have something named in your honor – even if it’s nothing more than a broom closet,” Randle said. “The fact that the university has extended this honor to me is really special, and I’m thankful to President Briggs and all those who helped make this possible.”

Even after graduating 53 years ago,

Randle has continued to show his support for MVSU through monetary gifts, volunteering and recruiting. Randle has personally donated more than \$25,000 to MVSU and has helped to raise more than \$150,000 with the Douglas T. Porter Athletic Scholarship fund.

“I have a love for Valley because I know the opportunities that it provided me and what it continues to do for me,” Randle said. “It’s an ongoing relationship that still has its benefits. It’s always home for me.”

Randle, who earned a bachelor’s degree in natural science at MVSU, said the university provided him with a holistic experience, preparing him to succeed both socially and academically. “Valley provided me with a good college education and the opportunity to meet some acquaintances that have lasted a lifetime,” he said. “It prepared me to go on to the next level educationally.”

After a brief stint teaching and coaching, Randle continued his education at the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he earned a juris doctorate degree. He has been practicing law in the Mississippi Delta for 45 years.

During his extensive career, Randle served as special assistant to the president for former MVSU Presidents William Sutton and Lester C. Newman for 10 years. He was instrumental in bringing blues legend B.B. King to MVSU’s campus for several years and helped to

bring the state-of-the-art B.B. King Recording Studio to MVSU’s campus.

Randle has received several awards on behalf of the university, including the prestigious James H. White Award, the Alumni of the Year award and induction into MVSU’s Athletic Hall of Fame. He was named Indianola’s “Citizen of the Year” in 2011 and was a founding board member of the B.B. King Museum. In addition, Randle served as the president of the local NAACP chapter for several years.

According to Randle, understanding the importance of the university to the Mississippi Delta is what has fueled his dedication to MVSU over the years. Randle has been a staunch supporter of MVSU, starting in his own home; all three of his children have attended the university.

“I’ve enjoyed the opportunities and exposure that the university has given me and would encourage anybody to go to Mississippi Valley State University,” he said. “I’ve always loved being at home, and I think we should always look at the best in our backyard before going somewhere else,” he added.

For Randle, the dedication further proves his point that for MVSU alums, Valley is always home. “You’ll always have a home at Valley State. You can be gone 50 years, but you’ll always have a home,” he said.

Randle resides in Indianola with his wife, Rosie Knox Randle. Together, they have three children, six grandchildren and two great grands.

Be wary of student loan repayment companies

The Mississippi Link Newswire

If you owe money on federal student loans, you should be wary of sales pitches from companies offering to help borrowers lower their payments, KHEAA warns.

Such companies charge fees – sometimes high fees – for filling out forms that you can do for free. Many will want to charge monthly fees for monitoring your loans. Again, you can do that for free.

The best place to start is the servicer that the U.S. Department of Education has assigned your loan to. Your servicer can tell you what your options are and can help you with the forms you need. If you need help finding your servicer, you can go to www.nslds.ed.gov and retrieve your loan information.

You can also go directly to www.ed.gov and click on the link titled “Student loans.” Under that link you’ll find links to detailed information about all of your options.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students’ access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To learn more about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC.

For more information about Advantage Education Loans, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

Willie Benson selected CITS’ chief information officer at ASU

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Center For Information Technology Services (CITS) at Alcorn State University is expanding its team of professionals.

The University selected Willie Benson as CITS’ new chief information officer May 15. His duties include establishing and directing strategic goals, policies and procedures for the center. Benson is also responsible for determining Alcorn’s long-term system needs, directing an information management budget, strategic and tactical planning and business process.

Before his role at Alcorn, Benson served as project manager and information technology security/support manager for the Mississippi Department of Human Services. He is also a former information technology director for the Mississippi Job Corps Center.

Benson earned a doctorate in urban higher education from Jackson State University, a master’s degree in information technology project management from American Intercontinental University and two

bachelor’s degrees in computer science from Jackson State and an information technology degree from American Intercontinental University.

Becoming a chief information officer is a professional goal that Benson always desired. He said that Alcorn is the ideal place for him to shine in his dream position.

“I have always wanted to be in this role,” said Benson. “After earning a doctorate, I felt that with the combination of my technology degrees that Alcorn is an institution that would allow me to be the most beneficial and a great asset. The people here on campus also make me feel like a part of the family.”

Benson hopes to improve the Alcorn experience for everyone through groundbreaking technology.

“My goal is to better serve faculty, staff and student learning through technology. I am a firm believer that technology is the key learning tool that this generation of students desires.”



Benson

Congressional Black Caucus wants marijuana decriminalized

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com



The Congressional Black Caucus has announced its support of decriminalization of marijuana, the centerpiece of the nation's war on drugs that landed thousands of black men and women in prison until states began legalizing it for recreational use when it was openly being used by whites.

The 43-member caucus also said it supports expunging criminal records of individuals arrested for possession of small amounts of the drug.

"Some of the same folks who told African Americans 'three strikes and you're out' when it came to marijuana use and distribution, are now decriminalizing the drug and making a profit off of it," said U.S. Rep. Cedric L. Richmond, chair of the CBC.

Some who will make a profit off of marijuana are black. Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, recently broke ground for a California farm to grow marijuana.

The Congressional Black Caucus announced its position days after Cyrus Vance Jr., the district attorney for Manhattan, N.Y., said his office would decline to prosecute marijuana possession and smoking cases. The district attorney's office said the new policy is expected to reduce marijuana prosecutions from 5,000 a year to approximately 200.

New York's decision follows Seattle's in which the district attorney and the mayor announced in early May plans to vacate convictions and dismiss charges for marijuana possession for men and women prosecuted by law enforcement from 1997 to 2010.

Washington State and Colo-

rado legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2012.

On the same day the Congressional Black Caucus announced its position, President Donald Trump said he would support ending a federal ban on marijuana, putting him at odds with U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, longtime opponent of marijuana possession. Sessions said he did not like members of the Klu Klux Klan because they smoked marijuana.

The use, sale and possession of all forms of cannabis in the United States is illegal under federal law. It was classed as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Under President Barack Obama, states were given leeway in enforcing laws against marijuana.

U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D., N.J.), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, has introduced legislation that would remove marijuana from the list of controlled substances, making pot legal at the federal level.

Certain episodes of "Parts Unknown" hosted by celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain also contributed to the changing attitude about marijuana. Bourdain, a former heroin addict, took his television show, "Parts Unknown," to parts of almost all-white New England to show whites of all ages smoking marijuana and using harder drugs like heroin. (Bourdain was found dead June 8 of an apparent suicide.)

Maine Governor Paul LePage charged, however, that Blacks from New York were bringing drugs into the state.

Before Bourdain, many people were led to believe through the news media, feature films and law enforcement that marijuana use was a problem only among blacks.

The way in which marijuana offenses were prosecuted con-

vinced many people to think that way.

In 2013, the American Civil Liberties Union published "The War on Marijuana in Black and White: Billions of Dollars Wasted on Racially Biased Arrests," which reported that between 2001 and 2010 there were 8 million marijuana arrests. The study also reported that a black person is 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person although blacks and whites use marijuana at similar rates.

The report concludes that the war on marijuana, like the larger war on drugs, which is universally regarded as a failure, has had a staggeringly disproportionate impact on African Americans.

The CBC reports that 40 percent of federally convicted drug offenders are black and 12 percent of drug offenders in the prison population are there for marijuana offenses. The CBC also noted that 14 percent of drug offenders' population is African-American.

Decriminalization of marijuana is not a slam dunk in the black community. In his book "Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America," author James Forman Jr. wrote that some blacks opposed legalization because they saw it as tantamount to giving up on black youth.

The CBC supports rescheduling marijuana from a Schedule 1 controlled substance. In addition, the CBC members want research conducted on the long-term health effects of marijuana. Some early research suggests that heavy marijuana users are at greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease later in life.

Further, the organization wants money spent on the war on drugs allocated instead to rebuild the nation's black neighborhoods.

Wilmer Leon joins Russian-owned Sputnik Radio

By Barrington M. Salmon
TriceEdneyWire.com



May 29, 2018, the life of political scientist Dr. Wilmer J. Leon, III, took what he calls an exciting new turn in his radio career. His show debuted on Russian-owned Sputnik Radio. He'll hold court during the evening drive, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Going forward, he and his guests will discuss a range of issues, mostly of a political nature, five days a week. Given the current political climate, there will be no shortage of topics to unpack, he joked.

