

JSU engineering grad Lynn excelling at Nissan



Nissan of Canton Engineer Ayanna Lynn of Indianola, Miss.

The journey from the Mississippi Delta to an engineer at Nissan

By Othor Cain
Editor
and Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

With the hope of playing professional basketball in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) since childhood, Ayanna Lynn never dreamed she would work for a Fortune 500 company at 24 years old.

Growing up in a poverty-stricken environment where economic mobility and education are the worst in the state, Lynn’s hard-working and motivational family made sure they set a positive example for her to follow.

Throughout childhood, she witnessed her grandfather construct houses in the Delta as a contractor and became inspired to build. Too young to assist her grandfather, she assembled puzzle pieces to hone her creativity skills.

After growing of age, Lynn officially started preparing for her career; little did she know what was in store.

“I started to work for my grandfather and I would put all of the wood



together; but, at that point, I was still focused on my childhood dreams of getting to the WNBA – that was my dream,” said Lynn. Having the passion to give back, the sports enthusiast, believed she could only do so by playing professional ball, because then she would have money and be able to do it with ease. However, after guidance from her grandfather, whom she has always looked up to, she changed her perspective on philanthropy work.

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Jackson mayor proudly announces door-knocking campaign to transform Jackson Public Schools



Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba announces plan to help improve the Jackson Public School District

By Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

Get ready to hear a knock on your door Jacksonians; city officials will be at your doorstep soon.

In a weekly press briefing, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba shared his excitement about the outreach efforts of the organization One Voice, as they soon will engage in a short-term door knocking campaign to garner input from the citizens in Jackson about what it will take to transform the Jackson Public School District (JPS), a district that has been on a decline for several years.

The canvassing project proposed by the Better Together Commission has support from community partners such as the Kellogg Foundation, Jackson Public School District and its administration.

After JPS faced a possible takeover by the state in October 2017 for failure to meet numerous accreditation standards and receiving its second “F” in the school system ranking by The Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Lumumba believed it was necessary to join forces with Governor Phil Bryant and the Kellogg Foundation and as a result, the Better Together Commission was formed to help the district return to its passing ranks and halt a takeover by the Mississippi Department of Education.

“We believe we owe our children the best. We do not feel that we can move forward with a transformational school district without engaging the public in every possible way we can,” expressed the mayor.

With the understanding that not all citizens can attend public hearings regarding the new vision for JPS, the Better Together Commission decided to meet the people of Jackson where they are – in their homes.

“If we can’t reach you by attending our public hearings, we are going to come to you and knock on your door. We want to engage our citizens, so we can have a deeper understanding of what the needs, goals and aspirations are for our school district,” said Lumumba.

Nsombi Lambright, executive director of One Voice, encouraged residents to help in the process of revitalizing the schools across the metropolitan area by completing a questionnaire. “It is critical to be able to talk to families and community stakeholders about what they want to see the Jackson Public School district become,” said Lambright.

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Mayor Lumumba delivers annual College Hill Men’s Day address

By Jackie H. Hampton
Publisher

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba served as guest speaker at College Hill Baptist Church’s annual Men’s Day service held on Father’s Day. Terrence McEwen presided over the 10 a.m. service which was held in the church sanctuary.

After being introduced by Men’s Day chair Deacon Vincent McGee, the mayor said, “The blessing of being a father is truly a tremendous one.” He said, “As a little boy of about 5 or 6 years old, when people asked what do you want to be when you grow, I would quickly respond I want to grow up and be a daddy.” The mayor said this is a story his mother often repeated to others. He said he responded this way because he had the unique blessing of living in the house of his hero, his father, the late Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, who not only talked the talk, but walked the walk.

Fatherhood was a major theme of the mayor’s speech which was extemporaneous and personal. Due to his schedule he was not able to actually write a speech, so he spoke from his heart, sharing words the Lord gave him the moment he stood before the congregation.

Lumumba focused on matters of faith and family and the scriptural support for making Jackson into a ‘radical city that loves people.’ His message found a home in the sanctuary where the Men’s Day theme was



Pastor Michael T. Williams and Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba at Men’s Day service PHOTO BY JACKIE H. HAMPTON

“Christian Men Serving a Just and Merciful God.”

He told the roused and responsive audience, “Scripture calls on us to be a radical city. It says in Isaiah 1 verse

17, learn to do right, seek justice, defend the oppressed, take up the cause of the fatherless, and plead the cause of the widow.” Lumumba relied heavily on the scripture throughout

his message. He said that in order for a young mayor to lead the city he

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New board members join Woodward Hines to continue founder's legacy

By Cianna Hope Reeves
JSU Student Intern

The Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) has elected two new members to the board of directors, Haley Fisackerly and Camille Scales Young. These incoming leaders are preceded by Ronald Smith who faithfully ended his term this spring and served alongside founder, the late Jack Woodward who passed away in February of 2018.

Fisackerly is the president and chief executive officer of Entergy Mississippi, Inc., which serves approximately 445,000 customers in 45 counties statewide. He is responsible for Entergy Mississippi's electric distribution system, customer service, economic development, charitable contributions, regulatory and public affairs, as well as the company's financial performance.

Fisackerly, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, holds a degree in business administration from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in public pol-



Camille Scales Young

icy administration from George Washington University. Fisackerly served for several years on the staff of U.S. Senator Thad Cochran prior to joining Entergy at its Washington, D.C. office in 1995.

Fisackerly serves on numerous local and statewide boards, including the Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Energy Institute, Bankfirst Fi-



Haley Fisackerly

nancial Services and The Nature Conservancy. He is also the chair of the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development.

Young brings almost two decades of practice in state and federal government affairs to Cornerstone's Jackson, Mississippi office. Prior to joining Cornerstone as the principal and director, Young spent 10



years as a government affairs representative with one of the state's leading law firms, Watkins Ludlam Winter and Stennis, P.A.

Young is a native of Shannon, Mississippi and graduated from Mississippi State University. She serves actively with the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Board of Directors, the Junior League of Jackson, Sustainers Board of Directors, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,

Incorporated and the Mississippi 4-H Foundation. She also was honored to serve as president of the Mississippi State University National Alumni Association in 2012-13.

In serving on the WHEF board, Fisackerly and Young will join Board Chair David L. Martin, Vice Chair Andrew P. Mullins Jr. and the following directors: Debra Barnes McGee, John Hill, Robert E. Leard, IV, W. Stan Pratt and Nathan Slater.

"This has been a pivotal year for our foundation as we have lost one of our founders, Jack Woodward. However, I am truly grateful for the impact he's had to drive the movement of philanthropy for Haley and Camille to join our efforts. Together, they bring a great deal of knowledge and compassion to govern our foundation and move Mississippi's postsecondary education goals forward," said WHEF President and CEO Jim McHale.

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Nissan

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“He told me ‘you don’t have to go to the WBNA to give back, you know you can give back to your community by being an engineer,” she said. At this point her grandfather saw her ability to design, to construct, to imagine. He also saw her passion.

Throughout high school and college, Lynn was a star player on the court.

After graduating from Gentry High School, she received a full athletic scholarship to Itawamba Community College and graduated with an associate’s degree in engineering. She continued to play basketball while attaining her bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Jackson State University – holding on to both passions.

Once her grandfather realized her yearn to aid the community, he stressed that she could be a helping hand to her hometown by becoming an engineer. He then introduced her to the multimillion dollar car plant in Canton, Miss. – Nissan – a company widely known for its automobiles and aiding families and children in the area, specifically disadvantaged youths.

In Lynn’s junior year of undergraduate studies, she applied for several internships to make her way into the company, however, her grade point average would not allow her to qualify for the opportunity.

Instead of allowing the obstacle to prevent her from moving forward to achieve her career aspirations, she took a different route by becoming an employee of the company and working as a technician. “I was determined not to let this stop me,” she said. “I’m a testament that you should never give up...all though things can sometimes look bleak, you must not quit.”

After two months of working as a technician, and expressing her desire to grow with the company, Nissan decided to fully fund her master’s degree program at Jackson State University. “They saw my determination and commitment,” she said. “I was very impressed at the fact that they wanted to see me grow and make better decisions.”

In April 2018, Lynn graduated with her master’s degree in civil engineering and is currently working as a process engineer for Trim & Chassis, which she refers to as “the dog” of the plant. “We make sure that everything that we send out to the customers is of the finest quality,” said Lynn.

Her advice for aspiring engineers is to stay focused and devoted when times or requirements become tough.

“You have to be committed. It is very time consuming and

a lot of math and science, because as an engineer you are a problem solver. It’s tough, especially for women, because it’s a man’s world,” she said.

In order to boost the development of effective youth in her own community, she shares her story with adolescents and teenagers through Empowering Youth, a mentorship program she launched in the Delta.

Due to her love of Nissan and giving back, Lynn said she has found her home away from home and she is there to stay.

“I am blessed to be able to work here. Nissan is doing everything I dreamed about doing, and I am happy to be a part of that. I don’t see myself going anywhere,” she voiced with a smile.

Lynn is delighted to share her story as part of Nissan’s 15-year anniversary in Canton, Miss.

In 2001, Nissan began a journey with its Mississippi partners to build one of the most advanced manufacturing facilities in the world, in the heart of the Magnolia State.

Fifteen years after opening its doors in 2003, Nissan is proud to make some of the finest vehicles in America at the Nissan Canton plant. Nissan is committed to building a strong diverse team and has created more than 25,000 jobs statewide.

There are no signs of slowing down.

