

Andrew Gillum shocks the political world and sets stage for three black U.S. governors

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Writer

Wildly outspent by a billionaire challenger and the daughter of a former Florida Governor, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, 39, shocked the political establishment to win the gubernatorial primary in Florida August 28.

Gillum defeated former Congresswoman Gwen Graham 34-31 percent to win the Democratic nomination. He will now face pro-Trump Congressman Ron DeSantis in the general election November 6.

Gillum's victory caught many political observers by surprise.

The 39-year old Mayor was polling in fourth place less than a month ago. But recent polls showed an upward movement to second place. Gillum and his supporters completed that upward movement by coming in first on election night.

Gillum's victory sets up a historic opportunity for there to be three sitting African-American governors in the U.S. for the first time in history.

Former Georgia lawmaker Stacey Abrams is the Democratic nominee or governor of Georgia after a decisive July 24 primary victory. Abrams would be the first African-American woman to be a governor from



Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, 39, shocked the political establishment to win the gubernatorial primary in Florida on August 28th

any state, should she win.

Former NAACP President Ben Jealous is running for governor in Maryland against moderate incumbent Republican Larry Hogan. There are also four black candidates for Lt. governor running this year for the first time in history.

Gillum's progressive victory was cemented in part by a late visit by Sen. Bernie Sanders in support of his candidacy. Though he did not win, the Independent Vermont U.S. senator who ran for president

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Serving with a servant's heart

Will Jemison appointed International Chief of Staff for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

By Othor Cain
Editor

With absolutely no thoughts of taking on a leadership role in 2005, when he transferred his membership from Theta Sigma Chapter at Dillard University in New Orleans to the Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi in Jackson, Miss., Will Jemison was prepared to be financially active and simply support programs.

Those thoughts quickly vanished and his time of rest came to an immediate end when his work in New Orleans and service to Jackson was observed by David Marion, who was serving on a state level for the organization at the time.

Marion recognized Jemison's ability to "get things done," and asked him to serve on various committees, including one where he [Jemison] lead the 7th District in an extraordinary outreach effort and reclaimed more than 3,000 inactive members. "This was the largest effort of reclaiming brothers in our history," Jemison said.

Jemison has been an Omega



Jemison

since 2001. "I knew this was my path," he said. "I remember as a kid being on the campus of Jackson State University with my brother-in-law Robert Woodson, who became an Omega in 1981 and watching the camaraderie these guys shared and the impact of their work; I knew then that I wanted to be a part of this group," he said. "When I

got to Dillard, the Omegas were leading on the campus, they were the ones receiving most of the academic awards and leading several different efforts on campus...for me it was a no brainer."

Jemison is excited about the next chapter for the organization. "I've been connected to David for a long time and I

know he serves with a servant's heart, so its easy to buy into his vision," Jemison said.

He envisions the organization becoming more than a sleeping giant. "We do a lot, but only our organization really knows it," he said. "I want to see us really engage more in the community and I want the Omegas to help all of the other members of the Divine 9 to do more."

Jemison reflected on the history of the Divine 9. "I know we were all founded during segregation and at a time when we were dealing with other monumental civil rights issues," he said. "It seems we are at a time where we are facing some of those same issues again and I want to see all of us become more than sleeping giants, become more engaged with the community, become more impactful; together we can do it."

Marion tapped Jemison to serve as international chief of staff, a position he serves with a great amount of preparation and pride. "I've served as his

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Check with the voter registrar – Are you still on the rolls?

By Mark Hedin
Tricedneywire.com

U.S. citizens across the country soon will vote on all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, for 35 U.S. senators and three dozen governorships. The House of Representatives and possibly the Senate are up for grabs.

Given the high stakes, voters would do well to check at least a month ahead of time with their local board of elections to see if they're still registered to vote. This is especially true for people of color.

The reason is that millions could find their right to vote challenged or taken away under suspicion that they're trying to vote more than once, largely due to 26 states using the Interstate Voter Crosscheck system, which compares lists of voters in different states and challenges the registration of those whose names come up more



than once.

For the 1,166,000 people in the country who share the surname Garcia, this could be a problem. Likewise for the Rodriguezes (1,094,924), Jacksons (708,099), Washingtons (177,386), Kims (262,352), Patels (229,973), Lees (693,023) and Parks (106,696).

Crosscheck, developed in 2005 by Kansas Secretary of

State Ron Thornburgh as a free service for participating states, promised to detect voter fraud by comparing people's names, social security numbers and birthdates. Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri first implemented it in 2006.

During his tenure as Kansas' secretary of state, current GOP gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach expanded Crosscheck

to 15 states by 2012 and 29 by 2014 and in 2017 was appointed to a leading role in the White House's short-lived Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

In 2017, of 98 million voting records Crosscheck analyzed, it deemed 7.2 million potential duplicates, although Crosscheck has yet to produce its first voter fraud conviction. Eight states that originally signed on have since dropped out, citing unreliable data. Nonetheless, it's still in use in dozens more.

Eight of those state have Senate seats up for a vote this year in contests that are expected to be close: Arizona, Nevada, Indiana, Missouri, West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan. And 19 Crosscheck-using states are voting on their governor for the next four years.

In a 2015 named "The Health of State Democracies," the Center for American Progress, a

nonprofit funded in part by the Gates Foundation, Wal-Mart, Ford Foundation and many others, concluded that the voters Crosscheck tagged for review are disproportionately non-white.

"States participating in the Interstate Crosscheck system risk purging legally registered voters with a significant oversampling from communities of color," it said, citing the work of journalist Greg Palast, who's been studying the U.S. voting system since 2000, for the BBC, al-Jazeera America, Rolling Stone magazine and others and produced a film about it, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy."

Working with data analyst Mark Swedlund, Palast found that among states using Crosscheck, one in six Hispanics, one in seven Asian Americans and one in nine African Americans landed on its list of suspect vot-

ers.

"The outcome is discriminatory against minorities," Swedlund says.

The chief explanation for the racial inequity is that ethnic communities are more likely to share a surname, such as Washington, Lee, Patel or Kim, Palast told Ethnic Media Services.

Swedlund and Palast found that the Crosscheck system seems satisfied that if two people share a common first and last name, they're suspect. Differences in their birthdate, middle initial, Social Security numbers or suffixes such as "Jr." and "Sr." don't keep registered voters off Crosscheck's lists.

Not all 7 million people whose names appear on Crosscheck's lists will be denied a vote, though. For one thing, only 36.4 percent of the people

Vote
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JSU alum Cornell William Brooks receives Harvard Kennedy School appointment



Aretha Franklin laid to rest following loving ceremony



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Landmark Jackson Heart Study renewed for six more years

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has renewed its support of the Jackson Heart Study, expanding the program's ability to make discoveries about cardiovascular health, translate these findings for the community and train the next generation of biomedical scientists.

The JHS is the largest long-term study of cardiovascular health in a defined group, or cohort, of African Americans. Since 1998, the JHS has studied more than 5,300 people from the Jackson metropolitan area. Investigators at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College and the Mississippi State Department of Health received official notification of the six-year extension August 13.

"The funding is new but the JHS goal remains the same: to figure out what factors can cause and prevent heart disease in African Americans. [The partner institutions] will keep working together in the JHS. But the JHS goal can only be reached if you keep participating," wrote Dr. Adolfo Correa, director of the JHS and UMMC professor of medicine in a letter to the cohort members.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading



cause of death for Americans. Among African Americans, nearly half of adults have some form of cardiovascular disease, and about one in four dies of heart disease.

"With this new funding, we will do many of the same activities," Correa said, such as conducting annual follow-up with participants about their health and hosting community events to share study findings.

The renewed funding, which will support the study until August 2024, also allows for several new components.

"We are delighted that there will be a new Jackson Heart Study Exam 4 during 2020-

2022," Correa said.

Like its predecessors, this exam will add to the extensive longitudinal data on cardiovascular disease risk factors, socioeconomic and sociocultural factors, imaging studies and biological samples. Results from the JHS have been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association-Cardiology, Journal of the American Heart Association and Science Translational Medicine, among others.

At UMMC, the NHLBI funding supports the JHS coordinating and field centers, which conduct research studies and maintain contact with the

JHS cohort.

This next JHS phase will also include a component on the relationship between heart health and brain health.

The JHS also gains a new Graduate Training and Education Center at UMMC for students interested in cardiovascular epidemiology and related biomedical research. Led by Dr. Bettina Beech, dean of the School of Population Health, it joins the existing centers for graduate students at JSU and high school and undergraduate students at Tougaloo.

The GTEC at UMMC will provide training in cardiovascular health from a population health perspective to graduate students enrolled in health-, STEM-, or social science-related doctoral and health professional programs at Mississippi colleges and universities.

"Our program is designed to provide students with diverse hands-on experiences in cardiovascular epidemiology, cardiovascular health, minority health and health disparities to encourage them to pursue careers in biomedical science," Beech said. "We have assembled a team of investigators who are committed to training the next generation of scientists and are senior faculty at the nation's leading universities in health science including UCLA, Johns Hopkins, University of Texas-Southwestern

and Vanderbilt University."

"The Graduate Training and Education Center provides training in cardiovascular epidemiology that enhances the professional skills of graduate students that will allow them to contribute to the workforce in biomedical sciences and public health," said Dr. Marinelle Payton, director of the JSU graduate center.

"Also, this opportunity adds value to scholars' practical experience in health research to prepare them for careers in biomedical sciences and professions that will greatly impact the Jackson Heart Study community," said Payton, chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics in the School of Public Health at JSU.

Wendy White of Tougaloo College said that thanks to the support of the NHLBI, nearly 200 students have gone through the undergraduate training program, more than half of whom went on to pursue graduate and professional degrees in health-related sciences.

"The Jackson Heart Study is so important for the community and our students," said White, principal investigator of the undergraduate center. "It's profound what we have accomplished. To say that we have been going strong for nearly 20 years speaks to how [the NHLBI] holds us in high regard."

This year, the Mississippi

State Department of Health joins the JHS and will manage the new Community Engagement Center.

"We will promote cardiovascular health in the targeted communities surrounding the Jackson area. These include Madison, Rankin and Hinds Counties, however, we will extend our work statewide," said Dr. Victor Sutton, director of the JHS community center and the Office of Preventive Health at MSDH. "Our team will educate our communities and implement evidence-based activities to support optimal health. We look forward to sharing our work across all centers throughout the nation."

Outside of the Jackson metropolitan area, the JHS maintains relationships with multiple universities serving as Vanguard Centers and makes its data accessible for ancillary studies.

NHLBI Jackson Heart Study project officer Cheryl Nelson wrote in a letter to participants, "Your involvement in the study over the past nearly 20 years has helped to advance our knowledge and direction of medical research in this critical area – and, we believe, is saving lives."

The JHS is funded by the NHLBI and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.



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Servant

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assistant, chief of staff and in other roles for him,” Jemison said. “I’m ready and honored to do it.” As international chief of staff, Jemison will act as an advisor to the Grand Basileus, ensure his programs are executed, serve as a liaison to all cabinet members and ensure they have what they need to succeed. “I’m almost like a connector in this position, while my job is to ensure our programs are implemented, I’m also here to make sure that everyone is successful,” he said. “I’ll also work directly with all of our corporate and government partners.”

Jemison shares the vision that Marion has cast for the organization. “It is simply about service,” he said. “I knew this when I worked with him in other roles and that’s why it was easy to chair his election this year. Marion was elected the 41st Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi in New Orleans in July.

Marion has already set the tone for his administration and for the fraternity at large. Since July 24, the organization has given \$40K to HBCUs and has

formed an HBCU initiative committee to support more HBCUs across the country.

During the inauguration of Quinton Ross, who serves as president of Alabama State University (ASU), Marion bestowed a gift of \$10K to him from the fraternity. ASU joins the ranks of Jackson State University, Tougaloo and Rust Colleges as the first group of HBCUs to benefit from the newly formed alliance.

The best is yet to come.

With more than 60,000 living members, Jemison is excited about the economic impact this organization will have on Mississippi. “This is historic, not only with the Omegas, but with all of the Divine 9, to have this much leadership in Jackson...in Mississippi, its a major opportunity to do some really good work,” he shared excitedly. “If we are to remain relevant, we must serve in a relevant type of way and not lose focus,” Jemison said. “The community and all of these organizations must be connected...its about service.”