But some of Leon's friends and colleagues are not laughing. The fact that he accepted a job at Sputnik – a Russian-owned station – has brought congratulations from some friends and colleagues, as well as concern and consternation from most who know him.

"One of the things I have found very interesting is that as I've told friends of mine about the show – and visiting Iran – they've asked, 'Why you doing that? Man, you better be careful.' Careful of what? Why is it that there are so many of us afraid to reach out to other avenues and venues? he asked. "People say, 'Ooh, you're working for Russian government. Noooo," Leon said. "What Malcolm X and Frantz Fanon understood is that we would have to internationalize our discussions. What I see here is an opportunity to do that."

"We're the radio side of Russia TV. I used to do a lot of RT," he continued. "I found their news to be much, much better than American news. They do their homework and the segments are longer. I used to do MSNBC and CNN. The segments were shorter and it was much more of soundbite dialogue as opposed to analysis and exchange."

Leon said he understands why people are conflicted about his new job and the hysteria surrounding Russia.

"I think there are a number of reasons," he explained. "You take it all the way back to the Cold War and the way the U.S. portrays the Russian government. We were indoctrinated as kids. In Rockie and Bullwinkle, Boris Badenov and Natasha were the bad spies. We as children were taught that he was that voice and character of threat."

Leon's colleague, Garland Nixon, a co-host of Faultlines, agrees.

"I really enjoy it because it's a unique paradigm. Usually the media brings people on or develop fake adversarial situations," said Nixon, a retired law enforcement official at a major law enforcement department in Maryland. "This is not a false paradigm – and we don't have to be in absolute agreement. It is truly amazing how many people



Leon

really love our show. This is very much an anti-status quo, anti-establishment show. I think our country is very much polarized. It would be better to have non-adversarial conversations. The media and political parties are comfortable with where things are. But we would be better served if we had conversation."

Leon is looking forward to a strictly news show.

"My (Mindia Gavasheli) is a true journalist so he wanted more of a news focused show. I'll be focusing on the issue of the day. I'm really, really looking forward to doing this. The structure is definitely making me a better host."

Leon is an author, columnist, lecturer, former professor at Howard University and helms another radio program, #InsideTheIssues on Sirius/XM Channel 126.

Since President Donald Trump took office Jan. 20, 2018, his administration has been embroiled in a FBI-Department of Justice probe led by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III seeking to ascertain if Trump campaign and administration officials colluded with the Kremlin. Mueller is also looking into whether Russians meddled in America's 2016 presidential election.

To date, the investigation into likely links between the Russian officials and the Trump campaign, Mueller has issued more than 100 criminal counts against 19 individuals and three companies. Five of the 19 people are tied to Trump and three have so far pled guilty. The rest are Russians accused of meddling in the election.

Leon pushed back hard against the idea that either he or Sputnik are pawns of Russian President Vladimir Putin. And he disputed the mainstream narrative of events surrounding this issue.

"Throw in the alleged hacking," he said. "I did an interview with Ray McGovern, who is part of an organization called Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. He and his group are resisting this narrative that CIA is always right."

McGovern is a veteran CIA officer turned political activist and co-founder of Veterans Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. He was removed from a Congressional hearing almost two weeks ago while protesting the confirmation of Gina Haspel

as CIA director because of her involvement in torture.

"If we're going to yell and scream about Russia, we can't have an honest conversation without acknowledging that they used our playbook and used computers to make it easier," Leon said.

He spoke of Bill Binney, a prominent intelligence official with the National Security Agency who became a whistleblower and critic of the agency who resigned from the agency in 2001 in protest.

"He was the director of IT for NSA. He is on record explaining that this whole Russia hacking thing is a fraud. He said it's an inside job," said Leon. "He looked at the data and download speeds and said it defies the laws of physics. He said it's physically impossible to have downloaded this volume of information."

"This is a distraction. They have to have a boogie man – like Muammar Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein and others. Trump and his crew are definitely guilty of colluding with Russians and trying to get to win the elections. He's illegitimate because of the Crosshair program and voter suppression. Did the Russians engage in hacking? No, they don't have to hack ..."

Leon said one of his guiding principles that guide him is 'does it make sense?'

"In this case, no," Leon said. "As a political scientist and not political operative, when I listen to the diatribes, isn't America guilty of the same things? Algebric equations have to have balance. If we want to have honest argument and assessment of the information, America did the same thing. They would go to newspapers and buy off reporters. They created the landscape by planting false stories. Kermit Roosevelt and Gen. Norman Swartzkopf's father. America did the same thing in Panama, Ecuador, Iran and Chile."

Leon said he's proud of being looked at and invited to be a part of the Sputnik Radio team. He joins Nixon, Eugene Puryear and Sean Blackman as hosts or co-hosts.

"This is bigger than me. Why is Sputnik reaching out to so many brothers who aren't Paris Dennard, Michael Steele, and Armstrong Williams?" he asked. "Black people are running scared. The questions we have to ask ourselves as African Americans is if we're going to limit our perspectives and solutions within the context of our oppressors or seek solutions where ever we find them."

"We are so desiring to be liked that we have no interest in being respected and we damn sure don't want to feared. We are so focused on being American, whatever that means. We have spent so much time developing the near position, as (veteran Civil Rights activist) Tom Porter describes it. We want to be near positions of power but don't want power itself."



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Black men share their lessons from fatherhood

By Kenae Damon
TriceEdneyWire.com

Educator, author and speaker, Jawanza Kanjufu, says, “We encourage every man to be a responsible father. There has never been a time when we did not need our fathers.”

As Father’s Day rolls around we reflect on the brothers, uncles, cousins and friends who have become dads over the years and vowed to take care of their children. In interviews this week, we talked to black men on their perspectives on fatherhood, what they want their children to learn from them and the most essential lessons they learned from their own Dads.

Howard John Wesley, 42, is a born and raised native of Chicago. He moved to Washington D.C. to become the pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite his service to his nearly 10-member congregation and to the community, it is fathering his sons that’s among his greatest callings.

Wesley is a father of two young boys, 13 and 6. “Being a father is one of the best roles I have; it is an honor to raise my two sons and no matter how try-



Howard John Wesley and his sons

ing being a dad may be sometimes, I always do my best to remember that,” Wesley said.

Charles Reyes, 43, is an assistant principal of a high school in Philadelphia. He has been a father for 19 years and is

proud of his five kids. He grew up in a two-parent home and had a close and personal relationship with his father. Reyes appreciates his father for setting the tone and being a strong man of the household. When asked

how his relationship with his father affected his personal relationship with his kids he said, “I am the kind of father I am today because of the sacrifices my father made for me years ago.”

Also, from Philadelphia, Wade Gordon, 55, has been a father for 31 years and is a father of two adults children. His father passed away when he was very young, but he has amazing memories of him. On this upcoming Father’s Day, his advice to all the fathers is to “always cherish the time you have with your kids because you never know when that time will be no longer. I always do my best to be extremely proactive in my kids’ lives.”

Three fathers in particular stood out the most in interviews. They are Cortez Holland, 23, Tracy Garrett, 56, and Kirk Riley, 51. All three of these dads experienced unique and traumatizing situations with their children.

Holland had his 5-year-old daughter when he was just a teenager. He says nothing was planned. But his daughter has become his world.

“Having a daughter at a young age forced me to grow

up and I would be lying if I said it wasn’t a wakeup call for me and her mother.” He and the mother didn’t always get along at first and with both being very young, raising a child was a struggle. He said his relationship with his father was not the best because his father was not around. But that only encouraged him to be the opposite.

Tracy Garrett, on the other hand, had a pretty good relationship with his father and says he has an outstanding relationship with his son. He always pushed his son to follow his dreams and when asked what important lesson he wants his son to always remember, it is to never let anyone stop you from your success. Garrett’s father has always been an advocate for higher education so when his own son received an acceptance letter from Howard University he was thrilled. A year into his son’s college career he became aware that his son’s GPA had dropped severely and that he could no longer attend school.

