



ACLU extends a “front-seat” invitation to Cindy Hyde Smith



Jeff Robinson, ACLU deputy legal director PHOTO BY ANITA YOUNG

By Ken White
Contributing writer

Against the backdrop of racially charged comments made by interim U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Jeff Robinson, deputy legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), lead a conversation on the history of racism in Mississippi and America Monday, November 19, at the Jackson Convention Complex Theatre.

The ACLU of Mississippi produced this real life history lesson, titled “A Front Row Seat.”

It offered insight into the state’s history of slavery, slave patrols, lynchings, black codes, Jim Crow and modern-day mass incarceration. The conversation was held the night before the only debate between candidates for U.S. Senate in the special runoff election.

The event took audience members through a historic exploration of racial terrorism on a local and national level.

Playing off Hyde-Smith’s racially charged comments, the ACLU of Mississippi saved her a front row seat at this conversation

and periodically, Robinson deferred to the empty seat. Though her seat was empty, hundreds of people filled the seats around hers.

“You may have noticed that there is a reserved seat in the front row; we cordially invited sitting Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, as we believed that this could be a moment of education and opportunity for a dually appointed U.S. Senator to show sincere regret,” Jennifer Riley Collins, executive director of the ACLU of Mississippi, told a crowd of people. We believe that Mississippi is much

better than those statements, but unfortunately Mississippi is suffering from some policies, that were built, that have institutionalized racism in Mississippi.”

One of the most poignant moments of the evening was when Robinson showed a video with African Americans singing the third stanza of the National Anthem with their hands over their hearts. *The Mississippi Link* will explore this part of the conversation next week.

Mississippians will return to the polls Tuesday.



A front row seat reserved for Cindy Hyde-Smith

Ward 3 sponsors Thanksgiving Luncheon at community library



Councilman Kenneth I. Stokes, host of Thanksgiving dinner

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Councilman Kenneth Stokes of Ward 3 said giving back to the community is very important to him as he vividly recalled a time when he was in the first grade and was heard crying by the garbage pick-up man in his community. When asked why was he crying the man, known simply as the ‘garbage man,’ was told that Stokes was crying because he did not have lunch money, and learning this, he gave Stokes money for lunch. The Councilman said, “I will never forget it; you must always help others and that is what I have been trying to do over the years.”

Stokes, along with his administrative assistant Ethel Mangum, were the hosts of the annual Thanksgiving Community dinner held Monday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jackson Medgar Evers Library located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd. Children as well as adults poured into the library until it was filled to capacity. Stokes welcomed the guests and assured them there was plenty of food. Mangum said over 200 people were fed.

Attendees included residents from the community as well as guests from the Kids University, Global Day Care and AnCor Adult Day Care Center.

Prior to lunch being served, Darryle Smith, a member of the Mississippi Mass Choir, sang “I Won’t Complain.” His singing invoked a church-like atmosphere where listeners echoed the lyrics with Smith, others shouted ‘sing it babe,’ while others waved their hands in the air.

James Johnson from Camden, Mississippi said he heard about the luncheon and stopped by prior to heading to an appointment. He said “This is really nice.”

The meal was prepared by Kazy Ferninand, a well-known chef from the Fairview Inn in Jackson.

As you entered the library the aroma of meat on large grills set up outside mingled with dishes being served inside to include traditional thanksgiving dressing.

Mary Brown and Betty Bryant both said they truly enjoyed the dinner and agreed this was an excellent pre-Thanksgiving activity for the entire community. They



Luncheon Continued on page 3

Mississippi senate race may be defining moment for black voters Nov. 27

By Khalil Abdullah
TriceEdneyWire.com

Mississippi Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith’s remark to a colleague that “If he invited me to a public hanging, I’d be on the front row” now puts the Magnolia State at center stage for black voters in the 2018 mid-term elections as the Mississippi run-offs are held Nov. 27.

Hyde-Smith’s explanation that her phrase “was an ‘exaggerated expression of regard’ drew outrage from many, including Maya R. Cummings, president and CEO of Global Policy Solutions, veteran Capitol Hill staffer and former vice president of research and programs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

“[It] shows how little regard her forebearers had for blacks they murdered and mutilated and how their atrocities are still accepted in her culture,” Cummings said. Mis-



issippi had the highest number of lynchings in the United States between 1882 and 1968, according to NAACP records.