Company leadership recently announced the 4 millionth vehicle to roll off the assembly line – a Nissan Cargo Van. The Canton plant is the only plant worldwide that makes the large vans for Nissan. The automaker sold about 18,000 NV vans in the United States last year, according to company figures. To meet demand for the NV, the Japanese automaker added a second shift in April. About 250 jobs will be created or retained to staff the second shift. About 6,400 Nissan employees and contractors work at the Canton complex.

To offer a visual, Steve Marsh, vice president of manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, said you could line up all four million vehicles, bumper to bumper, to reach Tokyo and back. The 14 million gallons of paint used on the vehicles could fill 21 Olympic-sized swimming pools, he said.

Nissan donated the 4 millionth vehicle, a 2018 Nissan Cargo Van, to the Madison County-based charity, Our Daily Bread, a subgroup of Stewpot Community Services in Jackson.

To date, the company has contributed more than 15 million dollars to charitable organizations.



Canton Nissan is the only plant worldwide to make the Nissan Cargo Van pictured above.

Lumumba

Continued from page 1

She continued, “It is key that we make sure that this school district is the top district in the state and in the country, and that’s not going to be possible until we talk to citizens.”

Lambright said One Voice is an organization dedicated to preserving the public education system in Mississippi.

In order to get citizens’ feedback on JPS, One Voice will utilize their privately-owned Voter Activation Network (VAN), a database which shows individuals who have engaged in recent elections, non-registered voters and individuals who are eligible to vote in Jackson, to determine where to deliver surveys first as they embark on their mission to visit 60,000 households throughout city.

For persons who have not been involved in recent political processes, survey tools will be distributed by canvassers to collect data of the priorities Jackson citizens have.

She also encouraged civic groups, community stakeholders and church groups to volunteer as door knockers in neighborhoods across the city to improve the state of JPS.

“We would love to have community groups volunteer with us to go out into the community and canvass with us,” expressed Lambright.

Not only will the organization and city officials tag along on the campaign trail, but neighborhood association members will also be asked to participate in the stride to making the school system better.

Lumumba expressed in order to change the outlook of JPS, parents, students and alumni have to unite and contribute their beliefs at the door-to-door operation that the administration has formed to benefit the next generation of students.

“We believe in collective genius – we do not believe we are smart enough by ourselves in order to figure out our problems, so this allows us to engage citizens, allows them to be more a part of the process, and give the students the very best district they deserve,” said Lumumba.

He added, “I know that JPS students have all of the abilities in the world, and we have to make it certain we are giving them every resource and every opportunity in order to demonstrate their abilities.”

Applications to become a participant of the Door Knocking Campaign can be completed at <http://onevoicems.org>. Individuals ages 18 and older are eligible to apply.

College Hill

Continued from page 1

must be well versed in scripture. “There should be no such thing as the fatherless in Jackson, Mississippi,” he stated.

The mayor said that prior to becoming mayor of the city of Jackson, he did not know what the name ‘Jackson’ meant. In his research he found Jackson means ‘God has shown favor.’ ‘God has been gracious,’ and therefore we must walk in our namesake. He told the listeners that we must take up the cause of the fatherless if we are going to be a radical city, a city that loves on people. He went on to say, “being fathers to young men isn’t about being perfect; it’s about accepting your mistakes and turning away from them. We have to take on this challenge of being this radical city prepared to walk in the Lord’s destiny.”

Robert Robinson Sr. was honored as Man of the Year. He was introduced by Deacon Louis Wright who said the greatest title you can have is that of being a servant. He shared stories relating to Robinson’s service to the church regarding property development and to the community. His sister, Evelyn Davis, stated Robinson is a dedicated Christian who reads his Bible daily.

Pastor Williams said, regarding Robinson, “Some men are seen because of position and title. God be praised for men like Bro. Robinson, whose work can be felt in the silent deeds they perform.”

United States Circuit Judge James Graves spoke at the College Hill Family Life Center Friday evening as part of the much anticipated Sunday Men’s Day service. The focus was on ‘Pathways to Success.’ He was introduced by U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves who referred to Graves as a mentor and a friend.


Graves said he was tempted to simply say ‘there is no path to success’ and sit down. However he offered two definitions of success: “Keeping the mind awake and the desire asleep,” referencing Romans 7: 21-25 and “Success is knowing how to wait,” from Psalm 37: 7, which reads, ‘Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him ...’ He recalled law clerking in a tiny office at the age of 30 and feeling like a failure before becoming a judge.

The weekend celebration also included a picnic Saturday and a combined Sunday School class, to include breakfast, Sunday morning. Music was provided Sunday by the Men’s Day choir, directed by Brandon Mitchell.

An original painting by artist Gail Ghetts of Mayor Lumumba and his late father was presented to the mayor by McGee.

College Hill Pastor Michael T. Williams gave high praise to the men of College Hill for a wonderful 2018 Men’s Day celebration.

See photos page 3.



Request for Proposals

The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation’s Office of Support & Outreach is requesting proposals for Budget Counseling Services, Case Management Services, and Mental Health Counseling Services. Please visit the Jackson Medical Mall website to download RFP’s at <http://jacksonmedicalmall.org/jmmfrfp/>. For additional information please call 601.982.8467.



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In Memoriam

Ethel Lee Kelley Penquite

July 7, 1929 - June 9, 2018

On July 7, 1929, Ethel Lee Kelley Penquite became the fifth child and fourth daughter to bless the late John Henry Kelley Sr. and Mary McCowan Kelley. She completed her elementary and high school education in the Jackson Public School System, Jackson, Mississippi, before earning a degree in Nursing from the Mississippi Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in 1954. She went on to work as a Registered Nurse at St. Dominic's Hospital, and later at the Mississippi Baptist Hospital.

On December 23, 1953, Ethel was united in Holy Matrimony to Harry Thomas Penquite Jr., of Jackson, Mississippi. After his honorable discharge from the military, the young couple moved to Indianapolis, Indiana.

Her impressive credentials and experience positioned her for full-time employment at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in 1956. During her tenure with the V. A. Hospital, she received many awards, plaques, and a myriad of "Thank You" notes from her patients, as well as the employees she supervised. After thirty-two years and nine months of caring and professional nursing administration, she retired.

Young Ethel accepted Christ as her personal Savior at Third Temple Church of Christ Holiness, U.S.A. in Jackson. After marriage, she and Harry became members of Anderson United



Penquite

Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Upon moving to Indianapolis, they joined the family of Barnes United Methodist Church. She served dutifully as a member of the United Methodist Women's Hope Sub-Group and worked on several other committees. Always willing to work with others to serve human-kind, Ethel was a Life Member of the Eta CM Chapter of CM Eta Phi Sorority (National Confederation for Registered Nurses), the Alpha Wives, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Council of Negro Women.

To her family and friends, Ethel was regarded for her generous spirit, warm hospitality, and strong opinions. Over the course of her life, she and Harry opened their home to countless nieces, nephews, and god-children – and all of their friends – for home-cooked meals and

even long-term housing. Her friends, loved-ones, and former colleagues in Jackson looked forward to her frequent visits, where they would spend hours talking, laughing, and catching up on life. She was a role-model, counselor, teacher, mentor, and friend.

On June 9, 2018, Ethel Lee Kelley Penquite departed this earthly life. Ethel is preceded in death by her husband, Harry T. Penquite; parents, John and Mary Kelley; brother, John Kelley, Jr., and sisters, Alfanelle K. Holloway, Audrey K. Cockrell, and Lillian K. Stewart. She leaves to reflect on and cherish memories her adoring brother, Charles Kelley (Mildred) and a devoted sister, Aretta Kelley Smith of Jackson, Mississippi; a host of nieces: Roslyn Kelley-Sykes, St. Louis, MO; Alexandria Holloway, Miami, FL; Yvette Lynch, Memphis, TN; Lynette Polk and Kathy Martin, Detroit, MI; Carmelia Hood (Anthony) of Washington, D.C.; Kye Robinson, (Michael) Bowie, Maryland; and Andria Veasey (Anthony) of Brandon, MS. Her nephews are: Mr. George Stewart and Gerald Stewart of Detroit, MI; Gregory Kelley of Miami, FL and Monte Smith of Lewiston, ME. Also left to relish her memory are her loyal friends, neighbors, sorority sisters and dearest companions, Johnnie Hutson, Herbert Powell and Rose Ray.

AKA hosts prayer breakfast to support Atty. Mitzi Dease Paige



Members of the AKA Beta Delta Omega Chapter at prayer breakfast. PHOTOS BY MACHANDRA FOREST WILDER AND TEKITA THOMAS

Mississippi Link Newswire

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective," James 5:16.

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Delta Omega Chapter are grateful and delighted that Attorney Mitzi Dease Paige was elected to assume the position of South Eastern Regional director at the South Eastern Regional Conference in March, 2018 in Nashville, TN.

In preparation for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Biennial convention in Houston, where she will be installed, the Beta Delta Omega Chapter Prayer Ivies prepared a strong foundation of prayer and a spiritual undergirding of prayer as she moves towards assuming the position of regional director by hosting a prayer breakfast.

Over 100 sorority sisters, family members and friends were on hand June 16 to provide prayers and well wishes to Paige. Words of wisdom were provided by Esther Martin Rigby, 17th South Eastern Regional director and Juanita Sims Doty, 23rd South Eastern Regional director. "Surrounded by her family, friends and sorority sisters, the many prayers that were prayed for Mitzi were felt throughout the room," said Doty "It was as if she took on wings of peace, love, understanding and sisterliness (plus some) as she takes the next journey of her servant leadership role within Alpha Kappa Alpha."