His son being a college dropout definitely put a strain on their relationship. But Garrett now looks at it as an unexpected blessing. He said the situa-

tion forced him to be less hard on his son and through it all, he discovered his son’s hidden love for music. His son, Trey, enrolled in classes at a community college and now Garrett is working hard to pay for his sons’ music lessons.

And then there’s Kirk Riley, born and raised in New York City. Riley is a father of four and recently experienced one of the most heart-breaking stories a parent can go through. A few months ago, his 21-year-old daughter, Joy Riley, was in a terrible car accident where her entire body went through the front windshield and she was hospitalized for three months.

“When I got the call, my heart dropped. Me and her mother co-parent and we are no longer together. But this accident brought the entire family together. I called her mother up and she was on the next bus to New York. I prayed every hour – night and day – and I never left her bed side. Now that she is healed I hope and pray if she learned nothing else from me as her father, she knows the power of prayer and her relationship with God is greater than all.”

Lawsuit filed to block Obama Presidential Center in Chicago

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Days before the Chicago Plan Commission approved plans for the Obama Presidential Center, a federal lawsuit was filed to block the proposed \$500 million facility that will be built in Jackson Park.

The 500-acre park is located in Chicago’s predominately black Woodlawn and South Shore neighborhoods, where former First Lady Michelle Obama, rapper Kanye West and some of the nation’s most prominent blacks once lived.

On May 17, the Chicago Plan Commission unanimously approved the blueprints for the Obama Presidential Center, despite emotional appeals from protestors who are concerned that the library will eventually drive up rents in the neighborhoods and force out longtime, low-income residents. The plans now go before the city’s 50-member city council. While those plans are expected to pass that stage, the Obama Foundation faces a lawsuit that may be its biggest hurdle yet.

The lawsuit was filed May 14 by “Protect Our Parks,” a nonprofit organization that seeks a court order to “bar the park district and the city from approving the building of the presidential center and from conveying any interest in or control of the Jackson Park site to the foundation.”

In its complaint, Protect Our Parks accuses the Chicago Park District of an “institutional bait and switch.” The organization said the park district transferred public land to the Obama Foundation to house an official federal Obama library. But that purpose changed when Obama decided his center will not be his official library. Instead, the Federal National Records and Archives Administration will run it in another location. In the lawsuit, Protect Our Parks called Chicago’s plan to lease public park space an “illegal land grab.”

The organization also said the transfer of park land to a non-governmental private entity violates the park district code. In addition, Protect Our Parks said the park district and the city will receive only token rent for the land and the Park District Act law “does not authorize the park district itself to transfer valuable public trust land for virtually no compensatory return.”

Protect Our Parks says that city officials are “prohibited by law” from turning over public park land to a non-governmental private entity for



A rendition of proposed Obama Presidential Center in Chicago's black neighborhood

private use.

At a meeting May 17, the commission was expected to take up a resolution authorizing a long-term ground lease for 19.3 acres in Jackson Park from the city to the Obama Foundation. In March 2015, Chicago’s city council approved an ordinance for Chicago Park District land in Jackson Park to be transferred to the city of Chicago to lease to the Obama Foundation.

Protect Our Parks’ lawsuit may force planning officials to rewrite the ordinance.

Protect Our Parks is being represented by Roth Fioretti, a former Chicago alderman who challenged Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2015 before endorsing Emanuel in the run-off. More recently, Fioretti was defeated in a March Democratic primary bid for Cook County Board president.

In an emailed statement, Emanuel’s mayoral spokesman Grant Klinzman said, “The Obama Presidential Center is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest hundreds of millions of dollars that will create good jobs on the South Side, bring our communities together and honor the legacy of Chicago’s favorite son and daughter. While some choose to stand in the way of progress for the South Side, we are focused on making progress in every community in Chicago.”

But later that day, Emanuel, at an event, called the lawsuit frivolous and said that the “notion that somehow this is not a presidential library, because the actual papers will be in New York ... to me not only is frivolous, but means the people that filed this don’t understand the 21st cen-

tury,” he added. “The good news is, the presidential papers will be in two places but there will be only one library, here in Chicago.”

Emanuel said that the papers will be digitized.

Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Friends of the Parks also released a statement saying officials with the group welcome the Obama Center to the South Side “but disagree with the choice to locate it on public parkland, rather than vacant land across the street from Washington Park.”

“While we are not involved with this lawsuit in any way, it is an indication of the fact the Friends of the Parks is not alone in our concern about Chicago’s parks being seen as sites for real estate development,” Irizarry said.

Plans have not gone smoothly for the library since Obama announced that Jackson Park will be the location of his library in 2016. Residents in Woodlawn and South Shore have held numerous protests demanding that the Obama Foundation sign a community benefits agreement as concerns of neighborhood gentrification and rising rents continue to grow. Despite their concerns, Obama has said that a community benefits agreement is not necessary, because his library is an automatic benefit to the neighborhoods.

This article was originally published in The Chicago Crusader, a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

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Supreme Court rules Ohio voter purges are legal

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In a 5-4 decision Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Ohio can resume its purge of infrequent voters from its rolls. The decision is expected to have a devastating effect on the state’s black voters and it could get even worse when the ruling is adopted by other states with midterm elections on the horizon.

Since 2011, Ohio, a bellwether state, has purged more than two million voters, a greater number than any other state, and black voters are two times more likely than whites to be kicked off voter rolls in the state’s largest counties, reports the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which filed an amicus brief with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights & Human Rights and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, a San Francisco-based law firm.

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund blasted the ruling. “Today’s decision is an insult to our democracy,” said Samuel Spital, LDF’s director of litigation. “Federal law makes clear that no voter should be purged from the state’s voter roles unless there is reliable evidence that the voter has moved or is otherwise ineligible to vote.”

Spital was referring to the National Voter Registration Act of (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), enacted to prohibit state and local governments from purging voting rolls based solely on the fact that a person has not voted.

Under Ohio’s “Supplemental Process” the state mails a notice to individuals who haven’t voted in two years. If the person does not take steps to confirm his or her vote status and has not voted in four years, the state removes the person from the voter roles, according to LDF.

It is not known how many people just throw the mailings into the garbage or don’t open their mail.

Ohio’s Supplemental Process is not a reasonable measure to maintain accurate voting rolls by identifying and removing ineligible voters, The League of Women Voters of Ohio wrote in an amicus brief. Only five outlier states remove voters from the rolls for not voting, but none as aggressive as Ohio, The League said in its filing. The other states are: Oklahoma, Georgia, Oregon, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The court’s decision came in *Husted v A. Phillip Randolph Institute.*, which reversed a decision by the Sixth Court of Appeals. The court ruled that the law violated the Failure-to-Vote Clause – the clause that generally prohibits states from removing people from the rolls “by reason of [a] person’s failure to



vote.” The case was filed by a voter who lived at the same address 16 years and was removed from Ohio’s voter rolls.

Republican Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted argued the purge of infrequent voters helps to clean up voter rolls. Ohio’s policy, with the blessing of the U.S. Supreme Court, now can be used as a model by other states, Husted said.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said the ruling could disenfranchise millions of voters across the country.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the Court’s Conservative majority, said the Court was not deciding whether Ohio’s policy “is the ideal method for keeping its voting rolls up to date. The only question before us is whether it violates federal law. It does not.” Associate Justice Clarence Thomas filed a concurring opinion.

Justice Stephen Breyer filed a dissenting opinion, in which Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined. Sotomayor filed a dissenting opinion, according to SCOTUSblog Coverage.

Sotomayor said the ruling ignores the history of voter suppression which was why the NVRA was enacted.

“Congress enacted the NVRA against the backdrop of substantial efforts by states to disenfranchise low-income and minority voters, including programs that purged eligible voters from registration lists because they failed to vote in prior elections,” Sotomayor said.

The voter purges have had a devastating effect on Ohio’s black voters. In 2015 alone more than 40,000 voters were purged from Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which has a significant racial minority population, creating an additional barrier for people of color to exercise their right to vote. Cleveland is the largest city in Cuyahoga County.

After today’s ruling, voting rights advocates said they will develop a new strategy to block Ohio’s voter purges.

Staying true to the end

PART 1

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



First John 3:1 states, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.”