Jemison emceed the launch program for David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus for Omega Psi Phi.

Vote

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who were registered to vote even showed up at the polls in 2014. In one survey of elections between 1960 and 1995, the United States ranks dead last in the democracies of the world, with an average turnout of 48 percent.

Would-be voters whose names are missing from the lists of registered voters will be given what’s called a “provisional ballot,” to be tallied if the voter is ultimately found to have been wrongly left off the lists. Palast, however, skeptical that many provisional ballots are ever counted, refers to them as “placebo ballots.”

Voters eager to cast genuine ballots, then, might want to call their local Board of Elections well in advance of Nov. 6 to be sure that they’ll be allowed to vote.

In 2018’s highly charged political environment, individual votes may count more than ever. Take, for example, the recent special election for the vacant seat representing Ohio’s 12th Congressional

District.

In that still undecided Aug. 7 race, 1,200 votes separate Republican Troy Balderson and Democrat Danny O’Connor at press time.

Ohio has removed almost 200,000 voters from the rolls because they appeared on the Crosscheck lists.

The margin of victory in the state’s 12th District race may ultimately be found among the 5,048 absentee ballots not yet tallied and the still uncounted 3,435 provisional ballots.

No matter which of the candidates is awarded Ohio’s vacant 12th District Congressional seat based on the August election, voters will get another chance to decide between Balderson and O’Connor in November.

That’s why voters who want to have their voices heard Nov. 6, in Ohio and elsewhere, should call local officials ahead of time to see if any problems have come up with their registration.

Gillum

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in 2016, focused on bread and butter issues many Americans identified with as he ran against Hillary Clinton. Sanders’ issue focus included income inequality, money in politics, corporate greed and raising the minimum wage.

Despite the Democratic Party’s support of the moderate blue dog style of former U.S. Representative Gwen Graham, voters had other ideas and a progressive shift has likely been spurred by Donald Trump’s policies.

Gillum, a graduate of Florida A&M University, is viewed as the continuation of a progressive surge and a shift away from the

establishment also seen in the shocking victory of Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez over longtime Congressman Joe Crowley in a primary for his New York House seat. Though her victory is not necessarily a symptom of a widespread trend, it is a signal that a political wave in the opposite direction of Donald Trump is on the horizon in less than 70 days. November 6, 2018.

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Clopton brings Digital Magic films to Medgar Evers Library



Row 1 (l-r) Christopher Bell, Wilma Clopton, Phyllis Walton, Anne Sanders. Row 2: (l-r) Frezaale Smith, Char-linda Guice, Angel Walton, Emmanuel McDougal. Not pictured: D’Anthony Thompson

By James Hampton III
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, September 1, a group of young people participating in the Digital Magic program of filmmaker and educator Wilma E. Mosley Clopton, Ph.D. screened their own short film productions at the Medgar Evers Library located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd.

The first film titled “Being an Artist” by D’Anthony Thompson, was a personal glimpse into the filmmaker’s life as he addressed the audience directly about his journey as an artist while promoting such artistic virtues as self-discipline and learning from mistakes.

The second, “Music Saved Us,” by Frezaale Smith was a documentary film that through words, imagery and sound conveyed the utility of African-American music in the struggle and journey of African Americans throughout

time. The film began examining and informing on spirituals to gospel music and then illuminated connections from there to blues, jazz, jazz-poetry and hip hop.

The third film screened was “Welcome to Phyllis DIY” by Phyllis Walton. The film was a decorative crafting how-to guide with informative action shots and clear, lively instructions.

Digital Magic is an interactive, hands-on program that introduces young Mississippi students to documentary filmmaking. It is led by Clopton, who is an esteemed Mississippi filmmaker. Through this program, students learn valuable techniques, terminology and research methods as they plan, film and edit their own short videos.

Other participants included Christopher Bell, voice over specialist and Emmanuel Mc-

Dougal, editor/videographer.

Clopton said, “It was such an incredible blessing working with this group of young filmmakers.” She went on to say, “Working with extremely limited resources, and relying on the individual and combined skills of the participants, this remarkable group produced four extremely profound short films, which we look forward to sharing on our website at www.blackhistoryplus.com.”

Clopton said kudos to Anne Sanders, branch manager of the Medgar Evers Library and her staff for all they do in creating a safe, loving, creative environment for their constituents to learn and grow.”

The group of participants in the Digital Magic program will be collaborating on a film for submission into a worldwide competition sponsored by Planet Forward at George Washington University.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Schuler Smith is prepared to fight in Rankin County County. Smith’s trial on alleged domestic violence charges will begin Monday, Sept. 10. Please stay connected with the Mississippi Link for daily online updates and full coverage next Thursday.



Smith

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“What They See... Is What They’ll Be...”

ACLU of Mississippi releases Blueprint with roadmap for cutting incarceration by 50 percent

Mississippi Link Newswire

The ACLU of Mississippi recently released a report with recommendations that could lead to a 50 percent reduction in Mississippi’s prison population.

The report is a part of the ACLU’s Smart Justice 50-State Blueprints project, a comprehensive, state-by-state analysis of factors that contribute to mass incarceration and includes reforms that if implemented would end our overreliance on incarceration.

The Blueprint includes an overview of Mississippi’ incarcerated populations, including analysis on who is being sent to jail and prison and the racial disparities that are present, what drives people into the system, how long people spend behind bars and why people are imprisoned for so long.

Some of the key findings include:

- Mississippi’s prison population has grown nearly five-fold since 1980

- While black men make up 34 percent of the male population in Mississippi, they make up 65 percent of the prison population, which translates to one in 30 black men in prison

- Drug offenses are the leading driver of this incarceration epidemic. For example, selling just 2 grams of most drugs carries up to 20 years in prison.

The majority of people in



county jails – about 56 percent – have not yet been convicted of a crime and are awaiting trial.

“While recent reforms over the last few years has reduced Mississippi’s prison population, the state ranks third in the country for the number of people we lock up every day,” said Jennifer Riley Collins, ACLU of Mississippi executive director. “This addiction to prison is ruining families and communities and costing taxpayers about \$330 million in corrections costs. To get to better outcomes for the criminal justice system in Mississippi, we must take a different approach and divert resources toward education, infrastructure and economic stimulation.”

Some of the key reforms include:

- Urgent efforts should focus on bail reform, an evaluation of prosecutorial practices, sentencing reform for burglary

offenses, and increasing access to alternatives for incarceration for drug-related offenses.

- Policymakers should take state prison time off the table for low-level drug and property offenses and reduce them to misdemeanors.

- The Legislature should also take a comprehensive approach to reform the state’s extreme minimum and maximum sentencing laws as well as sentence enhancements for people with prior convictions.

In the coming weeks, the ACLU of Mississippi will convene a briefing with the public, advocates, and policymakers to share the findings of the Blueprint and discuss strategies on how to move the criminal justice reform agenda further forward.

The Smart Justice 50-State Blueprints are the first-ever analysis of its kind and will serve as a tool for activists, advocates and policymakers

to push for transformational change to the criminal justice system.

They are the result of a multi-year partnership between the ACLU, state affiliates, and the Urban Institute to develop actionable policy options for each state that capture the nuance of local laws and sentencing practices.

“The shape of mass incarceration in Massachusetts or Ohio looks different than it does in Arizona or Mississippi. But no matter where you are, the fact is there are far too many people behind bars,” said Udi Ofer, director of the ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice. “We hope that the Smart Justice 50-State Blueprints provide necessary guideposts for activists and policymakers as they pursue local solutions that will address the stark racial disparities in our criminal justice system and dramatically reduce their jail and prison populations. Some of the reforms contained in the Blueprints are readily achievable, while others are going to require audacious change. But all are needed to prioritize people over prisons.”

The reports are all viewable on an interactive website that allows users to visualize the reductions in jail and prison population that would result from the policy decisions that states pursue.

Robinson receives 4-year appointment to NFHS Board



Mississippi Link Newswire

Kalvin Robinson has been appointed to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Board of Directors. His four-year term as at-large representative for Sections 3 and 7 began July 1.

“Mr. Robinson will be a terrific representative for the MHSAA and the state of Mississippi,” said MHSAA Executive Director Don Hinton. “He has a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience in high school athletics and activities as a former student-athlete and as a leader with 23 years as a teacher, coach and administrator. This is a great opportunity for him to make a positive difference for young people, not only in our state but across the country.”

The Board of Directors assist the NFHS executive director by interpreting and enforcing the provisions of the constitution

and bylaws. This includes overseeing the annual budget, establishing committees and approving all sports rules changes.

Robinson, an associate superintendent with the Madison County School District since 2014, is in his third year of a four-year term as president of the MHSAA’s 15-member executive committee.

A standout football player for Jim Hill High School and Alcorn State University, Robinson began his career in education in 1995 as a teacher and coach at Jim Hill High School. In 1999, he became a teacher and coach at Clinton High School before moving into administration in the Rankin County School District as assistant principal and later as principal. His tenure at Rankin County Schools was from 2003 to 2014. In 2014 he moved to Madison County Schools as associate superintendent.



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Hinds County Human Resource Agency 24th Annual Awards & Recognition Gala

GALA 2018

Friday, September 28, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Marriott Hotel



Keynote Speaker:
Maggie Wade
News Anchor/Reporter
WLBT 3 On Your Side
& WDBD Fox40

At Hinds County Human Resource Agency, our goal is to help families and strengthen communities.

The Annual Awards and Recognition Gala is Hinds County Human Resource Agency's signature development event, which helps to provide critical matching funds for several services such as home-delivered meals, congregate meal sites, and Hinds County rural public transportation.

Maggie Wade, News Anchor/Reporter at WLBT 3 On Your Side & WDBD Fox40, will be featured as the keynote speaker for this year's Gala. Enjoy dinner, entertainment, and a fabulous silent auction. Cash and credit cards accepted. Tickets are \$50.

The Gala provides an important opportunity to create awareness about our programs and services; to celebrate our clients who have transitioned out of poverty to self-sufficiency; and to honor our volunteers and community partners who work with us throughout the year to help eradicate poverty and provided a better life for more than 49,000 low-income citizens throughout Hinds County.

Our programs and services would not be available without the invaluable support of our community and corporate partners.

To make a donation or for more information on tickets, ads, and sponsorships, call 601.923.1838.



*Helping Families,
Strengthening Communities*

September is Attendance Awareness Month

Mississippi Link Newswire

Did you know that chronic absence in kindergarten can affect a students’ reading proficiency in third grade? Did you know that even excused absences count when it comes to the impact of poor school attendance on student success?

Jackson Public Schools is joining the Mississippi Department of Education’s campaign to promote regular school attendance throughout the month of September. The statewide campaign, Strive for Less Than Five, encourages students to miss no more than five days per school year. This purpose aligns with that of the national Attendance Awareness movement spearheaded by the Attendance Works organization – to reduce chronic absence.

According to Attendance Works, chronic absence is when students miss 10 percent or more of the school year. With an average of 180 days a year, that is just 18 days a year or two days a month. It does not matter if these are excused or unexcused absences or suspensions, the impact is the same. Chronic absence puts students academically at risk.

“The research is clear about the negative effect that chronic absenteeism has on student achievement,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “If children are not in school, they are not learning. Starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, chronic absence can leave third graders unable to read proficiently, sixth graders struggling with coursework and high school students off track for graduation.”

- Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year.
- 1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and first grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it’s as high as 1 in 4.1
 - 2 in 10 low-income kids chronically miss too much school.
 - 2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.

- cally absent.
- 4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school.
- If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of third grade.

Who can read on grade level after third grade?

- 64 percent of kids with good attendance in kindergarten and first grade. (Missed nine or fewer days both years.)
- 43 percent of kids with at-risk attendance. (Missed more than nine days both years.)
- 41 percent of kids chronically absent in kindergarten or first grade. (Missed 18 or more days in one year.)
- 17 percent of kids chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade. (Missed 18 or more days in both years.)

- What families can do?
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
 - Build regular routines for bedtime and the morning.
 - Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.

• Don’t permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.

- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

- Keep a chart recording your child’s attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.

New administrators appointed to JPS schools and programs in 2018

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools has named new administrators at 15 schools and two programs for the 2018-2019 school year. The Early College High School is a new program in JPS this school year

Former District-level Administrator Chinelo Evans is heading the program which operates on the campus of Tougaloo College.