In the Nov. 6 mid-terms, Hyde-Smith finished in a dead heat in a four-way race with former Mississippi congressman Mike Espy, an African American who was the

Clinton administration Secretary of Agriculture.

The two will now face each other in a runoff special election Nov. 27. Hyde-Smith was appointed by Mississippi’s governor to fill the remaining two years of the Senate seat when Thad Cochran vacated it due to illness.



Espy

As a Trump-endorsed candidate, Hyde-Smith is in lockstep with the president’s agenda, one Cummings finds polarizing. According to initial Pew Research data, in the 2018 mid-terms, African Americans voted at 90 percent for Democratic

Black Voters Continued on page 13



Hinds CC crowns Miss Hinds Community College 2019



Hinds President Clyde Muse, 2nd runner-up Alexis Spiller, Miss Hinds CC 2019 Derykah Watts, 1st runner-up Courtney Buffington, pageant coordinator Angela Hite



Miss Hinds CC 2018 Charity Lockridge crowns Derykah Watts Miss Hinds CC 2019

Mississippi Link Newswire

Derykah Watts, of Jackson, was named Miss Hinds Community College in the annual pageant Nov. 15.

As Miss Hinds Community College, Watts will participate next summer in the Miss Missis-

issippi pageant in Vicksburg. The pageant is an official preliminary pageant of the Miss America Pageant program.

Watts, 20, is a sophomore studying biology at the Raymond Campus. She is a Mount Salus Christian School graduate. Her

talent was dance and her platform was breast cancer awareness.

First runner-up was Courtney Buffington, 19, of Brandon. She is a sophomore studying nursing at the Raymond Campus. She is a Pisgah High School graduate. Her talent was voice and her platform

was infection control in educational settings.

Second runner-up was Alexis Spiller, 19, of Vicksburg. She is a sophomore studying accounting on the Raymond Campus. She is a Warren Central High School graduate. Her talent was dance and her

platform was Embrace Your Self-Worth.

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of

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To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC

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Luncheon

Continued from page 1



Betty Bryant and Mary Brown PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Darryle Smith prepares to sing “I Won’t Complain.”



Fairview Inn Chef Kazzy Ferninand

both attend the AnCor Adult Day Care Center on Robinson Road Ext. The adults at the center regularly attend events at the Medgar Evers Library.

Bryant said the Medgar Evers Library is so special to the community and especially to the children who come to study and use the computers at any time. She said, “I just thank God that this library is in this community and I hope it stays.” Brown said she was looking forward to having dinner on Thanksgiving Day at her daughter’s home while Bryant said she will be spending Thanksgiving with her sister.

Stokes acknowledged his appreciation for Anne Sanders, branch librarian of the Medgar Evers location, for allowing Ward 3 to host the Thanksgiving lunch at this community library. Sanders along with library staff member Charlinda Guice said they really enjoyed this activity. Both ladies were volunteer servers. Also assisting with the event was library volunteer Kevin Edmondson.

Stokes, the longest serving African American elected in Jackson City Government, said he was very pleased so many came out and enjoyed this community event.



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JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene outlines areas of focus



Greene



Superintendent Errick L. Greene gives his vision for improving the Jackson Public School District to parent leaders of Area 3 at Murrah High School.

I look forward to working with the entire Jackson community on behalf of our students and families. I especially want to thank the Board of Trustees and Interim Superintendent Dr. Freddrick Murray for their leadership and support as I’ve transitioned into this new role.

One of the things I am most excited about is the opportunity to work with so many great teachers, administrators and classified staff members. I am confident that the Jackson Public School District has boundless opportunities to provide compelling and rigorous learning experiences for students, and I look forward to celebrating as we see the fruits of those offerings in student achievement. As with any other school district, I know there are programs and practices that we need to protect and nurture, while there are others that will require improvement or to be reconsidered altogether. This is the important and exciting work that we will do together.

Some have asked how I am prioritizing my work in these first few months – essentially

looking for a 90- or 100-day plan. Here are my primary areas of focus for the first three months of my superintendency:

- Engage deeply with the Jackson community and District.
- Develop a strategic operating plan.
- Improve customer service.
- Address the issues found in the Mississippi Department of Education Corrective Action Plan.