Christian friend, you must have the determination in your heart and soul that you are going to win this Christian race no matter what situation comes your way. The devil is real. He is not a character in a fairy tale or a make-believe story. He is causing many people to give up living for Jesus. That is the reason you must keep your eyes on Jesus. The devil does not have to use something big to cause you to quit serving God. He will use a little thing if he can get you to think about it so much that it keeps your mind off Jesus.

As saints of God, we each have a job to do. There are no big “I’s” or little “Yous” in the true church of the Living God. God has a work for each of us to do. Ephesians

4:16 reads, “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” God wants His people to be together. He does not accept division. He never has and He never will. The enemy works on the weak ones, and he will do anything he can to change their ideas.

God’s Word has been and always will be the same; it never wavers or changes. Roman 16:17 says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” You should not show a wrong attitude toward them, but the Bible says to avoid them.

Friends, how do you see Jesus? Have you been guilty of things that might put a shadow over His presence in your life? You cannot blame others for your own actions. Today, many people do not want to take responsibility for what they do. Nevertheless, everyone is responsible of his or

her own actions. Either you believe God’s Word or you do not. Unbelief is saying that God is not in control and that God cannot do something. If you allow unbelief to work, you will harden your heart, and that will lead to spiritual death. Friend, you must have Jesus Christ in your life.

Too many people want to follow a group of people. You need to ask yourself these questions: “Is that group led by the Holy Spirit?” A spirit might lead them, but is it God’s spirit? “Do the people act as Jesus would act or do they lean more toward worldly principles?”

If you receive more light on the Word of God, you will look and act more like Jesus. The enemy knows who he can work on and who he can work through. None of us is immune to the devil’s tactics. Second Corinthians 2:11 reads, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” You should be wary, saints. The devil’s job is to get your eyes off Jesus, and your job is to keep your eyes on Jesus.

This is not a time to look for a church where they do not follow the Bible standard.

P R E S E R V E D

Spiritual PTSD: Strength after the battle

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



This week, we conclude our look at Spiritual PTSD – Purpose, Strength, Trust and Discernment by exploring how they work together to strengthen us after we experience spiritual warfare.

Just like those who have experienced the trauma of a real-life battle, one of the most important steps after a spiritual warfare battle is to focus not on what we’ve just experienced but rather on what is to come. The challenge with this is that often the PTSD sufferer is reminded at unplanned times of the trauma which makes it hard to remain hopeful and focused.

Sometimes, it can be a word, a person or a similar scenario that reminds us of the experience, or worse, has us relive the worst of the trauma. Rather than focus on the lingering effects of the trauma, we should try to develop the coping skills that will help us manage the unpredictable emotional triggers.

When it comes to spiritual warfare, it is important to develop the coping skills necessary to move forward and not get stuck in the emotional aftermath of spiritual warfare: regret, bitterness, confusion or anger. Managing our spiritual warfare PTSD effectively can have some positive results.

Purpose – We are reminded of God’s purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 says “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. God’s purpose is made clearer after the battle. Why? When we’ve had a life threatening or altering experi-

ence, we are better able to prioritize and not focus on the things (and people) that don’t matter anymore.


Trust – We are restored by trusting in God. Proverbs 3:5, 6 reminds us to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Relying on God’s wisdom and trusting in God is key to remaining in His will and staying focused on his purpose for our lives.

Strength – We are renewed by God’s strength. 2 Corinthians 12:9 explains that God’s grace is sufficient for us because His “strength is made perfect in weakness.” The weakness that is the result of warfare can be debilitating but we can rely on God more during times that we feel spiritually, emotionally and physically weakest.

Discernment – We are protected by discernment. 1 John 4:1 says that we should “Test the spirit by the spirit. By using our spiritual discernment, we can then avoid getting into uncomfortable and inappropriate situations. Discernment can also help us.

Spiritual warfare is designed to keep believers distracted by the intensity of the battle and not on the fact that we’ve won through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Knowing how to manage spiritual warfare PTSD (Purpose, Strength, Trust and Discernment) will ultimately give us hope and a renewed trust in God’s unconditional love.

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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Witnessing an assassination

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



If you’ve ever witnessed an assassination or been in the vicinity of any kind of killing, it’s not something you’ll ever forget. I shudder when I think about all the killings some of our young children witness in our community and the impact killing a human being has on our children.

I know how brutal it was for me as an adult to be in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Robert Kennedy was assassinated. When I say brutal, that’s an understatement.

June 4, 1968, Primary Day in California for Presidential candidates we had witnessed a beautiful day in Southern California – in Los Angeles in particular. While still reeling from Dr. MLK’s death, we were trying to regroup and the energy and great expectations coming from then Senator Robert Kennedy in his race made us begin to believe again that good things would happen. Little did we know what we were about to witness.

Some of my friends and I had been out campaigning for Kennedy. We’d been asked to cover neighborhoods near the Ambassador Hotel. Our enthusiasm for our candidate was high. We worked until nearly dark, then came over to the hotel.

A lot of us were sitting out on the lawn on the grass singing and happily anticipating the results of the primary. We were so sure of victory, and after Dr. King and JFK’s assassinations, Bobby was our next best hope. Bobby had come out against the war in Viet Nam and that was such a joy because many of us had already lost friends and relatives in that war and just wanted it to be over.

As we sat on the grass, we were singing songs like, “This land is my land; this land is your land; from California to the New York island. From the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters. This land was made for you and me.” And we were having a great time anticipating what we believed was about to happen.

At dark, we came inside the hotel. Dr. Louise White and I didn’t go directly to the ballroom where Bobby was to give his victory speech. We were sitting outside the ballroom with Pierre Salinger and others. When Bobby arrived, we went to the ballroom to hear him. The place was packed so we were far back in the room when the shots rang out as Bobby was leaving the hotel. At first, we thought it was celebratory balloons – then the announcement came that Bobby had been shot. On this 50th Anniversary of his assassination, I still feel the shock of that night.

Bobby didn’t die right away, but in the next few hours, our hearts broke because the news coming to us didn’t sound good. This was like the end of hope for a better America and for an end to the war in Viet Nam.

We were demoralized, and we were glued to the television for the next 20 plus hours, hoping that the word “vegetable” which is how news people were describing Bobby were not true. It couldn’t be true—not again. We were praying that some miracle would bring Bobby back.

Sadly, no miracle happened and we were devastated. We were numb for a very long time. We remembered him as one who saw wrong and tried to right it. We never forgot how he consoled us when Dr. King was assassinated. Now he was gone. In such a short time, we lost Medgar, Malcolm, JFK, MLK, then Bobby. We wondered how much more we could endure. Ultimately more leaders emerged. We’re waiting for some of them to lead.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM Radio. www.nationalcongressbw.org. 202 678-6788.

Advice to graduates: Pursue a PhD in common sense

By Marc H. Morial
*President and CEO
 National Urban League*



This time of year brings great pride and congratulations for graduates at all levels, from high school to doctorates. But the most important degree I can recommend is a PhD in common sense, with a concentration in thriving and surviving in 21st-Century America.

Common sense is genius wrapped in work clothes. And to achieve it, we must learn four lessons.

Lesson one: Don’t ever forget from whence you came. Along the long journey of life, one need only recognize that as graduates of 2018, you’re standing on the shoulders of those who came before. As you celebrate your success after many years of hard work, financial sacrifice, long nights – in many cases working and going to school at the same time – there are many out there from your hometowns and neighborhoods, maybe in your own family, who will not have the opportunities you have today.

This nation has too many children who are born into and grow up in poverty. This nation has a problem of mass incarceration. This nation still has too much gun violence. To whom much is given, much is expected, demanded and required. Go back to your high school, to your community, to the

young people and let them see your success. Let them hear your story. Let them understand what you had to do to get to today.

Lesson two: Pursue excellence in every instance. It is still an unfortunate fact that to be black, you’ve got to be better. Your grandmother and mother will tell you that time and again. But you can be the best. Say no to mediocrity. Say no to half-stepping. Say no to foot-dragging. Be excellent. And remember, excellence is not perfection. No one is perfect. What excellence means is the pursuit of perfection and the faith that in all of our endeavors, you have given everything that God has given you to accomplish to achieve and to pursue your goals and your dreams.