Program Administrators



Adult Education
Shawn Terrell
Mr. Terrell previously served as Principal at Provine High.



Early College High School
Dr. Chinelo Evans
Dr. Evans previously served as Executive Director of School Improvement.

School Administrators



Boyd Elementary
Candice Bosley
Ms. Bosley previously served as Assistant Principal at Swell Middle.



Claiborne Elementary
Carla Baker Thomas
Ms. Thomas previously served as Principal at George Elementary.



Green Elementary
Roshonda Clark
Ms. Clark previously served as Principal at French Elementary.



John Hopkins Elementary
Dr. Yolanda Lloyd
Dr. Lloyd previously served as Educational Consultant at Kirkland Group in Ridgeland, MS.



McLeod Elementary
Mathis Sheriff
Mr. Sheriff previously served as Principal at Walton Elementary.



Power APAC Elementary
Cody Shumaker
Mr. Shumaker previously served as K-6 Principal in the Cleveland School District in Cleveland, MS.



Smith Elementary
Malik Micou
Mr. Micou previously served as Assistant Principal at McLeod Elementary.



Spann Elementary
Leri Torrey
Ms. Torrey previously served as Assistant Principal at Spann Elementary.



Timberlawn Elementary
Dr. Lynn Horton
Dr. Horton previously served as Principal at Woodville Heights Elementary.



Walton Elementary
Zackery Hodge
Mr. Hodge previously served as Principal at Brown Elementary.



Bailey APAC Middle
Kenneth Green
Mr. Green previously served as Principal at Cardozo Middle.



Cardozo Middle
Dr. LaShonda Catchings
Dr. Catchings previously served as Assistant Principal at Lanier High.




Peoples Middle
Dr. Spurgeon Banyard
Dr. Banyard previously served as Assistant Principal at Provine High.



Forest Hill High
Torrey Hampton
Mr. Hampton previously served as Assistant Principal at Forest Hill High.



Provine High
Dr. Kerry Gray
Dr. Gray previously served as Principal at Peoples Middle.



VOTE Faye Peterson

HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

SUB. DIST. 4



PRECINCTS:

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Terry 2 | Utica 1 | Utica 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Former Hinds County Asst. Public Defender
- Former Hinds County Asst. District Attorney
- Former Hinds County District Attorney
- Owner of The Peterson Group LLC
- Owner of FC & H Realty
- Family Master Hinds County Chancery Court
- Volunteer CLE Trainer for CABA, MAJ, MVLP, MWLA, and the University of Mississippi School of Law
- Former Board Member Hinds County Human Resource Agency
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter
- B.S. Physics Jackson State University
- J.D. Mississippi College School of Law
- Member of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Usher Board and Circle of Temperance Missionary Group

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Upgraded, increased bus surveillance: ‘It’s that time!’

A NEW ED ERA, HOLMES CO. Part 3



The Mississippi Link Newswire

If your child’s school bus could see and hear, what would it show and tell? You might be shocked.

When it comes to bus safety, everyone involved in Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) is dedicated to keeping watchful eyes. However, those physical eyes cannot always be in a position to see everything. Earlier this month, HCCSD’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to upgrade and increase its video monitoring systems on the buses. “With so many negative happenings in schools today, it’s that time to beef up safety measures and take nothing for granted,” said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, Ed.D.

School districts nationwide and beyond are increasingly using such technology for student and driver safety, especially when it comes to curtailing bullying. According to stop-bullying.gov, “Most bullying takes place in school, outside on school grounds and on the



school bus.”

“Our students’ safety is top priority in our schools and especially on our buses,” said Henderson, who is professionally familiar with the effective use of bus cameras in larger districts. “I applaud the board’s foresight in this matter,” he said.

According to HCCSD Transportation Director Robert King, this upgrade and increased camera installations bring the current number of buses with video monitoring to twenty. Data on student referrals has determined the priority of camera installations. King, who began his district as a bus mechanic, said

since cameras were installed, “there has been a decline in [undesirable] student behavior on the buses.”

The interior coach has a camera pointing from the front to the back; another one from the back to the front; and one in between which views both sides. There is full surveillance coverage. “Drivers were very receptive and glad to receive this type of technology as it has significantly reduced problems on their buses,” said King. “Other drivers [have begun] to ask for surveillance cameras to be installed on their bus.”

Amanda Jones, a bus driver

for 13 years, said although she has not experienced any major problems, she is glad to have the cameras because they do tend to help settle some of the students from getting overly playful. She said part of her responsibility as a driver is to disclose to students getting on the bus that they are under surveillance. She likes the fact that in the event a child goes home and tells the parent something untrue about the driver or another student, the video can show what actually happened.

Not only do the cameras give drivers extra eyes, they also are very effective in settling disputes. King shared an incident in which a parent did not believe her child was acting out of character on the bus as reported. However, to the parent’s amazement, the camera showed otherwise.

While some may take issue with cameras on school buses, there is no real argument when it comes to offering a deterrent to undesired student behaviors such as bullying and unsafe rid-

ing actions. Additionally, cameras can also help protect students, schools and drivers from false accusations.

The new administration, district transportation and the board are all working diligently towards fully equipping the entire fleet of 82 buses with surveillance cameras. With the new superintendent’s recommendation and the board’s approval earlier this month to install newer and more cameras, HCCSD’s school bus safety and student behavior are moving in an even more positive direction.

HCCSD’s new bus monitoring system is by AngelTrax, which has been in business since 1999. The company has more than 250,000 various monitoring systems worldwide, according to its marketing information. Cameras are turned on by the bus ignition switch and remain on for up to fifteen minutes after the switch is turned off.

“Our students’ safety and behavior management are top priorities here in the Holmes

County Consolidated School District, in our classrooms and especially on our buses,” said Henderson, a native returned, who has served in leadership in larger districts in Texas, Missouri and New York. “I applaud the board’s foresight and their approval of such a vital measure of our school safety efforts.”

The rural HCCSD now joins thousands of school districts nationwide who have already given their bus drivers the extra help of the technological equivalent of “eyes in the back of their heads.” Such technology allows them to focus more on their driving safety.

“We understand that kids are going to be kids,” said Board President Anthony Anderson, who was once a bus driver himself for Holmes County Public Schools. “But the cameras give us that extra security we need, and this is very important. They not only allow us to see what the student did or did not do, but also allow us to see what the bus driver did or did not do as well,” Anderson concluded.

The Education Secretary’s \$5 billion giveaway to for-profit colleges: Deregulation of student loans

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Today’s increasingly competitive global economy requires and recruits those who are highly-skilled and knowledgeable. People understand and accept that higher education is a means to become employable, marketable and competitive.

It is equally true that the rising costs of higher education have now forced 44 million consumers to borrow \$1.4 trillion in student loans to finance their educations. This debt was often viewed as more of an investment than a cost.

That rational works so long as institutions deliver what was promised: a quality education. No loan was ever incurred as a lifetime commitment to debt that worsened with every passing year.

Not only are consumers incurring serious debts, they are also defaulting in disturbing numbers. Student loan defaults plummet credit scores, lowering them by as much as 50-90 points, according to the Urban Institute, a DC-based research organization. As credit scores drop, the cost of any future credit goes up, making it even harder for affected consumers to manage their personal finances.

While 250,000 federal direct student loan borrowers default every quarter, guess which consumers are most likely to default: people of color, veterans, and other low-income consumers. In



2018, the people who a decade ago were targeted for unsustainable, high-cost mortgage loans are now being targeted by for-profit colleges for career training that fails to deliver the skills and incomes that enable to repay student loans.

The Education Department’s Gainful Employment rule, which was finalized in 2014 and took effect in 2015, requires that career and technical training programs lead to income levels that enable their students to afford their student loan repayments. It also followed the failures of for-profit institutions like Corinthian Colleges, Everest and ITT Tech that left student borrowers without degrees, credits that could not be transferred and losses to taxpayers

who fund federal financial aid.

In recent days, however, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced plans to revoke this key rule and instead include additional data in the web-based resource called a College Scorecard that the department claims is better than regulation.

“Students deserve useful and relevant data when making important decisions about their education post-high school,” said DeVos. “That’s why instead of targeting schools simply by their tax status, this administration is working to ensure students have transparent, meaningful information about all colleges and all programs. Our new approach will aid students across all sectors of higher education and im-

prove accountability.”

As Tony Soprano might have said, “Fuhgedda bout it!”

Information is not the equivalent of rules that protect consumers or enforcement actions that hold bad actors accountable. Last year, over 800 programs covered by the gainful employment rule failed to meet the rule’s established standard – most of these programs were at for-profit institutions.

For example, recent research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), analyzed health care programs at for-profit institutions. Entitled, Bitter Pill: Gainful Employment and Credentialism in Health Care Support Fields, the report found that among the for-profit programs studied:

- Tuition and fees for an 11-month program can cost as much as \$17,000;
- 83 percent of programs leading to either a certificate or two-year associates degree scored poorly in the 2017 release of national gainful employment data.

Focus groups participating in the research confirmed the financial devastation wrought by enrolling in these programs, based on the high amounts of debt incurred.

“Deleting the rule would be costly for both students and taxpayers, said James Kvaal, president of the independent and nonpartisan Institute for College Access & Success. “A single

round of Department of Education data showed that more than 350,000 students graduated from substandard programs with nearly \$7.5 billion in unaffordable debt. The gainful employment rule is needed to prevent programs like these from bilking students and taxpayers.”

Additionally, a recent national consumer poll found strong concerns among voters when it comes to student loans. Conducted by Lake Research Partners and released August 8, a majority of likely voters agreed that the amount of student loan debt represents a crisis. This view held strong majorities whether the respondents were independents (67 percent agreement), Republicans (57 percent agreement) or Democrats (71 percent agreement).

“Because of DeVos’ cozy relationship with this industry,” noted Ashley Harrington, a policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending, “low-performing programs will continue to operate and ensnare hopeful students into assuming large debt with little hope of repayment. This will cost students and taxpayers almost \$5 billion over the next decade, profits that will land almost exclusively in the hands of the for-profit college sector.”

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

JSU alums create vibrant Obama mural for school renamed in former president's honor

By Rachel James-Terry
jsunews.com

It's hard for anyone to miss the massive multicolored mural created by Jackson State University alums Charles and Talamieka Brice. Their image of former President Barack H. Obama covers nearly the entire south wall of the public school once known as Davis Magnet IB.

Named for Confederate President Jefferson Davis, the predominately African-American school was renamed Barack H. Obama Magnet by students, parents and educators because it was a more "fitting" choice.

The husband and wife design team spent several weeks in blazing temperatures working to complete the larger-than-life depiction of Obama by the Aug. 17 unveiling ceremony in commemoration of the school's new moniker.

The president's quote: "We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." sits slightly above the painting. It is a message of inspiration.

"All of us, in a sense, are broken and flawed, but that still doesn't mean we can't enact change for the better," said Talamieka, when asked her reason for choosing that particular quote to complement the mural.

"With the children that are coming behind us, I wanted to instill in them essentially what Barack would say because it's his own words," she added.

The Greater Jackson Arts Council put out a call for local artists to reinterpret a preselected photo of Obama for the magnet school.

The couple, owners of Brice Media, submitted separate entries, but as Talamieka proudly and jovially pointed out: "My sketch was the winning sketch."

Despite being each other's biggest competitor, Charles a photojournalist, shared his wife's elation over the win.

"We're husband and wife. You have no choice but to help the other person succeed," he said.

The two agreed that taking on such a momentous task was not easy. The dimensions were off the first time they plotted and traced the outline, so they had to start over. But their years of working as a team came in handy for the project.

"We both know our strengths and weaknesses and we learn a lot from each other," said Talamieka, who has devised several award-winning logos and campaigns.

"Charles is really good with oil paints and watercolors. He's good with oil pastels and markers," she said.

Preferring colored pencils, chalk pastels and acrylics, Talamieka credits her background in graphic design for her skill at selecting color combinations.

The couple said they used a tag-team approach to finish the president's jacket. "I would lay one coat down, he would lay a complementary coat down and lay it heavier in some areas," Talamieka explained.

Sweltering temperatures were not the only obstacle that arose during the painting process. Talamieka divulged that she accidentally slammed her finger in the garage door one morning and had to finish the final touches of the piece with a broken finger.