The prayer breakfast was a vision of Prayer Ivies Committee Chair Pastor Audrey Hall. The prayer breakfast was designed to set a spiritual tone for the next steps of Paige's leadership journey. "The prayer breakfast was a blessed event," said Toni Moore, Beta Delta Omega chapter member. "The prayers and well wishes were the epitome of sisterhood and love."

Paige has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for thirty-six years. Initiated into Mu Pi Chapter at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA), she has served the sorority in various capacities since her ini-



Paige



Toni Moore, Paige, Audrey Hall

tiation.

Paige said the prayer breakfast was "a mountaintop experience" for her. "I feel so blessed to have my sorority sisters praying for me, my family, protection, leadership, our chapter, the South Eastern Region and our international president," she said. "It moved me to tears to know that so many people

will be praying for my tenure, not just on that day, but every day! That feeling gives me a sense of peace that will stay with me forever."


Once her election is ratified at the Boule in Houston, Paige will oversee 106 graduate and undergraduate Alpha Kappa Alpha chapters in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.



Paige and family members at prayer breakfast

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Hinds County School District welcomes new principal to Gary Road Elementary



Lampkin

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds County School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenetha Lampkin as the new principal of Gary Road Elementary. Lampkin brings nearly two decades of experience in elementary education, administration and school improvement and holds a master's degree in school administration.

"Mrs. Lampkin's wealth of experience will elevate the work we're doing at Gary Road Elementary and across the district," said Delesicia Martin, Hinds County School District super-

intendent. "Her commitment to students, parents and staff exemplify what we're all about in the Hinds County School District."

With a keen focus on student safety, growth and development, Lampkin is emphasizing the implementation of new measures and procedures of professional development for teachers.

"I believe that all children can learn; therefore, my vision is that every administrator, teacher and parent work collaboratively in order to provide every student with the best education possible," Lampkin said. "We must give our children our best."

Kindergarten registration for Gary Road Elementary is open through the summer. During the month of June, parents and guardians will be able to register children for kindergarten at Gary Road Elementary (7241 Gary Road, Byram, Miss.) from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Returning first and second grade students can be registered online with a Snap Code. If parents do not have a code, they can call Gary Road Elementary at 601 373-1319 to speak with a counselor.

Parents and guardians will need to bring the following to

complete enrollment:

- A driver's license or other state identification card
- Child's birth certificate (long-form), immunization records (Form 121), social security card and discipline record for each child being enrolled
- Current utility bill from the previous 30 days, and filed Homestead Exemption from the previous year, mortgage payment documentation or property deed of trust, apartment or home lease or two (2) business or government correspondence.

For more information on registration or the Hinds County

School District, contact John Neal, associate superintendent of community relations, at 601 857-7008 or jneal@hinds.k12.ms.us.

About Hinds County School District

Hinds County School District is a collaborative environment where we explore the world, experience authentic learning, enhance our character, envision our dreams, pursue excellence and celebrate success. HCSD serves more than 6,000 students from the communities of Bolton, Byram, Edwards, Raymond, Terry, Learned and Utica.

Board of Trustees to meet next week

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, June 21, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

The Health Affairs Committee, a standing committee of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning chaired by Trustee Ford Dye, will meet Wednesday, June 20 at 2 p.m. to discuss University of Mississippi Medical Center projects and priorities.

The Finance Committee, a standing committee of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning chaired by Trustee Tom Duff, will meet Thursday, June 21 at 8:30 a.m. to present upcoming university budgets.

Members of the Board may participate in the meetings via teleconference. Members of

the public and media may attend the meetings in the IHL Board Room, located in the Universities Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Miss. 39211. Executive sessions may be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning governs the public universities in Mississippi, including Alcorn State University; Delta State University; Jackson State University; Mississippi State University including the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi University for Women; Mississippi Valley State University; the University of Mississippi including the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Alcorn leads HBCUs in graduate upward mobility

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The success of lower-income students who attend and graduate from HBCUs like Alcorn State University is being highlighted in a new study regarding student success rates.

According to the latest study conducted by the American Council on Education (ACE) Center for Policy Research and Strategy, Alcorn leads other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the Minority Serving Institutions as Engines of Upward Mobility study.

Alcorn President Alfred Rankins was pleased by the report and stated, "It is great to see the data in this study affirms what we have known for years – when students choose Alcorn, they make a sound investment in their future. Alcorn provides a quality, affordable education that prepares our students for success in the workforce."

Minority-serving institutions (MSIs) play an integral role in the educations of students from low-income families and communities of color where educational attainment is disproportionately low and income mobility can be stagnant. Alcorn is one of many MSIs that serve as engines of upward mobility for millions of students.

The new report looked at data for 359 of the nation's roughly 700 minority-serving colleges and found that income-mobility rates tend to be two to three times higher at MSIs than at non-minority-serving ones. The higher rates occur despite the fact that minority-serving colleges are educating students of color from lower incomes with relatively limited budgets.

To view Alcorn's place in the study, visit <http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/MSIs-as-Engines-of-Upward-Mobility.pdf>.

CPSD salutes Topre America for \$5,000 in scholarships



Pictured left to right: Pamela Self, Canton High principal; Charles Hood, Topre senior plant manager; Sharon Wilkes-Williams, recipient's mother; Kayla Wilkes, scholarship recipient; Kaitlynn Anderson, scholarship recipient; Jacquelyn Mack, Topre human resources supervisor; Sheena Christian, Topre human resources/safety coordinator; and Dwight Luckett Sr./CPSD interim superintendent

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Canton Public School District thanks Topre America for its generous scholarship of \$2,500 each to our Canton High School outstanding scholars Kayla Wilkes and Kaitlynn Anderson for their scholastic achievements. "Topre America Corporation is honored and grateful for the opportunity to provide academic scholarships to these deserving students. It is our way of supporting Canton Public Schools and the Canton Community,"

said Jacquelyn J. Mack, Topre America Corporation human resources supervisor.

The scholars will use the funds to pursue their dreams as they head off to college.

CHS Valedictorian Kayla Wilkes, who scored a 30 on the ACT, will pursue a degree in computer science at Jackson State University. Kaitlynn Anderson, who scored a 19 on the ACT, will pursue a degree in biology at Mississippi College. Their mothers, Sharon Wilkes and Susan Anderson, are grateful for

this generous donation from a community partner that shows it is truly concerned about helping children succeed.

CPSD is also thankful. "I am grateful to Topre America for caring enough to provide much needed resources to help our students be lifelong learners as they continue their education, prepared to enter the global workplace and participate in society as responsible citizens," said CPSD Interim Superintendent Dwight Luckett Sr.

MVSU student leaders sharpen skills during Student Leadership Institute

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Valley State University Office of Student Leadership and Engagement has been keeping MVSU student leaders "in motion" this summer in preparation for the upcoming school term.

SLI is a six-day intensive, interactive and stimulating learning program designed for newly elected Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) student leaders (including student government, class officers, Greek councils, student ambassadors, programming boards, kings and queens) who are committed to uplifting their organizations and their university.

During the event, MVSU student leaders had an opportunity to meet workshop presenter Terrance Terrell, a 2004 graduate of MVSU. Terrell is an actor and author who has written two children's books – "Blacky" and "SHE." He is well known for his acting role

in hit TV series, "Criminal Minds."

MVSU student leaders attending the conference included Miss MVSU 2018-2019 Stormy Green of Southaven, Miss.; Mr. MVSU 2018-2019 Tony Holland of Oxford, Miss.; SGA Vice-President Niasia Harrington of Indianola, Miss.; SGA Chaplain Arlencia Barnes of Indianola, Miss.; Pan Hellenic Vice-President Erryon Clark of Belzoni, Miss. and Junior Class President Janice Citchens of Tutwiler, MS.

SLI is sponsored by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP) – a professional organization on the leading edge regarding issues, solutions and professional development opportunities for student affairs professionals serving at HBCUs and for those professionals who serve minority populations in diverse settings around the country.



Seven student leaders, along with Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Pamela Hilton and Dean of Student Conduct Raynaldo Gillus, recently traveled to Savannah, Ga. for the 22nd Annual Student Leadership Institute (SLI).

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Rodman calls the historic meeting between Trump and Kim Jong-un “A New Day”

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com

 Dennis Rodman, who was in Singapore for the historic meeting between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, Supreme Leader of North Korea, said he first took the idea of meeting with Kim Jong-un to then President Barack Obama, but Obama refused to give him the time of day.

Although he was rebuffed, Rodman persisted in trying to meet with Obama but to no avail.

Rodman also said during an interview with Chris Cuomo of CNN that because of his relationship with Kim Jong-un he received so many death threats he had to hide out for 30 days.

Despite the death threats and the headlines that ridiculed him, he could see the future. “I knew things were changing. I could see it. It’s a great day for everybody,” Rodman said about the face-to-face meeting between Trump and Kim Jong-un. Cuomo nodded in agreement. Tears streamed down Rodman’s face.

Top American officials and media personalities laughed at Rodman for meeting with Kim Jong-un. After all, Rodman is an unorthodox black man on a world stage dominated by white men who claimed they know better. And black men are rarely taken seriously. A Fox News Television host



Kim Jong-un and Dennis Rodman

referred to Rodman as Kim Jong-un’s ‘little bitch.’

Kim Jong-un is a brutal dictator who has starved many of his people and murdered hundreds of others including relatives.

That all changed when Rodman, who is friends with both Trump and Kim Jong-un, gave the North Korean leader Trump’s book “The Art of the Deal,” which Kim Jong-un read.

He asked Rodman five years ago if Trump would be willing to meet and talk with him. Rodman has been friends with Kim Jong-un since 2013, and he had appeared on Trump’s television show “Celebrity Apprentice.”