Lesson three: In this nation today, racism is real. But you are not going to let racism break your spirit. Whether it’s Starbucks or Waffle House. Whether it’s Trayvon Martin or Michael Brown or Eric Garner. Whether it’s a student taking a nap from studying too hard in a student lounge at Yale University. Implicit and explicit bias is still a part of American life. It’s in the criminal justice system, where people of color who serve longer sentences than white men who commit same crimes. It’s in the scourge of hate crimes that have spiked over the last two years. It’s in the leaders talking about building walls when we should be talking about building bridges.

Racism is real. But you’re not going to let it break your spirit. Frederick Douglass didn’t let racism break his spirit, and he didn’t let Lincoln’s hand shake when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Racism didn’t break the spirit of Harriet Tubman, who carried members of her family through the back woods on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, time and time again, to freedom. Racism didn’t break the spirit of Thurgood Marshall in 1954 when he persuaded the Supreme Court to declare unanimously that that school segregation is unconstitutional. Racism didn’t break the spirit of Booker T. Washington or W.E.B. DuBois. Remember that Rosa sat so Martin could march, so Barack could run; and Barack won so you can soar.

Finally, America respects economic power and political power. Now that you have a college degree, it’s time for you to build your assets. Building assets means investing in things that appreciate in value. Yes, you need a car but even the fanciest car doesn’t appreciate in value. Fancy handbags and fancy shoes don’t appreciate in value. Glam and glitter do not appreciate in value. Real estate does. Stock portfolios do.

I know many of you are saddled with student loan debt. But don’t ever think any dime you invested in yourself was a dime wasted. If it is within your vision for yourself and the skill set that God has given you,

build a business. Hire more people. Grow that business and sell that business and build a new business. Economic power is what we need.

This nation understands political power. We shirk our duty and our responsibility when an election comes and we don’t vote. We surrender our power to others when an election comes and we don’t vote. We need to send a message to the people who lead this country that we do not want a divided America. We do not want an America of walls; we want an America of bridges. We do not want an America of hate; we want an America of cooperation and an America of love. We want an America where everyone, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, orientation or national origin is respected and honored as one of God’s children. That’s the America we want.

Of all the honors I’ve been humbled to receive in my life, and all the things I’ve learned from attending great institutions, the most important degree I got is the PhD in common sense I got from my mama. It came from these four lessons: Remember from whence you came. Pursue excellence. Racism is real but will not defeat us. And America respects economic power and political power and while we do not worship it, and we will build it each and every day of our lives.

Congratulations to the class of 2018.

The employment situation is improving, so why aren’t workers dancing?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The most recent unemployment rate report seems to contain nothing but good news. The overall unemployment rate is down to 3.8 percent, the lowest that it has been since 2000. The black unemployment rate, at 5.9 percent, is lower than it has ever been. With the white unemployment rate at 3.5 percent, the ratio between black and white unemployment, usually stuck at around 2, is below 1.7 percent, a historic low.

While it is risky to make conclusions about black unemployment, given month-to-month fluctuations (the last time 45 crowed about low black unemployment rates in January, the number shot back up the following month by nearly a full percentage point), it is clear that the employment situation for African Americans has improved in the 500 or so days since 45 took office.

To be sure, much of the improvement in the labor market can be attributed to the Obama recovery. President Obama put everything in place to ensure that the labor market improved. Still, it would be

churlish to deny that some 45-inspired policies may have improved the employment situation. With economic growth nearing 3 percent, and with business confidence stable, more than 220,000 new jobs were created in May. Tax cuts have encouraged businesses to add employees. The fact that wages have increased by more than 2 percent suggests some slight tightening in the labor market. Good news, right? So why aren’t workers dancing?

Black teens have hardly any reason to dance. Although the unemployment rate among black teenagers dropped nearly ten percentage points, from 29 percent to 19.6 percent, a big part of this drop is contained in the fact that fewer teens are either working or looking for work. A year ago, there were 788,000 black teens in the labor market, but the number had dropped to 681,000 last month. Thus, fewer teens were working last month (547,000) than a year ago (579,000).

Even though many teens have dropped out of the labor market because they don’t think they can find work, it is likely that more will look for work this summer. It is extremely unlikely that the lower

unemployment rate for teens will sustain through the summer unless businesses are strongly motivated to hire part-time and temporary workers this summer.

Teens have no reason to dance, but what about the rest of us? The unemployment rate for black women is at an amazing low of 4.7 percent, more than two full percentage points lower than a year ago. The labor force participation of black women is down slightly – there are about as many black women in the labor force now as a year ago, despite population growth. Additionally, 45’s threats to cut the federal workforce, not yet substantially realized, will have a disproportionate effect on black women, since about 20 percent of all black women work for the federal government. If you combine this with the threats to the social safety net, not yet realized, but anticipated, one can understand why few are dancing, even though the growth music is playing.

After having passed massive tax cuts that will only increase the deficit, House Republicans are talking about budgetary “clawbacks.” Just this week, they have discussed cutting the food stamps by requiring more work of those who receive SNAP funding (a sizeable portion

of SNAP recipients work but earn so little that they qualify for food assistance) and frozen some unspent funds from the child health program. House Speaker Paul Ryan, in his few remaining months in leadership, has pledged “entitlement reform” including Medicaid and Social Security cuts. Even with lower unemployment and modest wage growth, these “entitlement reforms” bode ill for many workers.

Many would suggest that we simply celebrate the good news – lower unemployment rates and more new jobs are certainly worth noting. But some of the gains are shaky, not solid. Some are a function of people dropping out of the labor market. And some people’s economic condition will not improve, especially with anticipated policy changes. While aggregate numbers look great, some people aren’t dancing because they haven’t been invited to the party.

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

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District Court enters permanent injunction against mississippi compounding pharmacy

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi entered a consent decree of permanent injunction against defendants Delta Pharma, Inc. (Delta Pharma), its president, Dr. Tommy T. Simpson, and its vice president and Pharmacist in Charge, Charles Michael Harrison, to prevent the distribution of adulterated drugs in violation of federal law, the Department of Justice announced recently.

The entered permanent injunction stems from a complaint the department filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi June 4, 2018, at the request of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The complaint alleged, among other things, that the defendants distributed adulterated drugs in interstate commerce.

As part of the permanent injunction, defendants are enjoined from manufacturing, holding, or distributing any

drugs manufactured from their facility unless they comply with specific remedial measures. Those measures include submitting a plan to FDA, which will provide for an independent expert to conduct inspection(s) of defendants' facility and ensuring that defendants implement all recommended corrective actions. In addition, the defendants must report to FDA the actions they have taken to correct all insanitary conditions and deviations from current good manufacturing practice brought to their attention by the FDA or defendants' expert.

The permanent injunction provides that defendants cannot resume manufacturing, holding and distributing such drugs until FDA notifies them in writing that they appear to be in compliance with the ordered remedial measures.

"Compounding pharmacies have a responsibility to ensure that they process and

label drugs in a manner that ensures the safety and quality of such drugs," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad A. Readler of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The Department of Justice will continue to work with FDA to ensure that doctors and patients can rely on the drug safety protections in federal law."

"The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act is designed to protect the American people," said U.S. Attorney William C. Lamar for the Northern District of Mississippi. "This civil action demonstrates our commitment to enforce laws designed to protect the health and safety of the American public."

According to the complaint filed by the Department, defendants' drugs were adulterated because they were prepared, packed or held under insanitary conditions whereby they may have been contaminated or may have been rendered injurious

to health. The complaint also alleged that defendants' drugs were adulterated because defendants failed to comply with current good manufacturing practice requirements.

FDA conducted an inspection of Delta Pharma in February 2017. According to the complaint, FDA investigators observed and documented numerous insanitary conditions, including the use of fifty-foot-long tubing to process purportedly sterile drugs, without determining whether the procedures for sterilizing the tubing are effective or assessing the tubing's compatibility with the drug products to ensure that chemicals or particulates from the tubing do not leach, interact or otherwise contaminate such drug products.

In addition, the complaint alleges that during the 2017 inspection, FDA documented numerous deviations from current good manufacturing prac-

tice requirements for drugs, including defendants' failure to establish and follow appropriate written procedures that are designed to prevent microbiological contamination of drug products purporting to be sterile. According to the complaint, the FDA also documented that defendants failed to thoroughly review and investigate any unexplained discrepancy or the failure of a batch or any of its components to meet any of its specifications; and failed to establish an adequate quality control unit that has the responsibility and authority to approve or reject all components, drug product containers, closures, in-process materials, packaging material, labeling and drug products, and has the authority to investigate any errors that may have occurred.