First: To engage deeply with the Jackson community and district I will visit all of our schools, meet with staff, students, parents and become familiar with our neighborhoods; meet with local leaders including elected officials, community leaders, faith-based leaders and others; develop advisory groups to provide ongoing counsel on various issues; participate in various events to become more familiar with the community; and identify a set of shared beliefs and values.

Second: To develop an informed strategic operating plan, I will review the reports from Mississippi Department of Edu-

cation, Council of the Great City Schools, and the Better Together Commission; review our data and observe in district offices, schools and classrooms; identify a set of key priorities for the next three to five years; utilize multiple modes of communication to ensure two-way dialogue with members of the community; engage intentionally with our many partners to develop a plan for district transformation; and develop a plan for district reorganization that is aligned to the key priorities and strategic operating plan.

Third: To improve customer service and identify key areas for improvement in our customer service I will listen to the feedback from parents, students and school based staff; identify quick wins to improve our customers’ experiences; and ensure that we live our values by the way that we engage with one another.

Fourth: To continue addressing the issues named by MDE in our Corrective Action Plan, I will provide close supervision of the actions to address the identi-

fied standards (including facilities issues in our Bond projects); provide ongoing communication regarding our progress on those standards; and work closely with the MDE team to ensure that our efforts meet the standards and address the needs of our students and families.

As your superintendent, I am committed to promoting academic excellence and enhancing our students’ physical, intellectual, and social-emotional growth. I will lead by example with integrity, honesty, and sincerity. I am enthusiastic about this work and expect to learn from each of you. I appreciate the opportunity to lead this district, and I look forward to working with the entire community to ensure that JPS is the fastest improving school district in the country.

Amazing things are destined for Jackson Public Schools. Let’s work together to achieve greatness for our children and for this city.

Sincerely,
Dr. Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jim Hill JROTC cadet receives Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award



Participating in the presentation of the Legion of Valor award are (from left) Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Augustus L. Collins, former Mississippi Adjutant General; Cadet Col. Ruben Banks, the 2018 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award recipient; Ruben Banks Sr., father of Cadet Banks; Col. (Ret.) Paul L. Willis, Director, JPS JROTC Programs, and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Raymond Leonard, Senior Army Instructor, Jim Hill High School.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Cadet Col. Ruben Banks of Jim Hill High School received the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award for Achievement for 2018-2019. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Augustus L. Collins, former Mississippi Adjutant General, presented the award to Banks as part of the Veterans Day Program held at Jim Hill November 6.

Banks is one of only two JROTC cadets from the state of Mississippi to earn the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award for Achievement this school year. This award is awarded to cadets who have shown outstanding excellence in military and academic subjects while enrolled in the Junior ROTC program. To receive this award, they must be in the top 10 percent of their JROTC class and have demonstrated outstanding leadership and involvement in their school and community. They must also be recommended by their JROTC instructor and their high school principal.

The prestigious Legion of Valor award is authorized for only one cadet out of every 4,000 in an Army Junior ROTC brigade. This year, Army Cadet Command in Fort Knox, Kentucky selected 24 Army Junior ROTC cadets from 314,000 cadets worldwide as Legion of Valor recipients.

About Cadet Ruben Banks

Banks is a senior at Jim Hill High School. He is currently serving as the Cadet Brigade Commander for Jackson Public Schools. He is the senior ranking cadet over seven Army JROTC units and nearly 1,800 cadets. Academically, Banks is ranked No. 11 out of 286 students in his senior class at Jim Hill. He has a cumulative GPA of 4.5 (on the International Baccalaureate 5.0 scale). He has also achieved an ACT score of 21.

Banks has made numerous accomplishments in his four years as a member of the JROTC. In the summer of 2018, he served as governor of Mississippi Boys State at Ole Miss and was also selected to represent Mississippi in Washington, D.C. at Boys Nation. At Boys Nation, he served as a committee chairman. As part of this experience, he met several key figures in politics including Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and Vice President Mike Pence.

Banks has also served for the past four years as a member of the United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol where he has held various leadership roles, including commander, communications officer, medic and assistant ground team leader. Through this organization alone, he has accrued over 250 hours of community service. His involvement with the Civil Air Patrol led to Banks being selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for its 15-member national Youth Preparedness Council (YPC). He completes his two-year commitment in 2019.