Jong-un is a basketball fan and he genuinely admires Rodman, who played for the world championship Chicago Bulls and the Detroit Pistons. He also played for the Dallas Mavericks and the Los Angeles Lakers.

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

league’s rebounding champion for seven consecutive years. He also is a member of the NBA hall of fame.

Rodman, who was wearing a red “Make America Great Again” baseball cap during the interview with Cuomo, said he wanted to ease tensions between the United States and North Korea. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, called Rodman on behalf of Trump to thank him for his work, according to Vice Media.

Viewers celebrated Rodman’s accomplishment.

On CNN’s website, one person wrote, “I feel bad everyone shit on him back then. That’s the reason he was crying. He was remembering how he was really trying to help and all of America made a laughing stock of him. I remember.”

Another person wrote on CNN’s website, “God bless you Dennis Rodman. It is a great day.”

A third person wrote Rodman deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

Cities and states add support to preserve fair housing rule

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist



In reaction to the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) suspension of an important fair housing rule, a groundswell of national advocacy has emerged calling to preserve the rule and its goals of fair housing for all. To date, and in separate actions, both cities and states are speaking up for the 50-year old Fair Housing Act and the goals that it has yet to achieve.

The AFFH rule took effect in July 2015 after widespread documentation over several years revealed how many HUD grantees made no discernible effort to end segregated housing in their locales. Unless federal courts intervene, the rule suspension will remain in effect until either 2024 or 2025.

On June 5 a total of 12 jurisdictions including six states and six cities advised the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia of their joint opposition: California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia, Washington State and the District of Columbia joined the cities of Austin (TX), Oakland (CA), New Orleans, Portland (OR), Seattle (WA) and Toledo (OH). Together the jurisdictions seek a halt to HUD’s suspension of its own rule.

That same day and in a separate action, New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood and Governor Andrew Cuomo jointly moved to intervene as well, citing HUD’s violation of the Administrative Procedure Act in suspending the rule without notice and failing to provide sufficient reasons for the rule suspension. Due to these two violations, the State of New York maintains that HUD has abdicated its duties and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

“As a former HUD Secretary, it is appalling to me that the agency would abdicate its responsibility to fight housing segregation and discrimination and allow this deplorable practice to continue,” said Cuomo.

The attorney general for the nation’s most populous state, California, linked fair housing with opportunity in other dimensions of life.

“What part of town you live in should not mean that the doors of opportunity are closed to you,” said Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who joined the amicus brief filed by Maryland and other jurisdictions. “Fair housing is critical to creating integrated and supportive communities that provide access to jobs and better economic environments – and getting there requires an accountable use of federal housing funds. It is irresponsible for HUD to suspend regulations that facilitate fair housing and create a mechanism for accountability.”

The June amicus briefs both support litigation brought earlier to halt suspension of the rule and was filed by the National Fair Housing Alliance, Texas Low Income Housing Information



COMMENTARY

Service, and Texas Appleseed.

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

The suspension of this fair housing rule is one of several actions that have triggered criticism of HUD Secretary Ben Carson.

In 2017, HUD proposed cutting \$6 billion from its budget, including programs focusing on underserved communities. Plans were for public housing to lose \$1.3 million from facility improvements, and another \$600 million in operational costs, where nationwide an estimated 1.2 families reside. These proposed cuts also sidestepped long-standing needs for technological improvements and staffing resources to effectively and efficiently administer the FHA program.

This past April, the State of New York declared a state of emergency due to widespread lead and mold found in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) that serves over 400,000 residents. On June 11, a \$1.2 billion consent decree was reached with NYCHA, HUD, and the Environmental Protection Agency and the housing authority will provide environmental abatement.

Other HUD-proposed budget cuts would have eliminated entirely the Community Development Block Grant (CFBG) Program, and gut Choice Neighborhoods. That proposal raised lawmaker eyebrows as for every \$1 in Choice Neighborhoods funding, awardees and their partners typically leverage for their projects an additional \$5 in public and private funding.

While Carson continues these

and other ill-advised initiatives, the nation’s housing needs continue to suffer, for both would-be homeowners and renters alike.

For example, the nation lacks 7.2 million affordable rental homes for low-income families, according to research by the National Fair Housing Alliance. Only 35 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income rental households.

On the homeownership front, research by the Center for Responsible Lending has found that black and Latino mortgage borrowers are disproportionately dependent upon FHA financing, and still have scant access to the most affordable and sustainable mortgages – 30-year fixed rate conventional ones. This heavy reliance on FHA financing even includes upper income blacks and Latinos who could be eligible for conventional lending.

Further, as many banks have withdrawn from the mortgage market, non-depository lending has increased. By 2016, eight of the top 10 FHA lenders were non-depositories.

Unfortunately, Carson has yet to focus on improving these and other housing challenges that the nation faces.

“The legacy of discrimination has left communities with entrenched segregation that reverberates through every policy decision these communities make,” noted Will Corbett, CRL’s litigation counsel. “The AFFH rule was a start, nearly fifty years after the Fair Housing Act became law, to provide both resources and accountability to local community efforts to close these historic gaps.”

“HUD should not be backsliding into continued segregation by leaving in the dark those communities that seek a more integrated future and not bringing to light the failure of those communities that would let the bigotry of the past calcify,” concluded Corbett.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending’s Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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Newly-elected Mayor London Breed makes history in San Francisco

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

London Breed has made history, becoming the first African-American woman elected mayor in San Francisco after her opponent conceded in what had been a razor-close race.

Breed, who had been appointed mayor last December following the death of Mayor Ed Lee, was forced out of the post after officials cited a conflict with her position on the city’s Board of Supervisors.

She defeated former State Senator Mark Leno in a close race that came down to 14,000 provisional ballots counted, over the past week.

“I am London Breed, I am president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and soon to be mayor of the city and county of San Francisco,” she told a crowd gathered downtown after Leno conceded. “I am truly humbled and I am truly honored.”

Born in San Francisco, Breed was raised by her grandmother



London Breed made history to become the first African-American woman mayor of San Francisco, Calif. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

in the city’s public housing.

Breed praised United States Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), among others, as being an

influence. She said she wanted to emulate her grandmother, who took care of the community and looked after everyone.

“It’s really amazing, and it’s really an honor and I know it means so much to so many people,” she said, responding

to a question about being the first African-American female to earn election to the city’s mayor’s office. “This is my home and I grew up in some of the most challenging of circumstances.”

Breed continued: “I think the message that this sends to the next generation of young people growing up in this city, that no matter where you come from, you can do anything you want to do.”

In a January interview with NNPA Newswire, Breed said she planned to remain the same outspoken, 43-year-old who was raised on the hard knock streets of the Fillmore District, just southwest of Nob Hill.

“People sometimes say about me, ‘I can’t believe, she said that.’ I remind them, I’m from Fillmore, but I say it in the way we say it in the street –‘Fill-Mo,’” Breed said. “When you come from the kind of community that I come from and experience a lot of frustration, if you are not outspoken

you can’t get the things done that you need to [get done].”

After first being appointed to take over for Lee after his death December 12, local media noted that Breed has been criticized for being “headstrong” and “outspoken,” once even announcing to her peers that she “was no shrinking violet.”

“I am who I am, and I didn’t think I’d ever run for office, because I am who I am,” Breed said. “I say what I feel like I need to say and that’s how I’ve always been, and I couldn’t live with myself if I felt that I have to change to be an elected official.”

This article was originally published on BlackPressUSA.com.

Stacy Brown is an NNPA Newswire Contributor and co-author of “Michael Jackson: The Man Behind the Mask: An Insider’s Story of the King of Pop.” Follow Stacy on Twitter @stacybrownmedia.

Hate thy neighbor colors Sessions’ immigration practices

By Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds
and Rev. Dr. Keith Magee
Trice Edney Newswire

Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions has reached down into the garbage can of history to twist passages of Holy Scripture, once used by segregationists to perpetuate slavery, segregation, white nationalism and Jim Crow, to justify separating immigrant children from their parents, many of whom Donald Trump dehumanizes as criminals.

Reports show that thousands of children are being tragically and traumatically separated from parents and held in cage-like structures, according to Democratic U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley. Some have traveled thousands of miles to flee death threats, gangs and rapes in their countries.

Is the ‘make America great’ rhetoric now calling them to thump the Bible, stand self-righteously and piously practicing a new breed of spirituality that encompasses “hate thy neighbor”?

Paul, who wrote around A.D. 60, was an apostle of love reflecting the virtues of Jesus Christ. He wrote: “If there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, love thy neighbor as thyself. Love works no ill to his neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”

In Romans 13 Paul writes that Christians are both citizens of the state and the church having a duty to obey both. Sessions uses that passage to justify punishing immigrants – most of whom are brown or black, coming from where Trump has labeled “sh*thole countries.” Very boldly, however, Paul clearly states in that same passage that love is the foundation of the Gospel, which supersedes all other man-made laws.

As clear-cut are the writings of Paul, Christians must look to a higher source, asking what would Jesus do? The Bible shows Jesus condemning the “sin” of legalism. Legalists can quote, pound and thump the Bible, while being ignorant or oblivion to the spirit of the Law which infuses the soul and conscience to be kind, merciful and charitable.

Legalists most often overlook the sinful practices of corporate



Sessions

greed and the current EPA policies of allowing corporations to leak or belch harmful chemicals into poor neighborhoods or Trump using the budget to deny healthcare to the medically indigent, who are at risk of dying because of that lack of access. These kinds of tactics, no doubt, are why Jesus declares that it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person, who thinks that wealth alone, gives them access to heaven.