"It was five days before the unveiling and I couldn't let the kids down. Just like modified yoga, I had to do modified painting," she said.



Jackson State University alums Charles and Talamieka Brice are responsible for the large and vibrant mural of Obama that can be found on the wall of the elementary school that bears his namesake. PHOTO SPECIAL TO JSU



Husband and wife design team Charles and Talamieka Brice are owners of Brice Media, a marketing and advertising company that specializes in photography, web and graphic design. The couple met at Jackson State University and have been partners in love and life ever since.



Jasmine Thomas gave the audience a glimpse into the mind of a person with clinical depression with her original spoken word piece titled: "Places in My Mind."

Relieved, excited, honored and overjoyed are some words the design duo used to describe their emotions when the mural was finally complete. Talamieka called the work a community project and said that she and her husband were humbled and grateful to be the vessels to bring the vision to life.

"We did it together. All I can say is we balanced it out in the end," said Charles.

Perhaps the balance he referenced comes from their 12 years of marriage and 18 years together. Meeting at Jackson State, Charles said he knew Talamieka was going to be his wife from the moment he laid eyes on her.

"This black goddess walks through the door with this belly chain and poufy hair. I just kept staring at her, but she wouldn't stare back," he said.

After a little persistence from Charles, the two began dating. The art majors connected over their love for design, establishing a "true friendship."

"We used to sit on a bench in front of Charles F. Moore late at night and talk about what we wanted in life and art and all that stuff," said Talamieka.

In '03 Talamieka graduated and Charles, a member of the university's ROTC program, decided to enlist in the Army.

"It was called a shaking of the spirit," he said. "I was depressed and felt like nothing was going right for me. I needed something drastic to get me out of that mode in my life."

He explained that his problems stemmed from being young and unsure of what he wanted to do with his art and graphic design career. He felt that joining the military would give his life some order.

While deployed, Charles served as a paratrooper and eventually delved into photojournalism where he joined the media operations center in Afghanistan. He later proposed to Talamieka in a letter and the JSU alums were married in '06

in the capital city.

However, a 2008 phone conversation would mark a pivotal change in the couple's career paths. Talamieka said she could tell by her husband's tone that his deployment was starting to take a toll on him.

"He sounded really low because he had been pushing for us to start our own company. But I had been a freelancer and I knew how hard that was," said Talamieka.

Her husband said that he had grown weary of military life and was tired of documenting death. He urged Talamieka to consider the idea of entrepreneurship.

Once the soldier was back on U.S. soil in 2009, he gave his wife an Afghan ruby necklace to replace his dog tags that she faithfully wore around her neck. In return, Talamieka handed her husband the business cards to their company – Brice Media.

Since then, Charles has graduated with his art degree from JSU and Brice Media has been providing graphic, web design and photography services throughout Mississippi.

"She has her aspect of the company and I have mine. I want her to be the face of Brice Media. I want her to be in the forefront. I'm kind of like an operations guy," said Charles, whose role in the business focuses on websites and digital designs. "We complement each other. Although we are competitors, we're also big team players."

Parents of a 4-year-old son, Honor Kal-El, and 14-month-old daughter, Love Elohim, the couple said Jackson State is the source of their union and passion for art.

"I can't tell you how empowering it was to be around such a beautiful sea of black and brown people. Being able to see yourself in all your shades was amazing. We are forever thankful to JSU for that experience," said Talamieka.

Although Charles credits his uncle, a JSU alum, for teaching him the principles of art at an early age, and Talamieka's mother nurtured her drawing abilities, the couple shared that their creativity and collegiate experience was greatly influenced by their professors and the history of the university.

"We are 'Thee I Love.' It's one thing to learn art, but to learn art through your own lens, it's so empowering. It allows you to really connect with who you are, so we are eternally grateful to JSU," said Talamieka.

JSU alum Cornell William Brooks receives Harvard Kennedy School appointment

Jackson State University

Cornell William Brooks, former president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), civil rights attorney, and ordained minister has joined Harvard Kennedy School as professor of the practice of public leadership and social justice. He is the first leader of a national civil rights organization to join the Kennedy School's senior faculty.

Brooks will teach courses, advise students and launch and direct The William Monroe Trotter Collaborative for Social Justice at the School's Center for Public Leadership. He will also be a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School.

"We are delighted that Cornell William Brooks will bring his unique background in civil rights law, policy and activism to the Kennedy School," said Kennedy School Dean Douglas Elmendorf. "The William Monroe Trotter Collaborative for Social Justice will be a focal point for students and faculty from across Harvard University who are interested in teaching, research and achieving excellence in the practice of social justice. Under Cornell's guidance – and drawing upon his experience and knowledge – we expect the collaborative to have a transformational impact on our ability to prepare students to be leaders in public service and social justice."

The vision for the Trotter Social Justice Collaborative is that it will promote excellence in the practice of social justice by supporting applied research and the use of evidence in advocacy and activism. The collaborative will connect faculty, students, scholars, practitioners, nonprofit institutions and institutions of faith providing research and field-based learning opportunities to faculty and students, and providing leaders of local and national organizations with ideas, policy expertise, and best practices to maximize their impact on social justice. Thus, the collaborative will serve as a public policy and public leadership clinic for social justice. The collaborative honors the legacy of William Monroe Trotter, the first African-American Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard, founder of the Niagara Movement, founding influence of the NAACP and a pioneering activist.

Brooks was most recently visiting professor of social ethics, law, and justice movements at Boston University's School of Law and School of Theology. He was a



Brooks

visiting fellow and director of the Campaign and Advocacy Program at the Kennedy School's Institute of Politics in 2017. Brooks served as the 18th president of the NAACP from 2014 to 2017. Under his leadership, the NAACP secured 12 significant legal victories, including laying the groundwork for the first statewide legal challenge to prison-based gerrymandering. He also reinvigorated the activist social justice heritage of the NAACP, dramatically increasing membership, particularly online and among millennials. Among the many demonstrations from Ferguson to Flint during his tenure, he conceived and led "America's Journey for Justice" march from Selma, Alabama to Washington, D.C., over 40 days and 1000 miles.

Prior to leading the NAACP, Brooks was president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. He also served as senior counsel and acting director of the Office of Communications Business Opportunities at the Federal Communications Commission, executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington and a trial attorney at both the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the U.S. Department of Justice. Brooks served as judicial clerk for the Chief Judge Sam J. Ervin, III, on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Brooks holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and member of the Yale Law and Policy Review, and a Master of Divinity from Boston University's School of Theology, where he was a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar. He also holds a B.A. from Jackson State University. He is a fourth-generation ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church honored by MSH



Front row (left to right): Ora Emphrom, Mattie Hambrick, Sharon Nichols and James Nichols of Good Hope MBC. Back row (l-r): MSH Director James Chastain and Friends Board President Gale Martin.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Flora received the Vivian Shivers Helping Hands Award at the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., Annual Meeting Aug. 29.

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church has been volunteering at MSH for over 30 years and hosts a party on the first Sunday of November each year that serves as an unofficial kickoff for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons at MSH. Church members, typically number-

ing 35-40, provide a Thanksgiving-style feast along with gifts including socks, T-shirts, underwear, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The Vivian Shivers Helping Hands Award, established in 2006, honors an individual or group who represents the volunteer spirit and sets the standard for future generations. The Friends Board in 2009 voted to rename this award in honor of Shivers, a former nurse at the hospital and longtime Friends member.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is a non-profit, vol-

unteer organization dedicated to educating the public about mental illness and improving the lives of those individuals living with mental illnesses. For more information, contact MSH Public Relations at 601-351-8018.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport Upper Roadway Rehabilitation Project



Mississippi Link Newswire

JAN “Your Connection to the World” – Please be advised of roadwork construction being performed as you enter the vehicle access areas for passenger departure/drop-offs and passenger arrival/pick-ups at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.

Roadwork on the upper-level (Departures) will begin September 5 at 7 p.m. with the closing of the inner two driving lanes for approximately two (2) months. The roadwork for the lower-level (Arrivals/Baggage Claim) will begin September 6, closing the inner two driv-

ing lanes nightly at 12 a.m. and reopening them at 5 a.m. each morning. Traffic will be directed to use the outer two lanes during this construction period. Pedestrian walkways will remain open on the east end. Please use caution when traveling in these areas.

About the Upper Roadway Rehabilitation Project

The scope of work includes repairing the elevated section of the airport roadway that provides access to the passenger terminal building. Specific services will include: removal and replacement of existing membrane, concrete patch repairs,

expansion joint replacement, bearing plate assembly replacement and removal and replacement of pavement marking.

The upper roadway is part of the road system that serves as the entrance to the airport. It provides the only vehicle access to the 2nd level of the terminal which is the ticketing and departure level of the airport.

Natural deterioration has occurred over the years to the structure due to weathering, water intrusion and subsurface soil expansion and contraction beneath the structure, making this project necessary to address these issues.

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National Alliance of Postal and Federal employees honored by MSH



Front row (left to right): Alton Crowley, Willie C. Taylor, Margie Carter-James and Katie Course of the NAPFE. Back row (l-r): MSH Director James Chastain and Friends Board President Gale Martin

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees received the Nancy B. Foreman Award at the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., Annual Meeting Aug. 29.

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, a Jackson-based chapter of the national labor union, began volunteering at MSH more than 25 years ago. They visit the hospital on the third Sunday in December, bringing sandwiches, chips,

fruit, cake, drinks and Christmas gift bags to the patients and residents they host.

The Nancy B. Foreman Award, named for one of the founding members of Friends, is given each year to an individual or group who has demonstrated through their service their commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to

educating the public about mental illness and improving the lives of those individuals living with mental illnesses. For more information, contact MSH Public Relations at 601-351-8018.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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Aretha Franklin laid to rest following loving ceremony

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com



Aretha Franklin was laid to rest Friday, and the number of individuals who paid tribute in either speech or song was long as they showed their respect in a joyous ceremony to the “Queen of Soul.”

The star-studded celebration began at 10 a.m./EDT August 31 and went late into the afternoon, ending some nine hours later. The funeral was held at Greater Grace Temple, a 4,000-member church in Detroit, Franklin’s hometown, where she died August 16 from pancreatic cancer, at the age of 76.

Cable television stations broadcast almost all or parts of the service, switching back and forth between the joyful service for Franklin to the more somber ceremony honoring U.S. Senator John McCain, whose body was lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda. McCain, who died August 25 of brain cancer, was buried Sept. 1 at the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1958. He was 81.

Franklin’s funeral drew politicians, civil rights leaders, entertainers and regular people.

Television cameras panned the audience, showing Ariana Grande and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. A camera showed a bearded Tyler Perry, with a reflective expression. It was hard to tell, but



Franklin

Perry appeared to be sitting not too far from a smiling Whoopi Goldberg. Other celebrities included Isiah Thomas, Jesse Jackson Jr., Michael Eric Dyson, U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Shirley Caesar and Ron Isley performed. They were all backed by an orchestra.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton, President Bill Clin-

ton shared the stage with Judge Greg Mathis, Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. and Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. Minister Farrakhan sat two seats away from Clinton.

The minister also stood, walked back and forth on the stage and clapped his hands to show his appreciation for the other speakers and singers, but when news reports covered who was on the stage, it was as

if Farrakhan suddenly moved to Argentina and became one of the disappeared.

Sharpton criticized President Donald Trump who said when Franklin died ‘she used to work for me.’ Sharpton corrected the Trump. “She performed for you, but she worked for us.”

Dyson was meaner towards Trump, calling him a “lugubrious leach.” Dyson added that Franklin did not work for him, she worked above him.

Rev. Jasper Williams Jr., pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Atlanta, told the audience in a spirited delivery that Franklin bailed Angela Davis out of jail, angering her father Rev. C.L. Franklin who thought Davis was a communist.