After graduation, Banks plans to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. Later, he plans to apply to law school to become a military lawyer.

“Cadet Banks is poised and mature beyond his years, with an unequalled thirst for knowledge and increased responsibility,” said Col. Paul Willis, Director, JPS JROTC Programs. “Through hard work and discipline, he has earned opportunities to work with and be mentored by government leaders such as Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, Federal Court Judge Henry T. Wingate and U.S. Senator Roger Wicker.”

Past JPS Legion of Valor recipients

JPS is proud to who have had 12 Legion of Valor recipients in the last 14 years.

- 2005 – Latoya Washington, Forest Hill
- 2006 – Tierra Robinson, Wingfield
- 2007 – Jestin Owens, Forest Hill; Stevie Riddle, Lanier; and Tiffany Jackson, Callaway
- 2008 – Eddie Parker, Murrah
- 2009 – Sierra Williams, Lanier
- 2011 – Amber Davis, Lanier
- 2013 – De’Ahnera Manyfield, Jim Hill
- 2014 – Myuna McNair, Lanier
- 2016 – Victoria Hawkins, Jim Hill
- 2018 – Ruben Banks, Jim Hill

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Hinds CC names HEADWAE honorees for 2019

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Utica Campus English instructor Dan Fuller, of Raymond, and Hezekiah Williams, of Edwards, a sophomore studying to be a biomedical engineer, have been named the Hinds Community College honorees for the Legislature’s HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day – Working for Academic Excellence) program for 2019.

As the faculty HEADWAE honoree, Fuller is also the graduation speaker for fall ceremonies Dec. 13 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus. Nursing and allied health students will graduate in a ceremony at 9 a.m. Academic and technical students will graduate at ceremonies set for noon and 3 p.m.

Fuller, employed at Hinds since 2014, holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees in English from Mississippi College and a master’s in theological studies from Brite Divinity School, at Texas Christian University.

“I’m honored to be selected as the HEADWAE instructor for Hinds, though I’ll confess that I thought Dr. Muse had the wrong number when he called to tell me the news,” Fuller said. “The work that I’m doing with my students isn’t any different than what I see from our faculty all across the district, and that commitment to our students is what sets Hinds apart. I love working with my students and seeing firsthand the passion they have to engage in the critical work needed to build a more just world.”

Among Fuller’s numerous contributions to the college include his current chairmanship



HEADWAE honorees Dan Fuller and Hezekiah Williams

of the Humanities Division and being a past chair of the English Department, from 2015 to 2018. In 2016-17, Fuller was instrumental in the Utica Campus securing a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities aimed at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The effort, “Black Man’s Burden: William Holtzclaw and the Mississippi HBCU Connection,” produced a yearlong lecture and discussion series based on the man who founded the Utica Institute.

Williams, a Mount Salus

Christian School graduate, is district president of the college’s Student Government Association and a co-president of Alpha Beta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, which is the Utica Campus chapter of the national honor society for two-year colleges.

“I am very humbled and grateful to everyone involved in the making of this award and this commemorative program,” Williams said. “This an amazing honor to represent all campuses of Hinds Community College. I give God all of the honor, glory and praise for this accomplish-

ment.”

Williams was named a 2018 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar as part of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He is also a George E. and Doris Barnes Foundation Scholar.

HEADWAE was established in 1988 to honor academically talented students and faculty who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence.

The 32nd annual program is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019.

Board of Trustees names campus search advisory committee for the Alcorn State University president search

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has selected 26 members, representing a cross-section of the Alcorn State University campus community, to serve on the Campus Search Advisory Committee. Alfred Galtney, director of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs and alumnus Jacqueline Beasley, senior vice president of administration for Minact, Inc., will serve as co-chairs of the committee.