Jesus’s social gospel was to awaken the Pharisees of his day, namely the lawyers and legalistic communities. Having a heart for the injustices of humanity, Jesus condemned that group as “hypocrites for “straining at gnats and swallowing camels” and omitting the more important areas of the law, which are “judgment, mercy and faith.”

Sessions and his group – Pharisees of today – go to Scripture to find passages to support their harmful anti-black, anti-women, anti-poor policies, which are so void of love and kindness they have no relevance for today.

Trump’s attorney general clearly misses the a fundamental message of Scripture which Jesus quoted as Good News, not the lies, harsh words and the meanness we see today. Declaring his mission in Luke 4:18, Jesus said that he was anointed to preach the Gospel (good news) to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, and preach deliverance to the cap-

tives to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Do the Sessions policies have anything to do with the Good News, Jesus, the Bible or anything sacred that is a part of the Jewish, Christian, Islamic faiths?

In fact, the bad news of Sessions is at odds with the official declarations of his own United Methodist Church. In 2016, it said, “The fear and anguish so many migrants in the United States live under are due to federal raids, indefinite detention and deportations which tear apart families and create an atmosphere of panic. Millions of immigrants are denied legal entry to the U.S. due to quotas and race and class barriers, even as employers seek their labor. With the legal avenues closed, immigrants who come in order to support their families must live in the shadows and in intense exploitation and fear.

In the face of these unjust laws and the systematic deportation of migrants instituted by the Department of Homeland Security, God’s people must stand in solidarity with the migrants in our midst.”

So why are so many preachers, pastors, bishops, megachurch leaders not pushing back, defending the sacred text and taking these Pharisees to task, not only for their punitive practices toward immigrants, but also the transference of billions of dollars from the needy to the Trump oligarchy?

Isn’t sacred text worth defending? How long will loving and moral Americans tolerate hypocrisy, cruelty and sins against humanity? Is it time for Sessions to have a Damascus road experience so that he can get knocked off his high perch to see the light of Jesus’s love for the least of these?

As is often said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Keith Magee is a public intellectual, ordained minister and serves as senior fellow in Culture and Justice, University College London. Barbara Reynolds is an ordained minister, former startup editor and columnist for USA TODAY and author of seven books, the latest, The Life, Love and Legacy of Coretta Scott King. They are mother and son.

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Staying true to the end

PART 2

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



The Psalmist David said in Psalm 37:1-2, “Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.”

When people leave God out of their lives, they are insecure, unhappy and unsuccessful; they do not prosper with God. Some look back because they have not sold out completely to following God. They talk about it and seem dedicated, but they continue to look back as though they have left behind something good.

Though they talk about serving God, they are not willing to part with their old friends. To keep company with those who are in trouble spiritually is to commit spiritual suicide. No one is strong enough to stand and constant-

ly keep company with those who commit spiritual fornication. Someone may say, “Well, I can handle myself.” That is not according to the Word of God. First Corinthians 10:12 warns, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” You need to do as the Bible says and take heed. To keep company with those whom you know are in trouble spiritually is to commit spiritual suicide. Somewhere along the line, you will begin to believe some of their sayings.

We read in Luke 9:56, “For the sow of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” The work of our King is the salvation of souls, and the subjects of His Kingdom have the same work that He does: the salvation of men’s and women’s souls. No work is greater than that of souls being born into the Kingdom of God.

When you face the call for service to Jesus Christ, you

are called to the greatest commitment that you will ever know, because it involves the choice of where you and others will spend eternity.

When people become discontented, they start looking back. No matter what others do, they cannot please them. Even God cannot please them when they are discontented. A state of discontentment is a miserable condition. They become discontented with serving God and with life in general. Discontentment causes people to look back from where God delivered them.

What causes people to look back? The devil causes them to envy those who do not serve God. He causes them to get their eyes on the sinner and think, “He always seems to have money, but here I am serving God and don’t have any money.” Christian friend, you need to be careful of envying those who do not serve God. Proverbs 24:1-2 read, “Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to

be with them. For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.” What will they gain? Verses 19-20 tell us: “Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 read: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

The Christian does not look back. Looking back shows a desire to go back, and the Christian marches forward and upward; he presses toward the mark.

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

PRESERVED

Will real Christians stand up for Godly compassion?

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Every few years, it seems like I have to write a column asking for real Christians to stand up against a social, racial or political injustice. This time, I’m asking the same question regarding the inhumane separation of children from their parents seeking asylum or hoping to immigrate at U.S. border crossings. The barbaric policy put into practice by the current presidential administration is unbelievably harsh.

This separation policy is part of the continuous stream of lies, deception and antagonism that comes from the current president and his administration.

First, I must admit that I’m horrified at the callous disregard for the value of humans, especially innocent children. However, I am more shocked at how lunatics masquerading as men (and women) of God continue to justify what is clearly racist, ungodly and unchristlike behavior using biblical scripture.

Both Jeff Sessions and Sarah Huckabee Sanders are just a few of the more prominent evangelical Christians who boldly argued that as Christians and a Christian nation we are called to obey laws. The sad thing is that their arguments are deceptive: the separation of children from their families is a policy and not a law. In addition, the scripture that they used from Romans was actually a call to love our neighbors, not gleefully terrorize them.

Some rightfully pointed out how these arguments sounded a lot like those that were used to justify slavery in the United


States, Nazism in 1930’s Germany and apartheid in South Africa.

The erroneous use of Romans 13:1-3 to rationalize obeying governmental laws was a textbook example of taking scripture out of context. One real truth of that chapter is found later at verses 9-10 which encourage “and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Among the many social media comments posted, some said that Christians like Sanders and Sessions were the reason they were atheists. Once again, there was an eerie quiet from other conservative Christians who so boldly proclaim that they serve a compassionate God. Others called this crisis a wasted opportunity to witness to others about the transformative loving nature of God. Lamentations 3:31-33 says, “For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.”

Considering some Christians openly endorsing the merciless treatment of these helpless children and parents, it looks as though God is continuing to expose the hypocrisy of those who wrap themselves in Christianity but don’t appear to have the heart or mind of Christ.

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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Shackled for praying

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Faith and prayer have been the backbone of the African-American community since we came upon these shores. We have counted on our faith leaders (the roll call would include Revs. Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, James Walker Hood, Martin Luther King, Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, Jesse L. Jackson, William Barber, Vashti McKenzie, Barbara Williams Skinner and many others) to articulate the justness of our cause and to mobilize us to work for the justice that is called for in the New Testament, especially in Matthew 25: 35-45.

Our ministers are revered leaders who often stand in the face of injustice. We are not surprised, and indeed, encouraged, when their firm stands in the face of oppression lead to collisions with the law. Still, when faith leaders are treated harshly, it forces us to examine the injustice in our system. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the Letter from the Birmingham Jail in 1963, he chided white ministers who made a public statement about his methods, suggesting that segregation should be fought in the courts, not in the streets. His letter moved the white faith community to confront some of the injustices of segregation and to form alliances with the civil rights movement.

King spent eleven days in the Birmingham jail in extremely harsh conditions. But the oppressor does not learn from its excesses. On June 12, nine faith leaders were shackled and held for 27 hours after being arrested for praying at the Supreme Court. The multicultural group of men and women are part of Rev. William Barber’s Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>). Their effort is to bring attention to the amazing inequality and moral bankruptcy of our nation. Their prayers at the Supreme Court were extremely timely given the court’s recent actions to make it more difficult for people to vote in Ohio, and given the injustices, this court continues to perpetuate.

Like Dr. King, the nine who were arrested – Poor People’s Campaign co-chair the Rev. Liz Theoharis, D.C. clergy the Revs. Jimmie Hawkins, Graylan Hagler and William Lamar IV and the Revs. Rob and Hershey Stephens from the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New York City – were subjected to extremely harsh conditions. No threat to anyone, they were shackled, placed in handcuffs and leg irons. Confined to roach-infested cells with nothing to rest their heads on but a metal slab. This is the 21st century, but you wouldn’t know it by the way these clergies were treated. Yet their actions, and those of the Poor People’s Campaign, are writing the contemporary letter from the Birmingham jail. Their brief incarceration, in the name of justice, is part of a larger movement to bring attention to increasing poverty and injustice, even in the face of economic expansion. Like Dr. King’s Poor People’s campaign, this twenty-first century Poor People’s Campaign, launched fifty years later, is an attack on poverty, racism and militarism, and also ecological devastation and our nation’s “moral devastation.”

At the 2018 Rainbow PUSH International convention June 15, Rev. Barber railed interlocking injustices that did not begin with our 45th president, but have been exacerbated by the depravity he represents. In a rousing address that wove humor, statistics, public analysis and a scathing attack on our nation’s immorality, Barber argued that “the rejected,” which may comprise more than half of our nation, will lead to the revival of our nation.

Who would have thought that nine faith leaders would be among the rejected? Who would have thought that Dr. King would have been? But Dr. King eagerly embraced the status of “rejected.” He once preached, “I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give my life for those who have been left out of the sunlight of opportunity.”

Rev. Liz Theoharris told Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman that the conditions she and fellow clergy experienced, while uncomfortable, were the same conditions poor inmates experienced. That’s the power, in some ways, of the Poor People’s campaign. Clergy and others are forcing the issue, lifting their voices, making connections, claiming the discomfort and pain of the rejected, embracing the fact that they, too, are among the rejected.