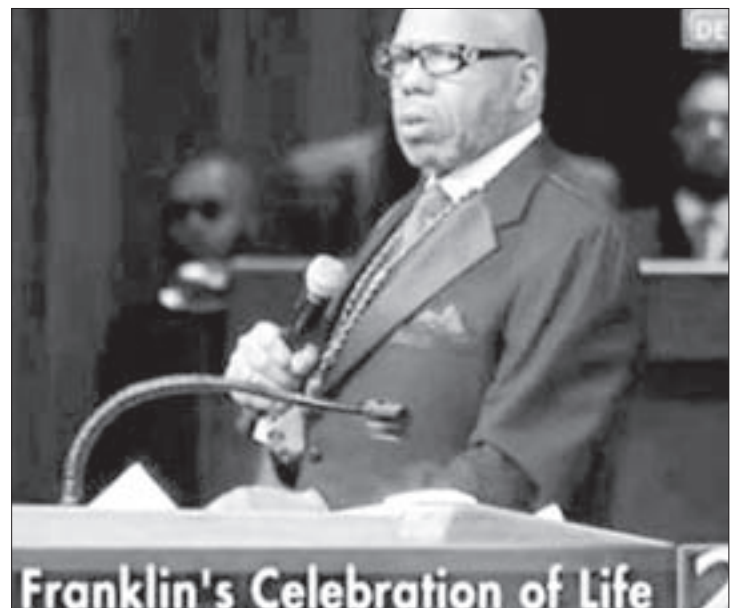
Franklin told her father that Davis was a black woman who needed help, and she could help her, said Williams who delivered the eulogy for the Rev. C.L. Franklin.

Jackson told the audience that Franklin donated money to Dr. Martin Luther King to keep the movement alive.

Williams used the ceremony to talk about the number of blacks who kill other blacks. “When a white cop shoots to death a black person, we hold demonstrations, but we don’t do anything when a black shoots and kills another black person,” he said. “Black lives won’t matter until we stop killing ourselves.”

Franklin was buried in Detroit’s Woodland Cemetery, wearing her white fur and holding her gold microphone.

Criticism of Rev. Jasper Williams follows his remarks at Aretha Franklin’s funeral



Rev. Williams referenced black-on-black crime, said single mothers are incapable of raising sons alone and proclaimed that black America has lost its soul and it’s “now time for black America to come back home.”

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Saying his subject was “Aretha the Queen of Soul,” Rev. Jasper Williams, of the Salem Bible Church in Atlanta, gave the audience gathered for Aretha Franklin’s funeral a few unexpected memories laced with political commentary.

Though he began simply, referring to the history of soul music and gospel, his talk became political towards the end of the ten-hour service. Williams was one of over three dozen speakers at Franklin’s lengthy Detroit home going ceremony.

Williams referenced black-on-black crime, said single mothers are incapable of raising sons alone and proclaimed that black America has lost its soul and it’s “now time for black America to come back home.”

“Where is your soul, black man?” he asked the audience at one point. “As I look in your house, there are no fathers in the home no more. Where is your soul?”

“Seventy percent of our households are led by our precious, proud, fine black women. But as proud, beautiful and fine as our black women are, one thing a black woman cannot do. A black woman cannot raise a black boy to be a man. She can’t do that,” Rev. Williams said.

“It amazes me how it is that when the police kills one of us, we’re ready to protest march, destroy innocent property. We’re ready to loot, steal whatever we want. ...But when we kill 100 of us, nobody says anything.

“There was a time when we as a race had a thriving economy. I remember we had our own little grocery stores. We had our own little hotels. They weren’t big and fancy, but they were ours. As bad as the days as Jim Crow and segregation were ... it forced us to each other instead of forcing us on each other. We quickly come to realize that as a people, all we really have is one another,” Williams said during his 40-minute eulogy to Franklin.

Social media quickly blew

up after Williams spoke in response. Legendary singer Stevie Wonder proclaimed the phrase “black lives do matter,” as he turned in the direction of Williams after the minister left the stage. Singer Gladys Knight’s performance was also viewed as a moment that brought the ceremony back from Williams’ political speech.

“Black Mothers been raising black boys for years. We’re still raising proud, accomplished and aware black men. I should have known. Rest of his eulogy has been a conservative black confusion rant,” wrote attorney Barbara Arwine from her twitter feed during the speech.

“Folks, he can’t see, but Stevie Wonder can hear. And he is offering a rebuke to the eulogy. Don’t think for a second, he isn’t! And the folks in the room heard it,” wrote journalist Roland Martin, who attended the service.

“Rev. Jasper Williams’ plantation style speech at #ArethaFranklinFuneral is a prime example why there is a total disconnect between young black people and the older black church crowd. All that cowardly “you’s gots to do better” talk ain’t fooling these kids,” offered anti-racism strategist Tariq Nasheed on twitter.

Before Williams spoke, Smokey Robinson, Shirley Caesar, Jennifer Hudson, Chaka Khan, Jennifer Lewis and Ron Isley performed among many others. William Barbour and Jesse Jackson also delivered remarks.

“Aretha was in her very own special category,” said founder of Arista Records Clive Davis. “Her voice will be impacting others literally for centuries to come,” Davis added.

A second tribute to Franklin and her music is planned at Madison Square Garden this fall.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and writer for NNPA as well as a political analyst and communications strategist. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.

Cosby spokesman salutes Geoffrey Owens; slams Hollywood

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Hollywood’s biggest names, including Tyler Perry, Halle Berry and Patton Oswalt, have all joined a growing list of celebrities speaking up for former Cosby Show actor Geoffrey Owens who was shamed on social media for working at a Trader Joe’s in New Jersey.

Following Owens’ appearance on Good Morning America, Bill Cosby’s spokesman Andrew Wyatt exclusively told NNPA Newswire that he and the comedian are both proud of Owens.

“There’s nothing wrong with working at Trader Joe’s and I commend him for taking care of his family,” said Wyatt, who noted Cosby was unavailable to comment because he’s continued to closely follow the terms of the court order that has him under house arrest.

Wyatt said Owens and other Cosby Show actors have been victimized by Hollywood studios which have elected to halt re-runs of the iconic show and all of Cosby’s works.

The result, Wyatt said, is actors like Owens are deprived of potentially lucrative residues cast and writers earn from syndicated shows.

“You take ‘The Cosby Show’ off the air, yet you leave ‘7th Heaven’ on the air and all of Harvey Weinstein’s movies are still playing whether it’s on Netflix or Hulu you can find them everywhere because you don’t want to hurt these Hollywood starlets and take away their money and residue pay, yet you take ‘The Cosby Show’ off the air,” Wyatt said.

While Cosby was convicted



Owens

of aggravated indecent assault for an incident that he maintains was consensual, “7th Heaven” star Stephen Collins admitted to molesting at least three young girls and Weinstein has been charged with several counts of rape and more than 100 women have come forward accusing the movie mogul of assault.

Sporting his Trader Joe’s badge, Owens appeared on Good Morning America Sept. 4, one week after Fox News broadcast photos of him stocking shelves at the grocery store.

“No one should feel sorry for me,” said Owens, who played Elvin, the husband of Sandra Huxtable on ‘The Cosby Show.’

“I’ve had a great life. I’ve had a great career and I’ve had a career that most actors

would die for,” he said.

The actor noted that he was overwhelmed by the response he’s received after the shaming incident. “I feel like more of a celebrity now than when I actually was a celebrity,” he said.

Since leaving “The Cosby Show,” Owens has worked part-time as an actor and as a producer.

He has taught acting and directing at Yale and other universities for more than 30 years. But, he said he took the Trader Joe’s job 15 months ago to support his family.

Since the GMA appearance, however, Perry has publicly offered him a role on a popular OWN television show and others like Berry and Oswalt have tweeted support.

“My respect to actor Geoffrey Owens, who found hon-

est work between gigs. As Fox News will tell you, all actors, when not acting, seal themselves in protein-solution ‘shame pods’ until re-activated by the Council of Casting,” Oswalt said.

“Geoffrey had the courage to stand up to the Council,” he said.

Berry, the Oscar winning actress, also saluted Oswalt.

“Labor Day celebrates the value of our country’s workers. I’m just so sad to hear that an American felt the need to ‘expose’ a man for working hard,” Berry said.

“I wish there were more people with as much integrity as Geoffrey Owens.”

For his part, Owens discussed the sanctity and honor of being a working person. Every job is “worthwhile,” he said.

“I hope what doesn’t pass is this ... rethinking about what it means to work,” he said. “The honor of the working person and the dignity of work. And I hope that this period we’re in now, where we have a heightened sense about that and a re-evaluation of what it means to work, the reevaluation of the idea that some jobs are better than others.”

Wyatt said Owens displayed what “The Cosby Show” was all about.

“What Mr. Cosby built was legacy. It wasn’t just legacy to show how families should conduct themselves and live in a certain way in society,” he said. “It was to make sure that these actors were able to survive and enjoy their livelihoods. Yet, [the powers that be] have taken it away.”

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Seek the Lord while He may be found

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



Matthew, Chapter 25, talks about the Day of Judgment. In that day, there will be only two groups of people which Jesus likened to sheep and goats. Which group will you be in, friend? The choice is yours. Jesus paid the price on Calvary for your salvation, but the decision is up to you. Will you call upon Him while He is near? Will you give heed to the Gospel and believe? When men and women refuse to heed the call and do not seek the Lord while He may be found and while conviction is upon their hearts, they go out from His presence and, by and by, they get away from God. Felix told Paul to go his way, and when he had a convenient season, he would call for him. Maybe you have entertained the thought, "I don't want to get saved right now, but one of these days when I need the pastor, I will call him and have him come and pray for me, and

everything will be all right." Where did you get that idea? Who told you it would work out that way? You see, that was all thought up in your own mind. Felix was a governor, and the Jews were looking to him to pass severe judgment on Paul, but he trembled under the power of God when Paul testified before him. In essence, he said, "Paul, we'll put it off for a few days. When I find a convenient time, I'll call for you." We have no record that he ever found a convenient time, but we do read in Acts 24:27, "But after two years, Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound." Felix loved the praises of men, and he loved his position. Maybe you are wondering what would happen to your friends if you were to get saved. You may think, "How could I tell them that I got saved?" You have come right down to the testing time, friend, just as old Felix did. I want to admonish you not to let anyone or anything stand in the way of your getting saved. You need to let go of

everything and give your life to God. Nothing in this world is worth losing your soul. Sin will take you down. Oh, how spirits are working on souls today. The devil likes to use an old rebellious spirit to get hold of precious young people. You must break free from all of that to serve the Lord because when you stand before God, it is going to be just you and God. Looking at it in the light of the Scriptures and in the light of the message, can you afford to say no to God? Can you really afford to turn Him away? I pray that God will write this down upon your heart and mind so indelibly that you cannot get away from it. Many previous souls are just drunk on the spirit of the world. Satan makes them drunk on the things of this old world; then they do not notice anything going on about them while they are in the fast lane of life. They are just looking forward to another day of life so that they can enjoy themselves. In Psalm 23:6, David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the

days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever." You must make the choice to go with God. On the other hand, if you reject God, you will fall under the wrath of God and His severe judgments by your own choosing. May God bless you. He wants to save you. His ear is open to your call. Won't you cry out to Him? Again, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:10, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Friend, if you will learn here and now to live under the scrutiny of Christ's pure light, your final judgment will bring you only delight in seeing the work God has done in you. Next week, "Why people give up serving God?" Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

P R E S E R V E D Blessings come in threes

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I shared with one of the English Composition classes that I teach the wonderful love story of Victorian writers Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning. They fell in love over a 20-month correspondence that produced over 574 letters. When I asked if this kind of courtship via letters could occur in our present time, most of my students agreed that it couldn't because people are too impatient nowadays. One student emphatically stated that our society is so used to "instant" everything that it would be hard, if not impossible. Even after I explained how in the letters Elizabeth and Robert got to know each other and developed a deep spiritual and emotional connection, my class still insisted that it would take too long to wait for a letter. They rejected my theory that if our modern society had that same sincere anticipation, there might be more successful relationships.

The class discussions made me think about three blessings of singleness and how they could help people develop the patience to wait on God with the right attitude. The three blessings are: Blessing of Anticipation – Have the assurance that no matter how long the wait, God will answer our prayers and fulfill our hearts desires. Blessing of Integrity – Seek to build a life and character that honors God both in public and private.