Members of the CSAC include:

Administration, Faculty & Staff

Tracy Cook
Carolyn Dupre
Wanda Fleming
Alfred Galtney, Chair
Yolanda Jones
Peter Malik
Debra Spring
Shundera Stallings
Valtreasa Tolliver-Cook
Voletta Williams
Dylinda Wilson-Younger

Students

Moriah Batiest
Robert Tatum

Alumni

Lakesha Batty
Jacqueline Beasley, co-chair

Charlie Bridges
Dollie Carter
Wilbert Jones
Charles McClelland
Percy Norwood
Kalvin Robinson
DeKendric Stamps
John Walls
Neddie Winters

Community

Robert Gage
Mayor Fred Reeves

The Board of Trustees selected Parker Executive Search, a retained executive search firm with one of the most highly regarded practices in the country, to assist with the search. The firm has conducted more than 2,000 searches for distinguished academic, health sciences, athletic and corporate clientele. Their team has extensive experience in conducting higher education searches, providing them with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the academic community.

Mississippi Counseling Association names Jan Lemon to key post

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Starting in June 2019, Jan Lemon will serve as president-elect of the Mississippi Counseling Association.

It’s a noteworthy honor for the Mississippi College counseling professor. She’s on track to become the organization’s president beginning June 1, 2020.

A Florence resident, Lemon was elected to the leadership posts at the Mississippi Counseling Association’s Fall conference in Biloxi. Meeting November 7-9 at the Gulf Coast Convention Center, the group has over 1,000 members.

Founded in 1950, the MCA encourages personal and professional development among counselors. The group partners with the American Counseling Association. Counselors work at mental health agencies, schools, private practices, the military, rehabilitation centers and elsewhere across the USA.

Mississippi College colleagues salute Lemon, a former Florence High senior counselor for 18 years before joining the Christian university faculty in August 2011.

“Jan Lemon is a true professional counselor and educator,” said Ron Howard, vice president for academic affairs. “Her work has touched the lives of literally



Lemon

thousands, and in the most positive ways. She has contributed so very much to the MC counseling program.”

Graduate School Dean Debbie Norris worked closely recently with Lemon on the university’s lengthy reaccreditation activities. “She tackled the report with passion, enthusiasm and determination. The result was just what you would expect – suc-

cess.”

Norris believes these same attributes will benefit the Mississippi Counseling Association as Lemon moves into leadership roles.

On the Clinton campus, Lemon served one year as chair of Mississippi College’s Psychology & Counseling Department, starting in July 2017. She earned a master’s at MC in counseling

education in 1995 and a doctorate in the field at Mississippi State University in 2010.

In 2004, the Belhaven University graduate earned her doctorate in Christian counseling at Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary in Shreveport.

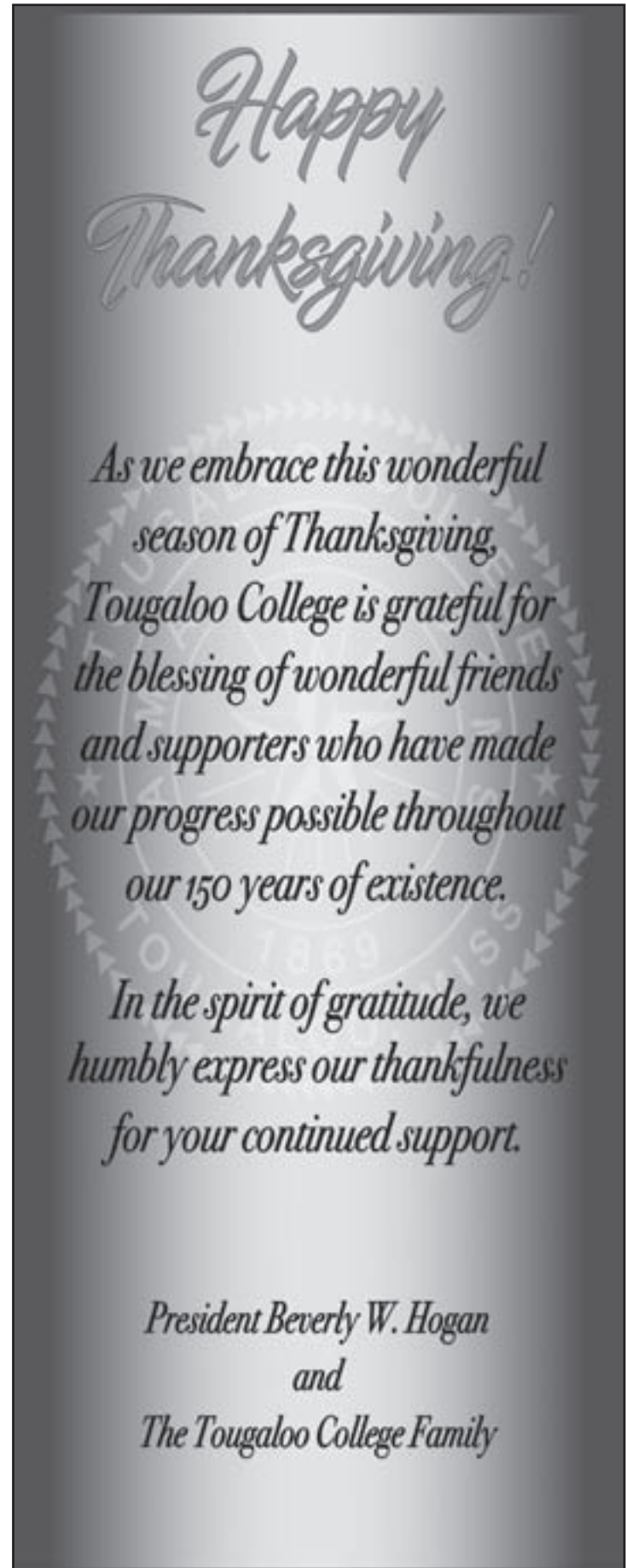
Peers have long recognized her career accomplishments. In 2015, Lemon was named the School of Education’s Distinguished Professor of the Year at Mississippi College. Lemon is a former president of the Mississippi School Counseling Association.