To shackle clergy simply for praying is to exhibit a peculiar form of cruelty and inhumanity. Shackling is reminiscent of enslavement, is a method of humiliation, is an attempt to use the harsh lash of unjust law on the backs of those who pray for just law. Rev. William Lamar IV, who has been arrested on three consecutive Mondays for protest action, said that the June 12 arrests and treatment were the harshest he has yet experienced. In Washington, D.C., people who are arrested for protesting are usually given a ticket that requires a court appearance and a likely fine. What did the shackling say about the hollow sacredness of the “Supreme” Court?

Shackling clergy for praying is like condemning the sun for shining. Unjust law enforcement can shackle arms and legs, but not movements. Harsh treatment of leaders in the Poor People’s Champaign only strengthens resistance against injustice, racism, poverty and ecological devastation.

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

Slave owners and Nazis quoted Romans 13 to justify immorality too

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



The Trump administration has separated some 2,000 children from their parents, most of whom have come to the

United States seeking asylum. Attorney General Jeff Sessions cited the Bible, Romans 13, as justification for this zero-tolerance immigration policy.

The first verse reads: “Everyone is to obey the governing authorities, because there is no authority except from God and so whatever authorities exist have been appointed by God.”

The Apostle Paul wrote the Book of Romans. But Paul spent many days and nights in jail, so he did not always abide by the rule of unjust governors. Romans 13 has been invoked by scoundrels throughout its history. British Royals cited it to chastise rebellious American revolutionaries.

Slave owners in early America justified the institution of slavery by quoting it. American law authorized slave owners to separate black sons and daughters from mothers and fathers by selling them to another slave owner. Sessions is an old school Alabamian raised in the ways of the segregated South, so maybe such thinking is not unfamiliar to him.

The Nazis in Germany and apartheid South Africa quoted Romans 13 to give religious

authority to genocide and apartheid. Former first lady Laura Bush wrote in the Washington Post Sunday that warehousing children in a former Walmart and a Texas tent city is “eerily reminiscent of the Japanese American internment camps of World War II, now considered to be the most shameful episodes in U.S. history.”

“This zero tolerance policy,” she concluded, “is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart.”

Even as President Trump was defending the policy, first lady Melania Trump called for immigration reform in a statement, saying she “believes we need to be a country that follows all laws, but also a country that governs with heart.”

Sessions says he is merely enforcing the law, but there is no zero-tolerance immigration law. The law hasn’t changed; Sessions invented a new interpretation to justify an immoral policy change. He said the Justice Department would begin prosecuting everyone who crosses the southwest border and separating children from parents as a deterrent.

Sessions said he wanted to send messages that if you don’t want to be separated from your children, don’t come. This immoral theory hasn’t worked in practice. Desperation, not calculation, drives parents to leave their homes and seek asylum. Asylum is enshrined in both the United States and international law. Seeking asylum because of

government oppression, domestic or gang violence, sex trafficking or natural disasters is not a crime.

Contrary to Trump, these parents are not illegally breaking the law. They are legally seeking asylum. The current immigrants coming to the U.S. are mainly poor people from Central America escaping government or gang violence – boys recruited by gangs, girls recruited for sex traffickers. They may or may not be granted asylum. But there is no justification – moral, legal or simply human – for ripping their children from them as they wait for a hearing on their status.

No subject in the Bible is mentioned more than caring for the poor – the stranger on the Jericho Road – treating them with respect and allowing them to maintain their dignity, which is the opposite of Trump’s and Sessions’ harsh immigration policy.

In the New Testament, Matthew reports Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod’s order to kill every newborn. Jesus’ parents became immigrants in Egypt seeking asylum for their son Jesus from Roman violence.

All major religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam – value keeping families together, rather than tearing them apart. Even conservative evangelical and Roman Catholic Christians allied with Trump are taking issue with his immigration policy. One of his strongest advocates, evangelist Franklin Graham, called

the separations “disgraceful; it’s terrible to see families ripped apart and I don’t support that one bit.”

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a strong resolution calling for immigration reform that maintains “the priority of family unity” and called for a legal path to citizenship. Trump keeps railing against immigrants, warning Democrats that they should accept his policies before the election “because you are going to lose.” That reveals the foul motivation behind this human horror.

As former Trump strategist Steve Bannon has argued, as long as Democrats are arguing about immigration, Trump is winning. Sessions and Trump are traumatizing innocent children to serve their partisan political purposes – and trying to use the Bible as a cover story.

Congress will vote on two immigration bills this week. Both give the president much of what he has demanded, including billions for the inane border wall (that he pledged the Mexicans would pay for). The more moderate bipartisan bill also would allow families to be detained together.

As of this writing, it does not have sufficient Republican support to pass. The trauma these children are experiencing will scar them for a lifetime. Is there no shame? Are the hearts of partisan politicians so callous that they will turn their backs on innocent children?

Separated by Borders: Immigration policy rips families apart

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“The new policy is the latest example of harmful actions by the Department of Homeland Security against

immigrant families, hindering their right to seek asylum in our country and denying parents the right to remain with their children. We can and must do better for these families. We can and must remember that immigrant children are still children; they need our protection, not prosecution.” – American Academy of Pediatrics, Statement Opposing Separation of Children and Parents at the Border, May 8, 2018

I am the lucky father of three beautiful children. It has been my life’s work and great pleasure to play a part in their development into keen, compassionate and successful individuals. And but for the “right” documents and legal status, Marco Antonio Muñoz and his wife could have experienced that same, singular joy of parenthood. Instead, Muñoz, a Honduran father who came here seeking asylum as he crossed the Rio Grande with his

wife and three-year-old son, was taken into custody and separated from his small family. According to news reports, “they had to use physical force to take the child out of his hands.” After a night in the Starr County Jail, guards found Muñoz lying on the floor of his jail cell, unresponsive. The deputy’s office reported his death as a “suicide in custody.”

The inhumane separation of desperate families risking their lives to reach and cross our southwest border is neither arbitrary nor aligned with our nation’s core, espoused values on the sanctity of family. As of May of this year – this is America – and is formal American policy enforced by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, also known as the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy.

Previously, adults apprehended at the border would be charged in civil court, detained in immigration facilities and potentially face deportation back to their country of origin, unless they qualified for asylum. The new policy prosecutes adults caught crossing the border as felons in criminal court, including those who qualify for asylum. Felony criminal charges

sends these adults to prison, and for those who crossed with their children, it triggers the tragically common place forced family separations. This new, vicious twist in the Trump administration’s immigration policy is abysmal, ahistorical and abhorrent.

Staying true to his campaign promises, Trump has doubled down on immigration in all of its forms, particularly from origin countries of color. The zero-tolerance strategy follows a litany of actions and policies – such as the decision to end DACA and protect DREAMERS from deportation, reducing the numbers of refugees accepted into the country and ending temporary protected status for Haitians and Hondurans – intended to punish those deemed unfit or undesirable, purge our communities and narrow legitimate avenues of settlement and entry into the United States. But the last time I checked, our nation was in the business of welcoming those seeking to better their lives, not weaponizing their children as deterrents to economic opportunity (that benefits all) and an escape from violence, chaos or natural disaster.

It is no small irony that the party that has traditionally mo-

nopolized the “family-values” moniker is the very same one orchestrating this now-daily trauma at our U.S/Mexico border. Heart-breaking stories, like the story of Muñoz, are not accidental, they are the byproduct of an inhumane, anti-family, value-deficient policy – and there are many more stories in the vein of Muñoz’s story to tell.

Last week many of us celebrated Father’s Day. We recognized the privilege of being able to do so when our government is engaging in the forced separation of families and the traumatizing of innocent children torn from their loved ones, penned into camps or sent to live with strangers. Children belong in the loving arms of their parents, not locked behind the cold bars of cells.

The National Urban League has joined forces with sister civil rights organizations to call for an end to family separation.

If you agree that destroying families should not be a priority of the government that represents you, get angry, get engaged – track the votes of your representatives on the issue of family separation and comprehensive immigration reform, and be sure to hug your loved ones a little tighter.

Automotive supplier expands, creates jobs in Iuka, Miss.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Germany-based automotive supplier Hago Automotive is doubling its footprint in Iuka, Miss., to accommodate a new contract with BMW. The project represents a \$4 million corporate investment in new equipment and will create 60 jobs over the next four years. “This expansion illustrates to industry leaders around the world that our outstanding workforce enables companies to compete successfully in today’s global marketplace, while positioning Mississippi as a leader in the Southern Automotive Corridor,” Gov. Phil Bryant said. The project involves the construction of an additional 50,000 square feet at Hago’s existing 50,000-square-foot facility. Two years ago, Hago started operations in the former Dennen Steel facility at Yellow Creek Port, investing

\$10 million and creating 80 jobs. “We are excited about the continued growth at our facility here in Iuka and are grateful for the warm welcome that has been extended to us,” said Hago Automotive General Manager Alfred Geiger. “This new addition will allow us to accommodate the higher than expected demands of our main customer BMW in the U.S., China and South Africa, which we supply from right here in Iuka. It will pave the way for further growth with other automotive manufacturers in the U.S. and overseas.” The Mississippi Development Authority is providing assistance for infrastructure needs and construction. Tishomingo County is providing assistance for construction. “Hago Automotive’s expansion creating 60 new career opportunities proves

that Mississippi is the place where companies can not only achieve but exceed their goals for long-term success,” said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough Jr. “Hago’s talented employees with the addition of 60 more Mississippians at its Iuka plant positions the company for continued growth in Tishomingo County.” In Iuka, Hago performs automated stamping with up to 400 tons of processing power, transfer stamping with up to 630 tons of pressing power, several laser and conventional welding applications, parts washing and cleaning, parts processing and the production of assemblies. The facility also houses a tool-making department and a test laboratory. Construction will begin in the summer of 2018 and is expected to be complete by spring 2019.