Blessing of Sincerity – Decide that living a life purely motivated by a desire to do right. These blessings may have the biggest impact on our lives while we are single. Why is that? Being able to wait with assurance on God is made much easier when you have a character of integrity. By the same token, part of why you develop integrity is because you want to be sincere in your actions. Like a domino effect, these three blessings appear to have the potential to influence your daily life's decisions. Psalm 119:2 says "Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart." As much as I hated to admit it, my classes' responses showed me that so many people today are impatient. If you don't get a response to your morning email, you text message by lunch to find out what happened. Out of impatience, we compromise and attach ourselves to people and behaviors that can be destructive. In some instances, rather than anticipating God, we try to manipulate him. Anticipation, integrity and sincerity point to living a life led by a heart that is motivated to act sincerely by the desire of what is right. Even when we feel the uncomfortable "fire" of having to wait or make the decision based on God's will and not our immediate needs, embracing these three blessings might make the wait more bearable. 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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Stop Kavanaugh: President Trump's Supreme Court nominee must not join the high court

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"It is confidence in the men and women who administer the judicial system that is the true backbone of the rule of law." — Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, 531 U.S. 98, Bush v. Gore [Dissent], December 12, 2000

There are many words one could use to describe President Trump's White House, but you might be hard pressed to choose "transparent" as one of them. It should come as no surprise to anyone who even casually follows politics that a president who bucks decades of tradition and refuses (to this day) to release his tax returns is offering the American public a nominee for the Supreme Court whose public record of work remains largely unknown and unavailable.

Unfortunately, Trump's campaign and subsequent presidency has acclimated much of the public, and many of our political leaders, to lowered expectations of open and transparent governance, but this growing tolerance for the erosion of institutional democratic norms must stop now or our nation's highest court, and the hard-fought-for gains of human and civil rights groups, will be lost for generations to come.

If the past is prologue, Judge Brett Kavanaugh will do the civil rights community no favors as a sitting Supreme Court justice. From what we can glean from his court decisions, Kavanaugh has a strong record of ruling against policies and protections that seek to address injustices levied on marginalized communities.

Concerned citizens can call 202-224-3121 to tell their Senators to vote no on Kavanaugh's confirmation.

In 2011, President Obama's administration blocked a South Carolina law requiring residents to show photo ID before voting. In 2012, Kavanaugh wrote an opinion upholding that very same law. In a keynote address to the Heritage Foundation, Kavanaugh shared his view that the Supreme Court was wrong to uphold the Affordable Care Act's insurance mandate as constitutional. And in his only decision on record concerning abortion rights, Kavanaugh dissented from a decision to allow an undocumented, teenage detainee to seek an abortion, seeking to further delay the process while dismissing the

concerns and desires of the young woman.

When fundamental liberties are at stake, the public and our Congress must act. To fully evaluate what kind of justice Kavanaugh will be, we must know what kind of justice and public servant he has been. This is why the National Urban League has joined forces with sister civil rights organizations to demand that Kavanaugh's September 4 confirmation hearing be delayed until his entire record can be fully, impartially and carefully examined by the Senate. Based on the research compiled by the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he is not fit to serve on the nation's highest court.

A rushed nomination process conducted without the full trove of government documents and records related to his nomination will leave a cloud of illegitimacy hanging over any eventual nomination and it will undermine the public's confidence in our nation's highest court.

A Supreme Court appointment is a lifetime appointment. In the recent past, requesting and receiving all relevant documentation and records was the norm. That should remain the case today, especially when so many rights and liberties hang in the balance.

Just because a president, who has the constitutional duty and authority to fill court vacancies, nominates a justice, it is not a foregone conclusion that the nominee will make it to the bench — just ask Merrick Garland, President Obama's pick to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia. In the 229-year history of the Supreme Court, presidents, beginning with George Washington, have nominated 163 men and the occasional woman for the Supreme Court, but only 113 have served on our nation's highest court.

There have been moments in our history when our nation has had to fight to ensure that the court swings more towards justice and not a particular partisan ideology. While Senate Republicans do not need a single vote from Democrats to confirm Kavanaugh, they do need to know that we the people are watching, and come Election Day, we can and will make our thoughts known with our votes.

To continue with the nomination process under this unnecessary and politically damaging cloud of secrecy would be a supremely bad decision that would undermine our nation's judicial branch.

NFL owners' treatment of Kaepernick disgraces league and country

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



Colin Kaepernick may yet get his day in court. Kaepernick is the talented former NFL quarterback who in 2016 began a protest against police brutality and institutionalized racial discrimination by kneeling during the playing of the national anthem. Other players joined the protests.

Kaepernick wasn't protesting the anthem or the flag. He was calling on the country to live up to its principles. President Trump led the outcry against the protesters, slurring any player who takes a knee as a "son of a bitch."

The league owners panicked. One result was that Kaepernick — one of the most talented quarterbacks in a league that suffers a shortage of skilled players in that position — found himself locked out of a job. He couldn't even get a tryout. He filed a grievance against the league and the 32 teams, calling the action against him a violation of the league's players contract, as well as an affront to free speech. An arbitrator handed down a decision

Thursday to send Kaepernick's grievance to trial and dismissed the owners' motion for summary judgment, finding that Kaepernick had raised sufficient evidence that there was an express or implied agreement between the teams to keep him out of the league.

The collusion is obvious. According to the Wall Street Journal, Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones stated in a sworn deposition that Trump instructed him to tell the owners that the president would continue to attack the league as long as the protests continued.

"This is a very winning, strong issue for me," Trump said, according to the deposition, brazenly admitting to the race-based poison politics that he practices with venom. It isn't hard to realize that the owners, terrified that continued Trump attacks would damage their revenues, decided to lock Kaepernick out as a warning to other players and, of course, they made a sacrificial offering to Trump.

Kaepernick is being punished for expressing his beliefs. He stands in a long tradition of African-American champions who were punished for stepping out of line. Jack Johnson, the first

African-American world heavyweight boxing champion, sparked race riots across the country when he won the title in 1908. He further crossed racial boundaries by "consorting" with white women, three of whom he married. He was convicted of violating the Mann Act for transporting a woman across state lines for immoral purposes — for an affair that took place before the act was even passed into law.

He left the country and spent seven years fighting abroad, before returning to spend months in jail. Ironically, it was Donald Trump who finally gave him a posthumous pardon from this injustice.

Muhammad Ali, the most famous champion of all, was prosecuted for evading the draft during the Vietnam War. A convert to Islam, he claimed conscientious objector status. In 1967, at the height of his career, he was banned from boxing for three years, and sentenced to prison for five, a conviction the Supreme Court eventually overturned.

Curt Flood, the three-time all-star centerfielder for the St Louis Cardinals, refused to accept a trade in 1969, arguing that baseball's enforcement of lifetime contracts was a clear violation of

antitrust laws. The Supreme Court ruled against him, and Flood was essentially blackballed.

Finally, in 1998, Congress passed the Curt Flood Act, formally making Major League Baseball play by the same antitrust rules as other professional sports.

Kaepernick's protest — joined by fellow athletes across the league — has brought national attention to the question of police brutality, even as Trump and others have slandered the players by insisting they are insulting the flag and the national anthem. Kaepernick's grievance — if the courts are not as intimidated by Trump's tantrums as the owners were — will expose the self-evident collusion that has locked him out of the league.

The owners should pay dearly for their folly. Kaepernick is already paying a harsh price for his expressing his views. A talented athlete at the peak of his career is being locked out of his profession.

Jerry Jones says that Trump told him: "Tell everybody, you can't win this one. This one lifts me."

It may "lift" Trump, but it disgraces the owners, the league and the country.

My most precious memory of the Great Aretha Franklin

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



My most precious memory of the great Aretha Franklin occurred in the early 1970s when I was an associate editor of Ebony Magazine, working in Johnson Publishing Company's New York City office.

The Rockefeller Center office was headquarters for Ebony's advertising department. It only had five editorial staffers, myself, Jet editor Cordell Thompson administrative assistant, Bernice Bryant and photographers Marshall Wilson and Pulitzer Prize winner, Moneta Sleet.

Thompson wrote Jet's hugely popular New York Beat column. If he was away on assignment or vacation, I had the opportunity to write that column. It so happened that he was away when Franklin was scheduled to do a concert in New York City's Radio City Music Hall.

During the concert, between songs, Franklin posed, profiled, and strutted around the stage, very proud of her new slenderness. It was a Diana Ross kind of performance as far as I was concerned and some what dis-



Ebony Associate Editor A. Peter Bailey; Aretha Franklin; Jet Associate Editor Cordell Thompson. 1970S PHOTO

tracting since it was not the Franklin we were familiar with. That Franklin would sit at the piano or stand at the mic and carry us on a soulful journey with her powerful, compelling, incredible singing.

When writing New York Beat, I wrote that I wished Franklin would understand that she didn't have to do all that posing and strutting. All we needed from her was her glorious voice.

Several months later she was scheduled for a concert in Westchester County which is in New

York City's regional area. The day before her appearance I received a phone call from Barbara Harris, a public relations expert for Atlantic Records, Franklin's recording company. Harris told me that she had just gotten off the phone with Franklin who told her to make sure I attended her concert and to bring me backstage when it was over. "Uh-oh!" I thought, "She's going to blast me for my comment in Jet."

The concert was right on time. Franklin didn't pose or strut

around the stage; she sat at the piano and stood at the mic and mesmerized the packed audience with her incomparable, soul-stirring singing. Immediately after her last song, Harris took me backstage. When we walked into Franklin's dressing room, she was sitting in a chair looking as though she was waiting for us. "Good evening" Miss Franklin," I said nervously.

After greeting me, Franklin said in a calm voice, "I read what you wrote in Jet. What do you think about this concert?" Relieved by the non-hostile tone in her voice, I said, "That's exactly what I wrote about. You were absolutely incredible."

She smiled and we had a brief five minutes conversation, mostly about my love of her singing and her whole style. Harris then led me out of the dressing room. That is my most precious memory of Aretha Franklin.

There is a quote listing three kinds of people in the world — those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what's happening. Franklin was most definitely one of those folks who made things happen in the black, national and international cultural arenas.

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ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Central MS announces Real Men Wear Pink campaign



Back Row: (Left to Right): Bruce Bartley, Zack Wallace, Jason Duren, Michael Gregory, David Errington, Ford Hayman, Ken Jones, Jody Macon, Jason Lee, Dr. Ben McIntyre, Dan Davis, David Moncrief, and Christian Patterson **Middle Row: (Left to Right):** Dr. Eric Balfour, Tony Bahou, Willie King **Front Row: (Left to Right):** Dan Gibson, Steven James, Wes Williams, Brian Washington, Christian Rodriguez, Skipper Westbrook and Chuck Nix

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In its fourth year in Central Mississippi, 24 prominent area men will take a stand against breast cancer by supporting the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Central Mississippi through participation in the Real Men Wear Pink campaign. Throughout the month of October, Real Men Wear Pink candidates will encourage women in their lives and in the community to take action in the fight against breast cancer.

This year's candidates were announced at an event at Table 100 in Flowood August 30.

"In addition to wearing pink and raising awareness about breast cancer issues, these men will be raising funds to help the American Cancer Society save more lives from breast cancer," said Nelda Neal, chairperson of the Real Men Wear Pink campaign. "Funds raised allow the society to be there for those touched by breast cancer, from research to education, prevention to diagnosis, and treatment to recovery, the society provides support to everyone impacted by the disease. Every action we take moves us one step closer to a world free from the pain and suffering caused by breast cancer."

Each Real Men Wear Pink candidate is charged with a fundraising challenge and will compete to be the top fundraiser among the other candidates by the end of the campaign.

The 2018 Real Men Wear Pink candidates are:

Tony Bahou, Tom Smith Land & Homes; Dr. Eric Balfour, Radiation Oncology of Mississippi; Bruce Bartley, Department of Revenue; Dan Da-

vis, Southern Research Group; Jason Duren, BancorpSouth; David Errington, Byram Police Department; Dan Gibson, Mississippi Association of Self-Insurers; Michael Gregory, The Winning Smile Flowood; Ford Hayman, Clinton Police Department; Steven James, Allstate; Ken Jones, LabCorp; Willie King, Jr., Pastor; Scott Koestler, Koestler Prime; Jason Lee, Keller Williams Realty; Jody Macon, Tower Loan; Dr. Ben McIntyre, UMMC; David Moncrief, Barrel House; Chuck Nix, Table 100; Christian Patterson, Mississippi National Guard; Cristian Rodriguez, Manship; Zack Wallace, Hinds County Circuit Clerk; Brian Washington, BEW Construction & Property Management; Wes Williams, Markow Walker; Skipper Westbrook, Hilton & Drago's.