The consent decree of permanent injunction also resolved allegations in the complaint filed by the department that the de-

fendants distributed misbranded and unapproved new drugs in violation of the federal Food and Cosmetic Act.

The government is represented by Trial Attorney Joshua D. Rothman of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch and Assistant U.S. Attorney John Gough of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Mississippi, with the assistance of Associate Chief Counsel Laura Akowuah of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of General Counsel's Food and Drug Division.

Additional information about the Consumer Protection Branch and its enforcement efforts may be found at <http://www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch>.

For more information about the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Mississippi, visit its website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndms>.

Canton, MS 2018 Juneteenth Celebration

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Pine Grove Association will host its Juneteenth Celebration in Canton, MS, Saturday, June 16, 2018 to honor 153 years of freedom. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated remembrance of the ending of slavery in the United States.

The celebration derives its name from the Proclamation received June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, that all slaves were free. In memory of this momentous occasion, Juneteenth marks that day

with festivities to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African-American history and culture.

The Juneteenth events will include a 5K run/walk, health fair, gospel choirs, spoken word, musical entertainment, community forum, vendors, youth challenge and children activities. The celebration will take place on Hickory Street in Canton. The event is free and open to the public.

The Juneteenth Celebration will begin with a 5K run/walk at 7:30 a.m. The regis-

tration fee for the 5K is \$25 per person. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread Ministries. All other activities are free. Activities and fun will not end until 6 p.m. The community is invited to bring their lawn chairs and tents and enjoy a day of celebrating.

Sponsorships and vendors are accepted.

For more information about the celebration and to become a sponsor or a vendor, please visit our website: www.cantonjuneteenth.com. Also, follow us on Facebook.

Hinds County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council formed

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Hinds County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has begun work to bring about improvements in the criminal justice system.

The mission of the CJCC is to enhance public safety and heighten public trust by improving the Hinds County adult and juvenile justice systems through interagency collaboration and the coordination of cohesive policies and programs driven by research, innovation and fiscal responsibility, according to by-laws adopted March 1.

The CJCC is made up of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement and city and county government officials. The CJCC was formed by criminal justice leaders in Hinds County to make recommendations to elected and appointed officials.

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted to formally recognize the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council May 21.

"It leverages the resources and expertise from participating agencies and departments to address systemic public safety challenges that no one agency can do alone. CJCC members commit themselves to identifying issues and their solutions, proposing actions and facilitating cooperation that will improve public safety, align resources and coordinate delivery of justice-related services," CJCC bylaws state.

The formation of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was mandated in the July

2016 settlement agreement in a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against Hinds County, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors and the Hinds County Sheriff. The case is 3:16cv489 WHB-JCG, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Five work groups have been formed to address behavioral health, case processing, jail population management, prisoner reentry and juvenile justice.

The council, which meets bi-monthly, selected Senior Circuit Judge Tomie Green and Hinds County Administrator Carmen Davis as co-chairpersons. The council is made up of 19 voting members. Voting members are:

- Hinds County Circuit Court Senior Judge;
- Hinds County Chancery Court Senior Judge;
- Hinds County Court Senior Criminal Judge;
- Hinds County Youth Court Judge;
- Hinds County Justice Court Senior Judge;
- Jackson Municipal Court Senior Judge;
- Hinds County District Attorney;
- Hinds County Attorney;
- Hinds County Sheriff;
- Hinds County Administrator;
- Jackson Mayor;
- Jackson Police Chief;
- Jackson City Prosecutor;
- Hinds County Public Defender;
- Hinds County Detention

Center Warden;

- Hinds County Juvenile Justice Center Director;
 - Hinds County Behavioral Health Director;
 - A representative of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors;
 - A representative of the Jackson City Council.
- Associate members who may participate but not vote include:
- Mississippi Department of Community Corrections Director, Region II;
 - Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Youth Services Director;
 - Hinds County Circuit Clerk;
 - Attorney to the Board of Supervisors;
 - A representative of the Hinds County private defense bar;
 - A representative of the Hinds County community;
 - Any Circuit, Chancery, County, Justice, Municipal or Drug Court Judge from Hinds County;
 - Any Hinds County Court Administrator;
 - Any mayor from within Hinds County;
 - Any municipal police chief from within Hinds County;
 - Any municipal prosecutor from within Hinds County;
 - Any municipal public defender from within Hinds County.

For more information, contact Hinds County Administrator Carmen Davis at cdavis@co.hinds.ms.us or Board Attorney Pieter Teeuwissen at pteeuwissen@co.hinds.ms.us.



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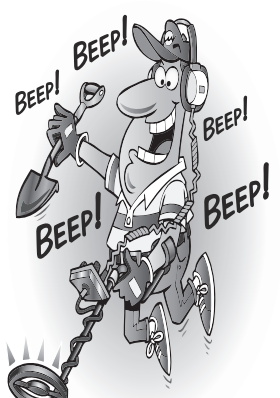
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MPB's free Summer Learning Family Fun Day set for June 30 at Jackson Convention Complex

Winners of MPB Kids Club

Writers contest to be announced

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Free, family fun awaits children during Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Summer Learning Family Fun Day set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 30 at the Jackson Convention Complex.

For five years, MPB has held the event to highlight National Summer Learning Day initiatives that keep kids learning and prevent academic loss while school is out.

"One way to combat that loss is to engage in events as a family while learning in fun ways, and MPB's Summer Learning Family Fun Day presents the perfect opportunity to do just that," said MPB's Director of Early Childhood Education Shelia Brown-Robinson.

"Super Reader, Super Fun" is the theme of MPB's event this year. Kids will get to meet PBS and MPB characters, such as Ed Said, The Cat in The Hat, Clifford and Arthur.

Families can expect hands-on learning activities, summer reading resources for parents, free books for kids, face painting, live shows and entertainment with Shawn Brown's Super Fun Show.

The winners of MPB's Kids Club Writers Contest will be announced. Several children from

across the state in grades K-5 submitted their stories for the contest, which ended in April.

Participating vendors include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, which is also a sponsor; Mississippi Children's Museum, Little Gym of Jackson, Mississippi Natural Science Museum, The Jackson Zoo, United Way of The Capital Area, Springboard to Opportunities and the Mississippi Association of Educators.

To support The Great American Read, a national PBS campaign underway encouraging people to fall in love with reading again, every vendor has chosen a book to highlight.

Last year, more than 2,000 kids participated in MPB's Summer Learning Family Fun Day. Register for this free event at www.mpbonline.org/summerlearning/.

This project is funded by a Ready To Learn grant provided by the Department of Education to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The contents of this document were developed under a cooperative agreement #PRU295A150003, from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education,

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Mississippi Public Broadcasting provides relevant instructional and public affairs programming to Mississippians through its statewide television and radio network.

MPB enhances the work of educators, students, parents and learners of all ages by providing informative programming and educational resources. MPB's locally produced programming focuses on the people, resources and attractions that reflect Mississippi's unique culture and diverse heritage. Children's television programs constitute a major portion of the daytime and weekend morning schedules.

MPB provides a valuable resource to Mississippians in disseminating information as part of the state's emergency preparedness and response system.

Since 1970, MPB has won over 350 national, regional and statewide awards, including Emmy®, Edward R. Murrow and Parents' Choice® Awards.

For more information on MPB visit, www.mpbonline.org.