Mississippi Justice Institute wins another open meetings case

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Justice Institute (MJJ) won its second Open Meetings Act case in two years in Lauderdale County Chancery court Friday. The case was filed on behalf of Tommy Williams, a Lauderdale County resident, who challenged the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors for violating open meetings laws. The Lauderdale Supervisors dropped their appeal Friday, meaning the ruling that they held illegal, closed-door meetings to make decisions about borrowing money through bonds is final. “This is an important win that should send a message around Mississippi: don’t violate the ethics and open government laws, or responsible citizens and the Mississippi Justice Institute will stand up for their rights and challenge you,” said MJJ Director Shadrack White. Meridian attorney Stephen Wilson and White represented Williams in the case, Thomas E. Williams v. Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors. Williams blew the whistle when Lauderdale Supervisors purposefully met in small

groups to avoid creating a quorum. By not creating a quorum at any one meeting, supervisors believed they could avoid the requirements in the Open Meetings Act that said those meetings had to be open to the public. “Mississippians deserve transparent government. Citizens have the right to see, in flesh and blood, how their leaders make decisions,” said White. “This case reaffirms that principle.” “MJJ was successful in this case thanks to Tommy’s courage and thanks to a strong precedent set in a previous MJJ case on the Open Meetings Act,” added White. Last year, MJJ won an Open Meetings Act case involving the City of Columbus at the Mississippi Supreme Court. The case set a critical precedent that politicians cannot hold small meetings for the purpose of sidestepping open meetings laws. “Meridian attorney Stephen Wilson is a brilliant lawyer and also deserves a great deal of credit for driving this case to completion,” said White. The Open Meetings Act states that all official public meetings of a government

body where a quorum is present should be open to the public, with only a few exceptions. Now courts have bolstered the law with two rulings that say politicians may not prearrange smaller meetings with the intent to avoid the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. The Lauderdale Chancery Court’s ruling upholds an initial ruling by the Mississippi Ethics Commission in this case. “The Ethics Commission should be commended as well here,” said White. “They did excellent work uncovering the facts of this case and upholding transparent government.” In its two year history, MJJ has built a track record of success, particularly in transparency and ethics laws cases. MJJ has also sued Jackson over its onerous regulations on new taxi businesses, has successfully defended the rights of Mississippi charter school parents in a landmark constitutional case and has filed a complaint challenging Natchez’s violation of transparency laws. To learn more about this case: <http://www.msjustice.org/case/lauderdale-open-meetings-act/>

Bryant appoints Michel director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant announced recently that he has appointed retired Col. Gregory S. Michel director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The appointment is effective immediately. Michel takes over for J.W. Ledbetter, Bryant’s senior criminal justice policy advisor, who has overseen MEMA operations since last month, when former director Lee Smithson resigned. Michel began his military career in February 1988, when he enlisted into the Mississippi Army National Guard with the 1-155th Infantry Battalion as a combat medical specialist in his hometown of McComb. He was commissioned as an infantry officer through the Army ROTC program at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1991. He spent his first 10 years as a traditional guardsman where he mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm and completed three rotations through the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif. During this period, he served in numerous leadership positions in the Infantry Battalion to include rifle platoon leader, support platoon leader, company executive officer, and company commander. “Colonel Michel brings a wealth of experience to MEMA



Michel

as we enter the heart of hurricane season,” Bryant said. “He served well the people of Mississippi and our nation for almost three decades as a member of our National Guard, defending our freedom and ensuring our national security at home and abroad. I am certain that service will continue in his new role, and I am delighted he has accepted this appointment.” In May of 1998, Michel entered active duty with the National Guard. In 2004, he deployed to Iraq with the 1-155th Infantry Battalion as the battalion executive officer serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and numerous others. “I am both humbled and hon-

ored to accept this assignment from Governor Bryant as director, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency,” Michel said. “I love Mississippi and the people that make Mississippi what it is. Mississippi is home. To have responsibility for their safety in times of emergency is significant, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. I am proud to serve Mississippi in this role and look forward to working with the great team of men and women at MEMA.” Michel earned a bachelor’s degree in business and marketing from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1992, a master’s degree from Touros University in 1994 and an additional master’s from the U.S. Army War College in 2016. He served as president of the National Guard Association of Mississippi in 2014-2015. He has served as regional chairman of the Training Center Commander’s Advisory Council since 2015. Michel is a 2013 graduate of Mississippi Economic Council’s Leadership Mississippi and is past chairman of the American Heart Association’s Forrest-Lamar County Heart Walk. He has served as board advisor of the Better Life Foundation since 2011. Michel and his wife, Rachel, live in Ridgeland. They have one daughter, Anna Morgan.

“Save Our Summer \$1,000 Giveaway” blood drive at UMMC

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) will be holding a blood drive with the University of Mississippi Medical Center on the following days at the following locations: **Monday and Tuesday**, June 25 and 26, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. the MBS Donor Coach will be parked between the Guyton Building and the School of Medicine. **Wednesday**, June 27, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. the MBS Donor Coach will be parked on the Bailey Avenue side of the Jackson Medical Mall. **Thursday**, June 28, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the MBS Donor Coach will be parked at the front entrance to University Hospital. Donors will receive a limited

edition blue T-shirt (while supplies last). All donors will automatically be registered in the MBS Save Our Summer \$1,000 Giveaway. The Save Our Summer \$1,000 Giveaway summer promotion, which runs through Saturday, August 18, is now under way. Every week during the promotion, Mississippi Blood Services will be giving away \$1,000 to a donor. All donors at all blood drive and fixed site locations are eligible. One donor every week will win \$1,000 during the 12-week promotion. Donations count Sunday through Saturday; names will be drawn the following Monday. Every time a donor donates during the promotion, he or she is eligible to win in that week’s

drawing. Mississippi Blood Services is giving away \$12,000 during 12 weeks of summer – \$1,000 to a donor every week for 12 weeks. Donating blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. Donors must be at least 16 years old (16-year-olds need signed parental consent, visit our Web site for a copy of the form), weigh at least 110 pounds and have a valid ID. You can visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/give2live and follow MSbloodservices on Twitter. Download the free MBS app for your smartphone and/or tablet and keep up with all things MBS! #Give1Save3. Visit us at msblood.com or call us at (888) 90-BLOOD (902-5663) for more information.

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6/21/2018 6/28/2018

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DOROTHY TAYLOR, DECEASED
STACY DAWSON AND DONNA McLAURIN, PETITIONERS

CAUSE NO.: P2018-43 T/1


SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: Any Unknown Heirs or
Any Other Respondent

You have been made a respondent in the Petition to Close the Estate of DOROTHY TAYLOR, regarding the Probate of the Last Will and Testament filed by Executrixes of her Will, seeking a Decree to Close the Estate, Disburse Assets, Discharge the Executrixes and Other Relief.

You are Summoned to appear and defend against said Petition Filed herein before the Honorable Judge, Dewayne Thomas September 6, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., at the Hinds County Chancery Court, Chancery Courthouse, Jackson, Mississippi. And in case of failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered for the things requested in the Petition. You are not required to file any answers or other pleadings, but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE COURT this 14th day of June, 2018.



EDDIE JEAN CARR
HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURT, Clerk
By: K. Howard, D.C.

Of Counsel:
Chester Ray Jones, Esq. - MSB #3191
Counselor and Attorney-at-Law
Post Office Box 5141, Jackson, MS 39204
(601) 953-6491; chetjones1545@yahoo.com

6/21/2018 6/28/2018 7/05/2018

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

I F E V E R Y O N E D E M A N D E D P E A C E
S G I W I A R X V I U I L M V U I U H I M Y I
I N S T E A D O F A N O T H E R T E L E V I S I O N
S V P F I M U X G M V X F T I A F I C I W S P S X V
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Week of June 17, 2018

Medgar Evers Assassination Jubilee

*Talents surge
to celebrate the icon*

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

When the vicious assassin of celebrated Civil Rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers murdered him in cold blood, before his wife and children June 12, 1963, little did he realize that he had crowned a new icon, leader and martyr.

Fifty years after the ruthless slaughter of this legend, his glowing image grows by leaps and bounds in people's eyes, perceptions and perspectives.

2018 marks the 55th anniversary of the tragedy. Evers' accomplishments, dreams and vision attracted focus, emphasis and praise all over the world, especially in Jackson Mississippi. The anniversary sparked jubilation and celebration along with the determination to complete the task he started.

Universal recognition

All over the Jackson metropolis, and beyond, groups, families, friends, fans and even foes, congregated in churches, museums theatres, assembly halls and meeting spots to salute this monumental figure, his wife and children. They also highlighted his achievements, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

Talented folks

A significant aspect of this celebration was the rise and avalanche of talented people to the forefront to honor this great man. They remembered him in prayers, poems, performances, food, fun, family reunions, speeches, spoken word and reflections.

The argument can be advanced that Medgar Evers died so that African-American, and other minority talents, can bloom and blossom in America and indeed around the globe.

Yes, the performance and output of folks with Evers as the centerpiece, bears manifest testimony of this assertion.

DeAnna Tisdale Johnson: song maestro

Tisdale electrified the city with her singing at the Jackson museum where people shared stories of his life, love and legacy. Her presentation was marvelously fabulous. She is the daughter of Jackson Advocate proprietors, the Late Charles Tisdale and publisher Alice Tisdale.