According to the American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2018, an estimated 266,120 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and an estimated 40,920 will die from the disease this year. In Mississippi, 2,240 women will be diagnosed this year.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, and it is the most common cancer diagnosed in women other than skin cancer.

"Our community can make a huge impact in the fight against breast cancer," said Wendy Hutchins, American Cancer Society community development manager.

"We are grateful to our Real Men Wear Pink participants for lending their voices to our cause and fighting for everyone touched by breast cancer."

A COTA family is celebrating World Marrow Donor Day September 15

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Each year around the globe, the third Saturday in September is recognized as World Marrow Donor Day. The main objective of World Marrow Donor Day is to raise awareness about being a stem cell donor and the impact stem cell donation makes on a patient's life. On Saturday, September 15, you can be sure COTA's Staruk Family will be sharing the story of how a stem cell donor literally saved their son's life. Just a week later on September 23, the Staruks will be celebrating their son's three-year stem cell 'transplantversary.'

Haylee and Tom Staruk of Middletown, Maryland, have travelled a long, stressful and costly transplant journey with their son, Everett, who is their third child. Everett's older sisters Aurore and Matilda have also been impacted by this journey as well.

When Haylee and Tom brought Everett home from the hospital in September 2014 they were indeed anticipating a hectic 'new normal' as they settled in to raise their young daughters and their newborn son, but little did they know 'normal' was going to be very different than they ever imagined.

When Baby Everett was just four weeks old, Haylee and Tom noticed his head would occasionally tremor. Their pediatrician was not too concerned but they decided to consult a pediatric neurologist just to be certain Everett was fine. The specialist told the Staruks Everett was neurologically immature, which was nothing serious, due to his small size. As a precaution, she sent Everett to have a brain sonogram, which turned out to be 'normal.'

Then in October 2014 Everett's eyes began involuntarily oscillating (nystagmus) and the pediatric neurologist ordered an MRI of his brain. Everett was 14 weeks old and after the MRI was done, Haylee and Tom received a call saying everything was 'normal.' In February 2015 the Staruk's pediatrician referred the family to a local Infants & Toddlers program because Everett had poor muscle tone and was failing to reach developmental milestones. So they took him to weekly physical therapy and monthly occupational therapy sessions to help their baby catch up. During one of these sessions, the physical therapist noticed Everett did not reach or track for toys so a concern was raised about his vision.

In April 2015 when Everett was eight months old, a pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital told them that despite nystagmus and intermittent strabismus (crossed eyes), Everett had 'normal' vision. After Haylee told this specialist Everett's MRI was also 'normal' he referred the family to a developmental pediatrician. A month later in May, an assessment of Everett was conducted by a developmental pediatrician at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

The family's new pediatrician consulted with a pediatric radiologist at Johns Hopkins to provide a second opinion of Everett's first MRI conducted at 14 weeks. The second opinion of the MRI indicated Everett had a delay in myelination of the brain. Myelin is the insulation that protects nerves and promotes the efficient transmission of nerve impulses.

Haylee and Tom immediately knew Everett's condition was not 'normal' and instead was quite serious.

In July 2015 after a second MRI and genetic testing, Haylee and Tom were told Everett had Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease (PMD), which is an extremely



Stem Cell Transplant Recipient and COTA Kid Everett Staruk with His Family

rare condition impacting the brain and spinal cord.

PMD is caused by a genetic mutation that creates an inability to form myelin in certain areas of the central nervous system. As a result, individuals with this condition have impaired intellectual functions (such as language and memory) and delayed motor skills (such as coordination and walking).

"After learning more about the devastating diagnosis, panic and desperation set in. We began feverishly scouring the Internet for resources, research opportunities and to connect with other families facing the same crisis. We learned about research happening at Duke University Hospital that involved a stem cell transplant using donated umbilical cord blood and immediately sent an email to the coordinating nurse," Haylee said.

Their first conversation with Duke's Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant (PBMT) team happened July 24 and by August 2 they checked into the Ronald McDonald House of Durham, North Carolina (300-miles away from their home), to begin Everett's preliminary testing.

On August 10 after receiving information from a transplant social worker at Duke, Haylee called the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) to learn more about fundraising for transplant-related expenses.

COTA uniquely understands that parents who care for a child or young adult before, during and after a life-saving transplant have enough to deal with, so COTA's model shifts the responsibility for fundraising to a community team of trained volunteers.

On August 21, 2015, the Staruks officially became part of the COTA family, and on September 9, 2015, a COTA fundraising specialist trained volunteers for the COTA campaign in honor of Everett S. COTA is a 501(c)3 charity so all contributions to COTA are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, and COTA funds are available for a patient's lifetime. This group of committed church members, friends, professional colleagues and family members, i.e. COTA Miracle Makers, quickly got to work organizing fundraisers to help with mounting transplant-related expenses.

"Once the COTA fundraising began, the overwhelming outpouring from the community to COTA in honor of Everett provided our family so much hope," Haylee said. "So many people hundreds of miles away back home were supporting us with their prayers and their gifts to COTA. It was truly difficult to not have hope once we learned how

many people cared about Everett and about us."

After 10 days of preliminary testing, Everett was officially accepted into the transplant study. The team at Duke was very clear with Haylee and Tom that a stem cell transplant would not be a cure for PMD, but would hopefully improve Everett's quality of life and allow researchers to learn more about this devastating disease. According to Haylee, "Unlike other transplant families, we were given the choice to pursue a transplant. Thankfully, COTA certainly made this choice much easier!"

On September 7, 2015, the family travelled back to Durham to officially begin Everett's transplant journey. He was officially admitted to the PBMT Unit at Duke University Hospital September 13. The isolated unit only allowed for one parent to stay full time; therefore, Tom returned home to Maryland to take care of Everett's two big sisters while Haylee and Everett settled in. Nine grueling days of chemotherapy meant hair loss, vomiting, nausea and insomnia. September 23 was Everett's official stem cell transplant day.

As Everett recovered and his immune function adapted, Everett and Haylee lived in the isolation unit for another 42 days without visitors. Face Time and phone calls were the only ways to keep in touch with daddy, Aurore and Matilda at home. On November 3 Everett was finally discharged and allowed to relocate to an efficiency apartment in the Ronald McDonald House nearby. Tom returned to receive training on proper care of a central line, administering medications and sterile cap changes.

Haylee had to return home to Maryland November 17 to resume her job in order to maintain health insurance for Everett and the family. That meant Tom began taking the lead on Everett's daily care in Durham. November, December and January consisted of multiple follow-up visits each week to the hospital and living in isolation at the apartment during the rest of the time, but things appeared to be going well. Everett was on track for a 'normal' transplant recovery and the Staruks were hopeful the entire family would soon be living under one roof in Maryland.

That hope was not to be realized in the short term. In late January 2016 the PBMT team noticed Everett's red blood cells were bursting. After several medication changes, Everett's condition worsened and he needed regular blood transfusions to combat the breakdown of cells and other

damage.

By March 2016 Everett was officially diagnosed with aHUS, a very rare and serious side effect from his stem cell transplant and he was placed on Eculizumab. (At \$500,000 per year, Eculizumab is one of the world's most expensive medications.) The Eculizumab immediately began working but caused its own series of side effects. Everett needed incredible doses of steroids that made his entire body swell and caused irritability and insomnia.

Months passed and Everett was miserable. He vomited multiple times a day and developed an extreme aversion to any food or beverages near his mouth. Haylee started travelling to Durham on the weekends to give Tom a break from the exhaustion caused by Everett's care.

Eight months later in August, the Staruks were told Everett and Tom could finally return home to Maryland. Everett would still need to live under extreme precautions and isolation, but he had finally recovered enough to be treated at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore.

"The transition home was wonderful and stressful at the same time," Haylee explained. "No guests were allowed to visit. Big Sisters needed to completely shower every time they returned home from school or playing outside. Any sign of someone feeling ill meant we needed to evacuate our home immediately to keep Everett safe. But our little guy began to thrive again. Seeing his big sisters regularly was very motivating. He would attempt to play with toys and he laughed more often. Everett also began sleeping through the night again."

Everett was only allowed to leave his home for hospital visits which meant all therapists had to come to the Staruk home. Each therapist had to bring a fresh set of clothing to change before each session so they did not contaminate Everett with germs. Slowly, various medications were able to be weaned and Everett continued to improve.

In May 2017 the family returned to Duke for a follow-up visit where Haylee and Tom were told Everett's immune function had finally returned to normal. Haylee was (and is) realistic about this 'new normal' for their family. She says, "Everett will always struggle with movement, cognition and communication. However we feel fortunate, in great part thanks to COTA, that we were able to pursue cutting edge research to provide our son with the best quality of life possible."

REAL MEN WEAR PINK

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bid

Bid 3080 Food Service Combi Ovens

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Pre-vailing Time) September 21, 2018, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends. Please contact the Reverse Auction Service contractor Mr. Vaughn Blaylock at HYPERLINK "mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com" vaughn@southernprocurement.com or by phone at 662-275-4663 to obtain information for registration on how to be a participant in live auction.

A complete bid package which contains bid instructions, specification response sheets, and bid training may be obtained by registering as a supplier at HYPERLINK "http://www.southernprocurement.com" www.southernprocurement.com (select 'Register/Login'). Please use the term "FOOD SERVICE COMBI OVENS" in the subject line. Vendors must include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Email requests will be filled within 24 hours of submission or registration. Registration with Southern Procurement Services and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Services Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event, and are due no later than Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 5:00 PM local time in order to be considered for this bidding opportunity. Bid responses should be delivered to:Vaughn Blaylock

Vaughn@southernprocurement.com

9/6/2018, 9/13/2018

LEGAL

Notice of Sale

Abandoned Vehicle

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

2009 Chev E15
VIN #1GCFG154591167307
Douglas Express Inc.
Bank Plus, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: September 26, 2018
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

9/6/2018, 9/13/2018, 09/20/18

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Notice of Sale

Abandoned Vehicle

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

2012 Niss Alt
VIN #1N4AL2APOCN508548
Registered to Nickles Tionna or Terrell Trin
Credit Acceptance Corp. , Lien Holder

Date of Sale: September 26, 2018
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

9/6/2018, 9/13/2018, 09/20/18

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF THE JACKSON ZOOLOGICAL PARK

The City of Jackson, Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking assistance from management firms or individuals desiring to provide professional management services at a City of Jackson facility, known as Jackson Zoological Park, located at 2918 West Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Professional management firms or individuals that may be interested in contracting with the City of Jackson for such services are hereby invited to submit a response to this request in accordance with the requirements set forth herein.

Sealed Professional Management Service packets will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at the Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, until 3:30 p.m., local time, November 13, 2018.

The bid advertises August 29, 2018 through November 1, 2018; however, bids will be accepted, and are to be stamped by the City Clerk, prior to the November 13, 2018, 3:30 p.m. deadline. Bid Opening Date: November 13, 2018.

This Request For Professional Management Services is also being posted on the Central Bidding website at: https://www.centraauctionhouse.com/main.php. You may submit your bids electronically through this provider. Packets may also be secured from the Department of Parks and

LEGAL

Request for Proposal (RFP) #2018-2

Management and Operations for Fixed Route and Non-Fixed Route ADA Paratransit Services

The City of Jackson is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFPs) from qualified firms to provide on-going Management and Operations for the the City of Jackson's Fixed Route and Non-Fixed Route ADA Paratransit Services.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals, and any proposal addenda from the City's website at HYPERLINK "http://www.jacksonms.gov/bids.aspx" http://www.jacksonms.gov/bids.aspx. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at HYPERLINK "http://www.centralbidding.com" www.centralbidding.com. Please reference RFP#2018-2.

A Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 9:00 am Central Standard Time (CST), located at 1785 Highway 80 West, Jackson, MS 39204.

Six copies of the offeror's Proposal together with a PDF file of the Proposal on a flash drive shall be deposited with the City of Jackson, Office of City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until Friday, October 5, 2018 by 3:30 pm CST. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at HYPERLINK "http://www.centralbidding.com" www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Submittals received after the specified date and time shall not be accepted.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City As a pre-condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering City of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Mukesh Kumar, PhD
Director of Planning & Development

8/30/2018, 9/6/2018, 09/27/18

LEGAL

Notice of Sale

Abandoned Vehicle

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

2013 Chry 200
VIN #1C3CCBB8DN684579
Registered to Thomas James
Chrysler Capital, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: September 26, 2018
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

9/6/2018, 9/13/2018, 09/20/18

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TERMINAL PAGING SYSTEM BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT 008-18 SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Proposals ("Proposal") from a contractor ("Contractor") to provide equipment, software, technical support, installation, and training services in support of a Terminal Paging System ("System") for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA).