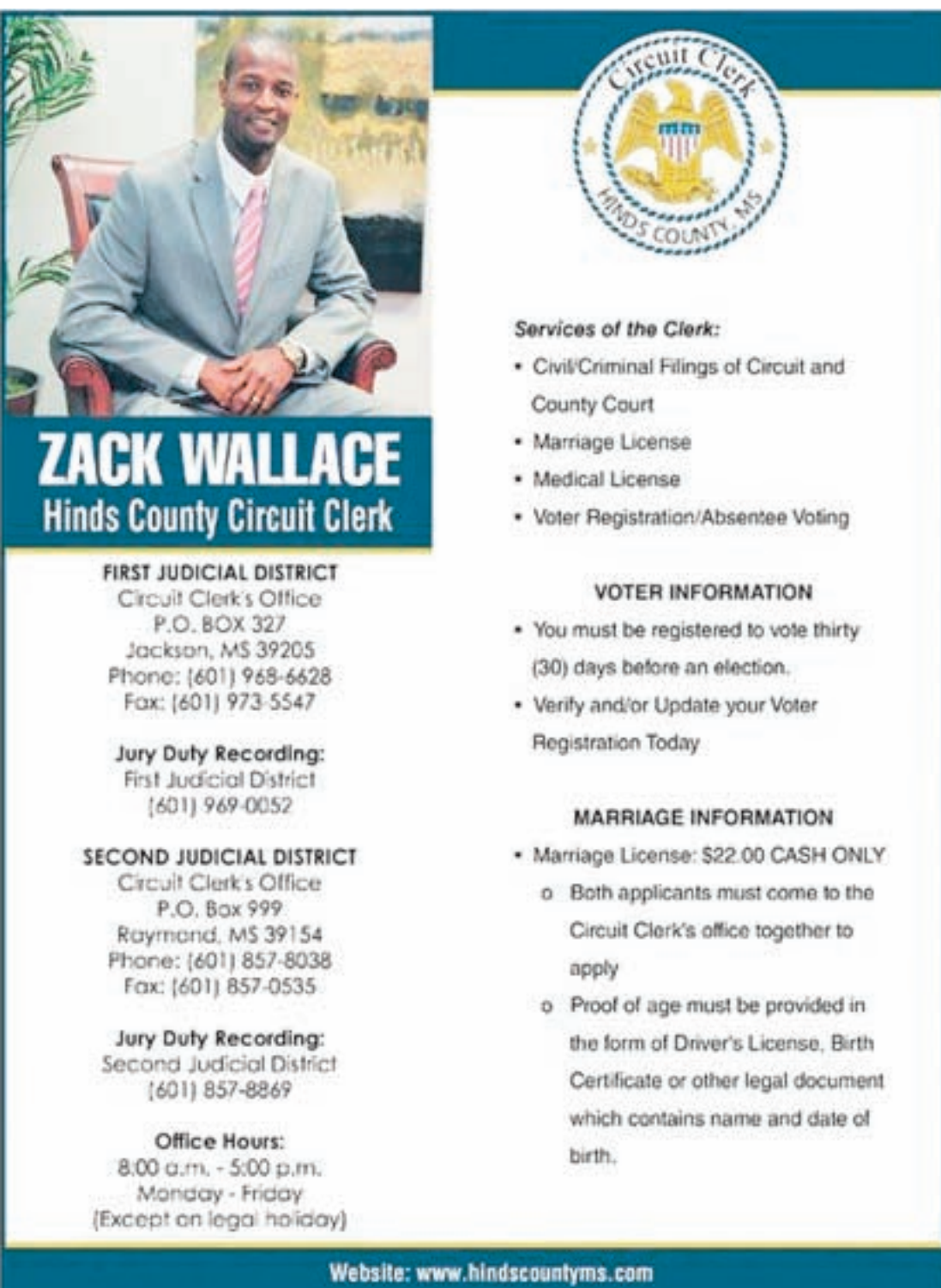
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FILM REVIEW: “OCEAN’S 8” DAME GANG HATCHES PLAN TO PURLOIN PRICELESS DIAMOND NECKLACE IN DELIGHTFUL SPINOFF OF CRIME CAPER FRANCHISE!

By Kam Williams
Columnist

The original Ocean’s 11 (1960) starred Frank Sinatra and a tight-knit cadre of fellow Las Vegas headliners affectionately dubbed the Rat Pack by the press. The bawdy band of brothers was famous for partying and making impromptu appearances at each other’s shows on The Strip. They even shot the movie right there in Vegas so they could continue working.

That buddy flick was remade in 2001 with George Clooney starring as Danny Ocean alongside ten of this millennium’s matinee

idols. The story was again set in Vegas and also revolved around an elaborate casino heist. The picture was such a hit it spawned a couple of successful sequels, Ocean’s Twelve (2004) and Thirteen (2007).

Ocean’s 8 may trade on the Ocean name, but this novel spinoff represents a refreshing departure for the testosterone-fueled franchise. Besides featuring an all-female gang, the film is set a world away from gaudy Las Vegas amidst New York City’s Jet Setters.

At the point of departure, we’re introduced to dearly-departed

Danny Ocean’s little sister Debbie (Sandra Bullock) as she does her best to convince a New Jersey parole board that she’s nothing like her con artist brother. But no sooner is Debbie let out of the slammer than she’s embarking on a brazen shoplifting spree at Bergdorf Goodman’s and duping a desk clerk at a luxury Manhattan hotel into giving her a key to a suite.

Next thing you know, she’s masterminding an elaborate plan to purloin a priceless diamond necklace during the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s annual costume ball. Debbie begins by recruiting

a crack team of cohorts, starting with her longtime partner in crime, Lou (Cate Blanchett). The rest of the motley crew is composed of hi-tech whiz Nine Ball (Rihanna), jeweler Amita (Mindy Kaling), fashionista Rose Weil (Helena Bonham Carter), big screen diva Daphne Kluger (Anne Hathaway), ex-thief coaxed out of retirement Tammy (Sarah Paulson) and Constance, a trash-talking crook played by the scene-stealing comedienne, Awkwafina.

The real fun starts after the get-acquainted phase of the adventure, when the conspiracy is put into action in and around the mu-

seum. Besides, a super cool caper, we’re treated to a profusion of enough blink-and-you-missed-it cameo appearances to take your breath away.

Dozens of celebrities attend the marvelous Met gala, including Katie Holmes, Kim Kardashian and her sisters Kylie and Kendall, tennis pros Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova, Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour and designers Tommy Hilfiger and Alexander Wang, to name a few.

Ultimately more lighthearted than edgy, Oceans 8 is a fashion-driven, fun-filled affair where all the flair and famous faces serving

as backdrop practically upstage a perfectly-delightful, female-centric crime caper.

You go girls!

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 profanity, drug use and suggestive content

In English and German with subtitles

Running time: 110 minutes

Production Studios: Smokehouse Pictures / Village Roadshow Pictures

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see a trailer for Ocean’s 8, visit:: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFWF9dU5Zc0>

Interview: Anthony Bourdain | The “Parts Unknown” Interview

A treasured tete-a-tete with the late chef (2014 interview)

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Chef, author and world traveler Anthony Bourdain was an outspoken trailblazer with unique insights about food, culture and current events. In this 2014 interview, we spoke about his life, career and his Peabody and Emmy-winning TV-series, Parts Unknown.

Kam Williams: Hi Anthony, thanks for the interview. I love the show. I’m honored to have this opportunity to speak with you.

Anthony Bourdain: Oh no, my pleasure, Kam.

KW: Congratulations on the

his Peabody and Emmys for Parts Unknown.

AB: Thank you. It feels good.

KW: I told my readers I’d be interviewing you. So, I’ll be mixing their questions for you in with my own. The first is from editor/Legist Patricia Turnier who is French Canadian. She says: You have a French background and you’re fascinated with French cuisine. Do you speak the language?

AB: Yes, badly. But my French definitely improves the more I drink, as I worry less and less about absolutely perfect grammar. [Chuckles] I do speak and understand the language,

just not particularly well.

KW: Patricia also asks: Did you spend any summers in France with your parents growing up?

AB: Just a few. Two or three. Three summers, I think.

KW: Patricia says: you are an excellent writer. What is the best advice you have for young writers about cultivating a unique writing style with a sophisticated voice like yours?

AB: Wow! That’s hard to say... I just don’t know... Be true to yourself. I write quickly with a sense of urgency. I don’t edit myself out of existence, meaning I’ll try to write 50 or

60 pages before I start rereading, revising and editing. That just helps with my confidence. I listen a lot to how people speak. I’ve read a great many good books in my life. I had some excellent English teachers. Surely, those things were helpful.

KW: Besides your books, the show is extremely well-written. Do you have a hand in that?