McGuinis spoken word star

Professor and poet, McGuinness, a Jackson State University instructor and spoken word icon, at the same event, presented Evers as a great reformer and revolutionary, who left indelible imprints on the sands of time. His dynamic presentation lauded the icon as simply extraordinary. His tone, pitch, articulation and argument elicited a standing ovation.

MADDDRAMA

Jackson State University's celebrated group, Mad Drama stirred, educated, enlightened and sensitized the public on Evers' role and place in history. Blending oratory, praise, condemnation, music and persuasion, they submitted that the work he started is still not done and needs to be continued. Their eloquence, enunciation and overall production was impressive and inspiring.

Oratory

Speakers at New Horizon Church and the African American Art Shop on Monument and Farish Streets, led serious discussions on Evers' bequest and what needs to be done to alleviate the still disastrous plight of African Americans who grapple with poverty, poor housing, inadequate transportation, high crime rates and imprisonment.



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FILM REVIEW: “TAG”

BFFS PLAY CUTTHROAT VERSION OF KIDS GAME IN FACT-BASED CAT-AND-MOUSE COMEDY

By Kam Williams
Columnist

As kids, five BFFs from Spokane, Washington began playing Tag with no idea that, over the intervening years, an innocuous children’s game might gradually morph into a cutthroat version where each would go to extraordinary lengths to pass on or avoid becoming “It.” Several decades later, despite bearing all the responsibilities associated with

adulthood, the guys remain ever vigilant for another tap on the shoulder.

The competitive quintet came to the attention of Wall St. Journal reporter Mark Steilen who wrote an article about their imaginative antics entitled, “It Takes Planning, Caution to Avoid Being It.” Soon thereafter, Hollywood came-a-callin’ seeking to retain the rights to their story.

The upshot is Tag, the least

like likely of sports flicks since Dodge Ball (2004). The movie marks the feature film directorial debut of Jeff Tomsic, who had previously only been at the helm of assorted TV show productions. Tomsic assembled a big-name cast, with Jon Hamm, Ed Helms Jeremy Renner, Hannibal Buress and Jake Johnson portraying the protagonists of the bawdy buddy comedy.

At the point of departure, we find Hoagie (Helms), a

veterinarian by profession, taking a job as a janitor at an insurance company just to be able to shock a rival, Callahan (Hamm), the firm’s CEO. That gives you an idea of the elaborate ruses involved.

While this novel adventure gets an A for creativity, its characters frequent resort to unnecessary cursing proves to be a self-sabotaging distraction. After all, Tag is still a little kids’ game, even if it’s big kids playing it. So, in this critic’s opinion, the film would’ve worked better with a squeaky clean script.

Nevertheless, the series of screwball stunts held my interest for the duration, despite the profusion of profanities. Best of all, were the priceless clips which ran during the closing credits of the real-life pals pulling off their pranks.

A nostalgic walk down Memory Lane courtesy of the ultimate game of Tag. You’re it!

Very Good (2.5 stars)

Rated R for pervasive profanity, crude humor, sexuality, drug use and brief nudity

Running time: 100 minutes

Production Studios: Broken Road Productions / New Line Cinema

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see the trailer for Tag, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rQu77pgnpg>



FILM REVIEW: Incredibles 2

Parr family back to battle diabolical villain hypnotizing humanity

By Kam Williams
Columnist

It’s hard to fathom why it has taken Disney and Pixar 14 years to release a follow-up to The Incredibles. After all, it not only won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature, but it grossed over \$600 million at the box office. During the interim, creator Brad Bird instead made Ratatouille (2007), Mission: Impossible (2011) and Tomorrowland (2015) before turning his attention to writing and directing Incredibles 2.

The great news is that this thoroughly entertaining sequel is well worth the wait. And most of the actors playing members of the crime-fighting Parr family are back. Craig T. Nelson and

Holly Hunter reprise their roles as parents Bob (Mr. Incredible) and Helen (Elastigirl), as do Eli Fucile and Sarah Vowell as baby Jack Jack and 14 year-old Violet. 10 year-old Dash is now portrayed by Huck Milner, since the original kid’s voice deepened.

Samuel L. Jackson has also returned as family friend and fellow superhero Lucius Best/Frozone. Noteworthy additions to the ensemble include Catherine Keener, Isabella Rossellini and Bob Odenkirk.

The picture picks up precisely where the first left off. Jack Jack is still a toddler, but learning to harness the superpowers that had just started to manifest towards the end of the previous episode. At the point of departure, we find

the Parrs being forced into retirement by a government agent (Jonathan Banks) because of the costly collateral damage of their last operation.

Of course, that doesn’t last long. Helen is soon coaxed back into her stretchy superhero suit by a rich fan (Odenkirk) for a photo op designed to resurrect her disgraced clan’s image. The impromptu sex role reversal has Bob staying home to assume the child-rearing and domestic duties.

Next thing you know, Helen is further recruited to subdue Screenslaver (Bill Wise), a pizza delivery guy-turned-hacker who has started hijacking people’s computer screens.

Might someone else be behind



a wider diabolical plot to hypnotize all of humanity? If so, that might call for the rest of the Parrs to morph into their superhero alter egos and join the fight.

What ensues is another visually-captivating, dizzying delight for young and old alike. Pixar and Disney have done it again!

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG for action and brief mild epithets

Running time: 118 minutes

Production Studios: Pixar Animation Studios / Walt Disney Pictures

Distributor: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

To see a trailer for Incredibles 2, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5qOzqD9Rms>

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Sudoku

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

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by John Lennon

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

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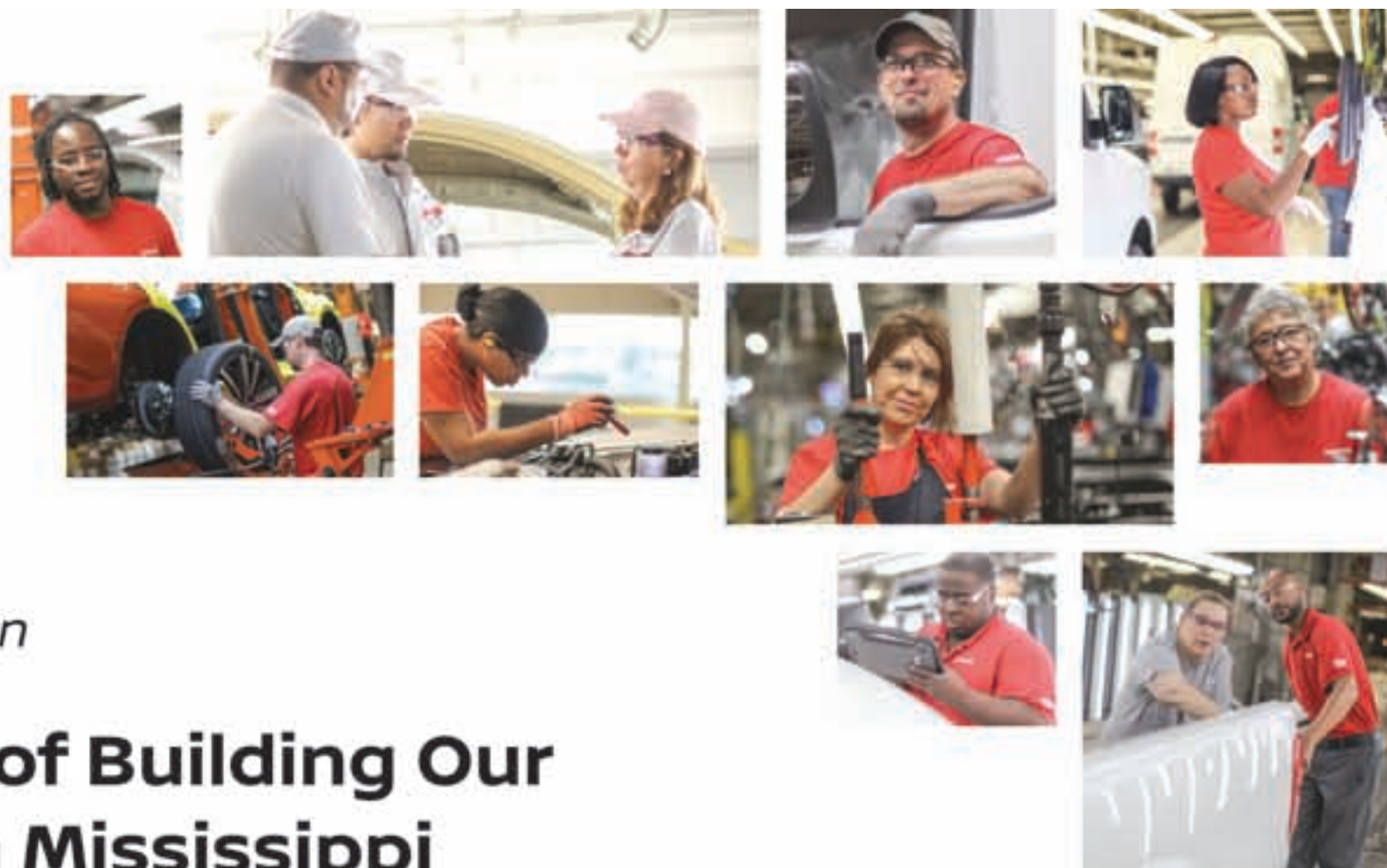
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in local
volunteer hours



Nissan Canton says **thank you** to our employees, our community and our state for 15 years of building our future—and we look forward to the next chapter in our Mississippi story.

* "Nissan Canton: A Catalyst for Advanced Automotive Manufacturing in Mississippi." A study from Mississippi State University. June 2016.

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