JMAA will receive Proposals to perform the Services at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on October 9, 2017 (the "Deadline").

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Robin Byrd, JMAA's Manager of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager of Procurement
Telephone No.: (601) 360-8616
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

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

A copy of the Drawings and Specifications are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website http://planroom.jaxblue.com. There is no charge for registration or to view the bid documents online. Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$35.00 plus \$15.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$20.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on September 18, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Consultant for the Services and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference; and a detailed review of the scope of work. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.

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

JMAA DBE participation goal is to TBA for the Services solicited by this RFP.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

9/6/2018 9/13/2018

LEGAL

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10/09/2018, for:

RE: GS# 350-022 Hail Damage (Phase III - Old Capitol)
Office of Capitol Facilities
(Department of Finance and Administration)
RFx #: 3160002520

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

Professional: Shafer & Associates, PLLC
Address: 510 University Drive
Starkville, Mississippi 39759
Phone: 662-323-1628
Email: scomish@szzarch.com

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

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

9/6/2018, 9/13/2018

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DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
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South Sunflower County Hospital is seeking a leadership position, **Chief Clinical Officer (CCO)** responsible for managing the nursing and ancillary departments.

- Responsibilities include operational management, quality assurance, customer service and financial performance of the departments.
- Must have a bachelor’s degree in nursing or health care management.
- Must have 5 years of nursing experience in a leadership role within a health care organization.
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





By Kam Williams

Columnist

Sid Gill (Debargo Sanyal) is presently being pressured by his East Indian immigrant parents (Zena Darawalla and Gordon Warnecke) to settle down and start a family. They are even willing to find the bride. Trouble is, they have no idea their son is on the verge of transitioning into a woman.

“My body is a costume I cannot take

off,” Sal laments to himself, which explains his feeling that “I must have landed here from Venus.” Nevertheless, he’s trying to summon up the courage to inform not only his folks of his gender change plans, but his boss as well.

Meanwhile, he can’t figure out why a white kid on a skateboard (Jamie Meyers) has been following him around a lot lately. When he finally confronts the teen on the street, he gets a jaw-drop-

ping explanation: “You’re my dad!”

Sure enough, Ralph turns out to be the love child of Sid and his high school sweetheart, Kirsten Lewis. Too bad, Kirsten (Amber Goldfarb) never bothered to tell him about the pregnancy, and still doesn’t want to have anything to do with him when he knocks on her door to find out why. So, that adds a little baby-mama drama to the mix.

Oh, and Ralph’s arrival threatens to

wreck Sid’s relationship with Daniel (Pierre-Yves Cardinal). Daniel’s gay but deep in the closet, and not ready to further complicate his life with a step-son.

All of the above is unraveled and resolved in delightful fashion in Venus, a kitchen sink dramedy written and directed by Eisha Marjara (Desperately Seeking Helen). Though the cross-cultural, cross-generational adventure touches on a variety of themes, what

makes it all worthwhile is its timely and tenderhearted exploration of transgender issues.

An apropos redefinition of the meaning of family for the 21st Century! Very Good (3 stars)

Unrated

Running time: 95 minutes

Production Studio: Compass Productions

Studio: Wolfe Releasing



Review: Support the Girls

A day in the life of gutsy “Den Mother” in ccharge of Beleaguered Sports Bar

By Kam Williams

Columnist

Double Whammies is an unremarkable watering hole located along a desolate strip of highway outside Austin, Texas where truckers and regulars can slip in and out quietly without drawing much attention to themselves. The seedy sports bar, a la your typical Hooters, is known for its booze and finger food served by scantily-clad waitresses in cut-off jeans and low-cut tops.

The place is run with an iron fist by Lisa Conroy (Regina Hall), a very-protective den mother who takes seriously her mission to shield her employees

from perverts inclined to cross a line to fraternize improperly. Though she shows her tough side to the clientele, the tenderhearted manager handles her staff with big kids’ gloves.

Lisa’s motley crew ranges from naive newcomers to hardened pros, and she’s blessed with a knack for knowing precisely what sort of support each needs. Unfortunately, she’s not appreciated by Double Whammies’ owner, Cubby (James Le Gros), probably because the club always seems to have a host of unresolved woes.

For example, at the moment, there’s a burglary in progress

thanks to a hapless perp who got himself stuck in a ceiling vent. Lisa knows the show must go on, so instead of summoning the police, she has her own way of dealing with such a distraction which keeps the wheels turning but frustrates her skeptical boss. That’s just the way it goes at this quirky haunt.

Written and directed by Andrew Bujalski (Beeswax), the film features many of the hallmarks of the low-budget genre on which the Mumblecore maven built his career. The picture effectively paints a poignant portrait of a day in the life of a humble, dedicated, working-

class heroine just trying to make a buck.

Remember how the indie-flick Paterson (2016) managed to elevate a lowly New Jersey poet/bus driver? Well, this tale of female empowerment pulls off a similar feat. Raw-edged cinematic verite’ cut to the bone, if that’s your taste.

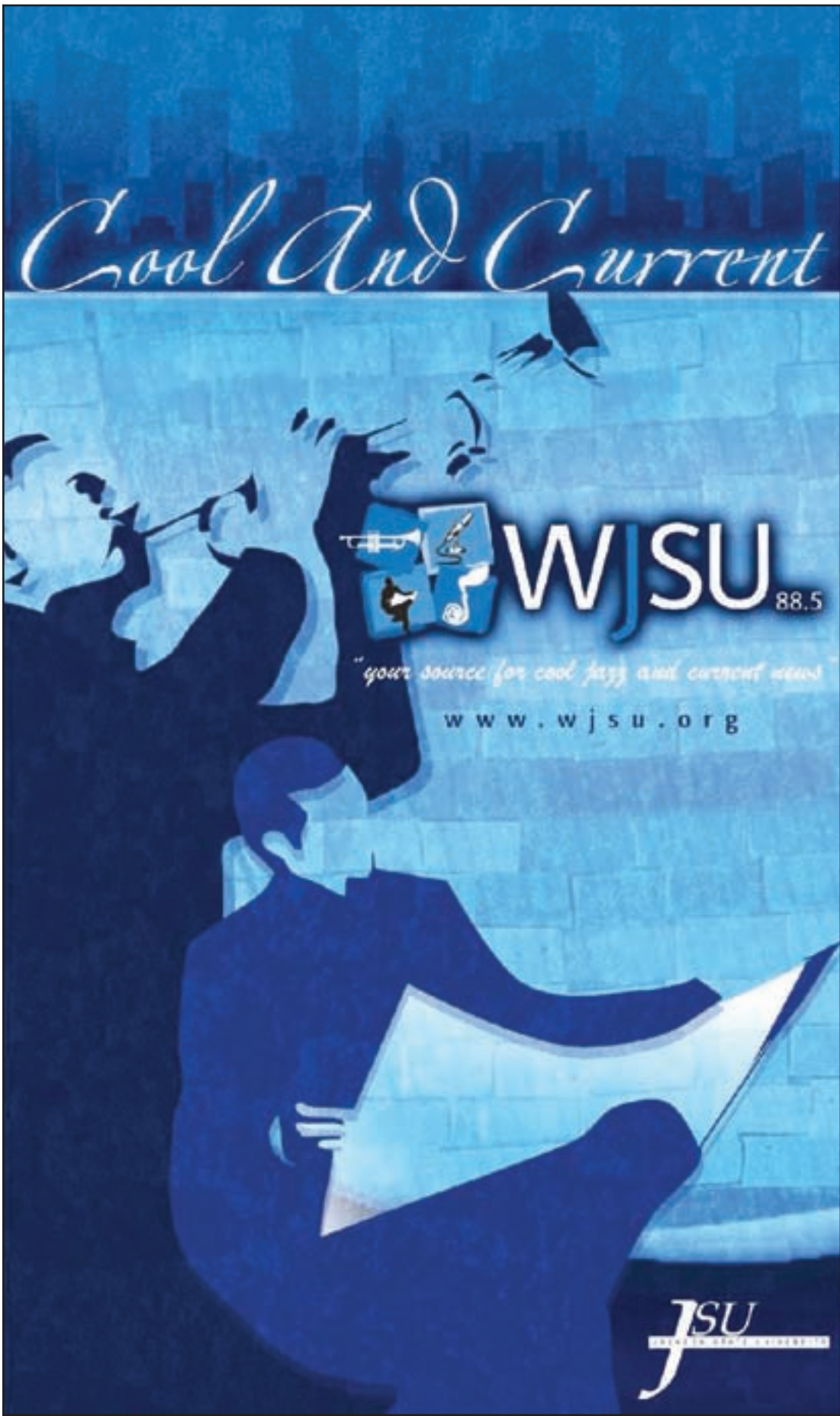
Very Good (3 stars)

Rated R for profanity, sexual references and brief nudity

Running time: 90 minutes

Production Studios: Burn Later Productions / Houston King Productions

Distributor: Magnolia Pictures



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.

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

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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 McCain

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

V E U I I VA I X S U F V G D N J M X G A G R J
F D U A V F T C T Y R V C X A U R VA C X N U X A U
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Lexington mayor dedicates clean-up efforts in memory of the Queen of Soul

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In a good gesture of her heart, Mayor Robin McCrory dedicated Aug. 18's successful Clean-Up Day in memory of the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

McCrory made the impromptu announcement at the Lexington Library as she and cleanup participants posed for a group photo following the event. She and others were fans of the legendary gospel and soul recording artist – acclaimed as one of the greatest musical icons of all times. Franklin succumbed to a battle with pancreatic cancer Aug. 16.

“R-E-S-P-E-C-T,” McCrory belted out as she and the group posed for the photo. She asked them to say, “Respect” instead of “cheese.” “We must have respect for one another and respect for the city in which we live by keeping it litter free,” she said.

More than 184 people of all ages registered at 9 a.m. and braved the overcast and later rainy skies to pick up trash in their city. The beautification event was coordinated by the City of Lexington in partnership with Keep Holmes County Beautiful. More than 200 bags of trash were collected.

“We picked up a lot of stuff,” said student Jerry Reese of the Lexington Colts Youth Football Team. “It was good to clean up.” His teammate Deundra Johnson echoed: “It was great! We went to a lot of places; made sure we picked up all of it; and we had a lot of fun,” he said.

Deundra’s mother Yolanda Wallace said she “had no idea that it was that much trash in our community,” she said.

The City of Lexington mayor, aldermen, city officials, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce staff and associates of Keep Holmes County Beautiful are grateful to everyone for their dedication and respect for their community.

At noon, refreshments were served and door prizes were drawn.

“The City of Lexington thanks all of our many sponsors that helped make this cleanup event fun and such a huge success,” said McCrory.



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD holds annual active shooter exercise at Terry High School

The Hinds County School District and local law enforcement held its annual active shooter training exercise at the beginning of school this year at Terry High School.

District spokesman John Neal said, “The most important part of these drills is agencies talking about how we communicate with each and the drills also allow the district to check its procedures and train its employees.” Neal said they will take what they have learned from this drill and use it at future drills while school is in session. The district follows state law and performs one active shooter training drill a year with students.

During the drill, emergency and school personnel simulated an active shooter situation in which shots were fired, several students were shot and injured, and the shooter was eventually killed by law enforcement. Student actors played victims and practiced exiting the school safely. School personnel were seen walking out of the school with their hands in the air as they were escorted out by emergency officials and EMS crews tended the injured and transported them from the scene.



Intruder enters the building and SRO sounds alert before being injured.



Emergency responders arrive and begin checking the injured after threat isolated.



Officers from Byram PD enter the building for support



First officers (Terry PD) to enter the building after 911 call with exercise evaluators observing



Support officers arrive from Hinds County Sheriff's Department



Superintendent Delesicia Martin thanks all of the local respondents for their support with the training exercise.



Command post for exercise



Students and employees exit the building after law enforcement give the all clear.



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PIGGLY WIGGLY

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2/^{\$}3

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2/^{\$}4

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4/^{\$}5

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