AB: I write the voiceover as part of the editing process, some of it beforehand. Working with the producer, we’ll sort of hash out the flow of each show, the sequence of events, and the general framework. And maybe there will be some writing as well that they can edit too. But much of it is done afterwards. It’s a long and interactive process that takes about 9 to 12 weeks sometimes, per show. So, a lot of attention is paid. I’m very aware that we’re telling a story here, and that we want to tell it in the most compelling, honest and accurate way we can.

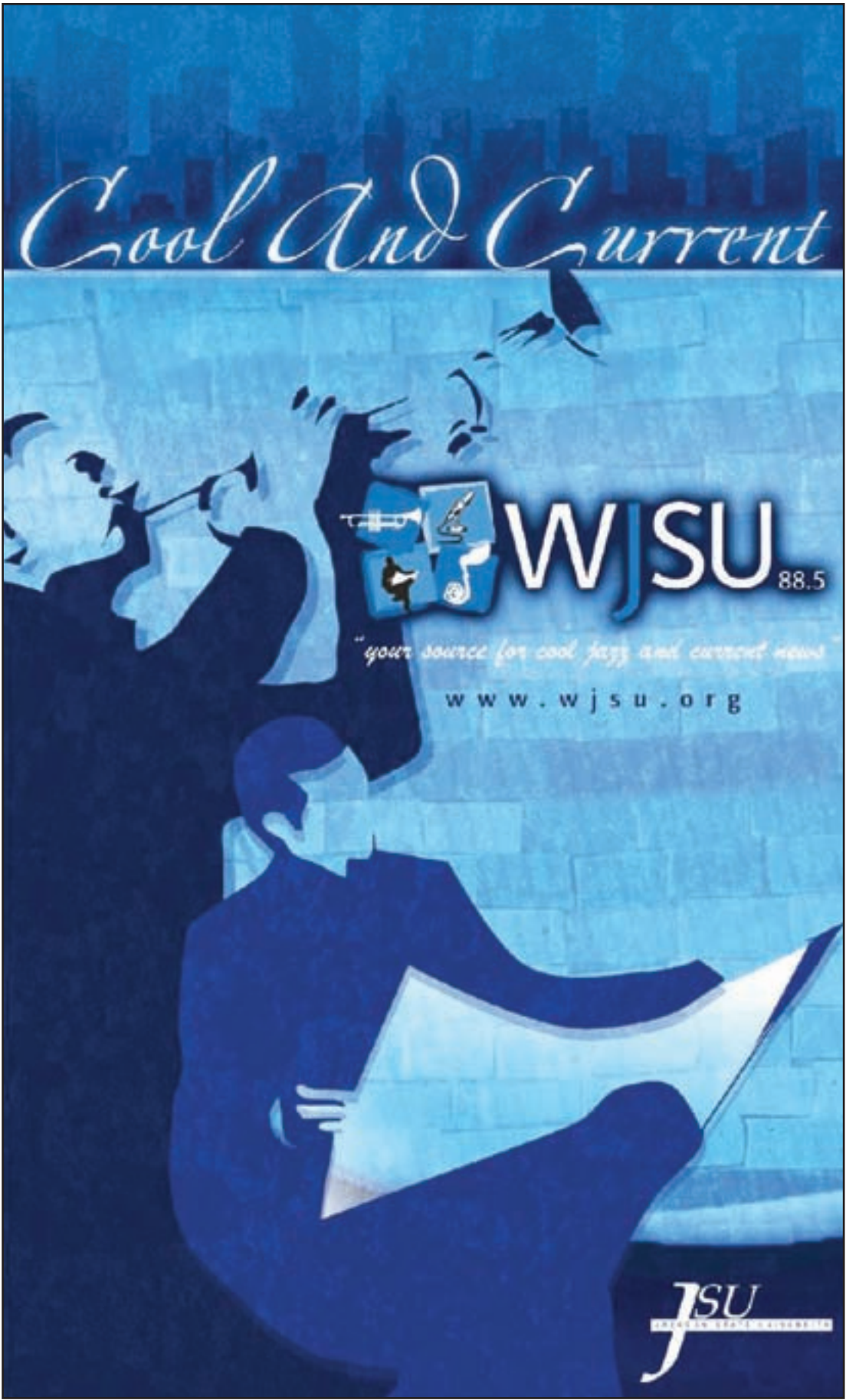


KW: I’m not surprised to hear that you wear several different hats on the show, since you strike me as one of these versatile, multi-talents like David Byrne.

AB: I wouldn’t want to compare myself to David Byrne whom I consider a genius, but what I think what we have in common is that he’s also a guy who is very interested in the world and who has a lot of pas-

sions beyond singing and playing guitar. Clearly, if you track his career, you see a great many collaborations with interesting artists, and his work reflects whatever’s turning him on that year. In that sense, what a great way to live, if you could always do things that interest you, and do them with people who interest you.

Read more online at www.themississippilink.com





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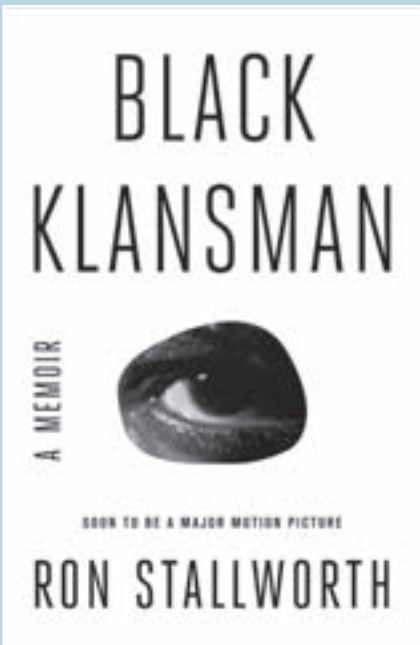
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BOOK REVIEW: “BLACK KLANSMAN: A MEMOIR”

BY **RON STALLWORTH**
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You want no part of that. In fact, the farther away you are from whatever-it-is, the happier you’ll be. Nope, some things are not your friend. Some things are not good for you at all. And as you’ll see in the new book “Black Klansman: A Memoir” by Ron Stallworth, some people can’t resist some things like that. He saw the ad during an idle scan of the local Colorado Springs newspapers: “Ku Klux Klan, For Information Contact....”

As the department’s first black detective, Ron Stallworth thought it might be interesting to see what would come from answering that ad. Figuring on a few pamphlets, maybe a brochure or leaflet, he wrote a note to the P.O. Box, using his real name and asking for promised information. To this day, he’s still not sure why he used his name, and not one of his undercover aliases. On November 1, 1978, he received a call on the department’s undercover line. The caller identified himself as a “local organizer” of the Ku

Klux Klan who was trying to raise membership there in Colorado Springs. He asked Stallworth several questions, then invited him to meet in person; they agreed upon a time and, once they hung up, Stallworth swung into action. He asked for permission to proceed and for a colleague’s help, but was denied; sure that this could be a major matter, he went to higher authorities. He already had in mind a sharp colleague who was white and could “be” Stallworth when Stallworth needed to attend Klan events...

because the real Ron Stallworth, remember, is a black man. For the next ten weeks or so, Stallworth and his co-detective, Chuck, worked their way into and through the Klan. They attended rallies and meetings, thwarted cross-burnings and Stallworth spoke many times with Grand Wizard David Duke. There was certainly danger in what he’d done but mostly, because of the amateurishness of the organization he’d infiltrated and the mistaken tenants its leaders held, it was a lesson in absurdity. “It was,” says Stallworth, “as if

Dennis the Menace were running a hate group.” And that pretty much sums up what you’re going to find inside “Black Klansman”: a little danger, a lot of audacity and plenty of intended-unintended laughs. Even so, this book isn’t a comedy. The seriousness of what author Ron Stallworth did becomes apparent as he writes about hate groups in 1978 Colorado which, presumably, could be Any State: the tentacles of those organizations reached far and were verging on joining forces when his investigation was shut down.

There were obviously different methods of word-spreading forty years ago, but in today’s world of internet and cell phone, readers can easily conclude chilling parallels. This is in the forefront of the story, but there’s no denying the humor here, too. It’s going to make for a great movie this August. Before you head for theatres, be sure you’ve seen “Black Klansman” first. You’ll want the back-story. You’ll want the nuances. You’ll want every part of this book.

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