“Moving up the ranks at the Mississippi Counseling Association is an honor and humbling experience,” Lemon said.

She seeks to improve counseling services and client outcomes among all Mississippi populations. “My hope is that our association will advance and unite counseling more broadly to insure growth and success for each clinician.”

Twenty-five years ago, Lemon filled in as a counselor at her son’s private school in Flowood and found her life’s calling.

Mississippi College programs include a doctorate in professional counseling and others for graduate students in Jackson’s Fondren district. MC offers a minor in Christian counseling.





11 years after death, Latasha Norman's family at 5K run/walk still rebukes domestic violence



Participants line up at the starting line on the Gibbs-Green Memorial Plaza Saturday for the 11th annual 5K Latasha Norman Run/Walk. PHOTO BY ARON SMITH/JSU

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Dozens braved the cold weather early Saturday morning at JSU for the 11th annual Latasha Norman 5K Run/Walk to advocate for the prevention of domestic abuse and hear from the parents of a 20-year student who was murdered by her boyfriend in 2007.

In memory of the victim, JSU's Division of Student Affairs established the Latasha Norman Center for Counseling and Disability Services, which sponsors the annual event.

Dubbed the "Celebration of Life: Putting an End to Domestic Violence," the run/walk was held on the Gibbs-Green Memorial Plaza.

The two individuals with the fastest times in the men's and women's divisions were L.C. Grant, a 61-year-old from Shaw (20:35.7); and Trivia Edwards, a 20-year JSU junior finance major from Jackson (25:37.2).

Meanwhile, Norman's father, Danny Bolden, said the annual event means so much to the family. He expressed his gratitude to JSU, the community and others who traveled great distances to participate in the event.

"This is the 11th year of the Latasha Norman Walk. We're so appreciative that JSU has held up to its word. They continue to do what they promised. Awareness about domestic abuse is much needed on this campus and in the city. You can get out of this situation by seeking help. The Latasha Norman Center is supplying that by educating people that domestic violence is wrong and will not be tolerated," Bolden said.

His wife, Patricia Bolden, said, "It's important to help our young people who are victims of domestic violence. They must make sure they tell someone, and let them know what's going on."

She described her daughter as one who was "a loving, caring person, a sweetheart – always giving. This run/walk is a good cause so that other people are aware of domestic violence, and they can always go to the center for help."

Shanice White, lead therapist for the center, said, "It's important for us to continue to do this event because Latasha is not the only victim of domestic violence. There are so many women – and men – who are victims. We must spread the word about awareness."

She said one in three women and one in seven men are victims of domestic violence. "So, we must come together and have a conversation to try to end this problem."

While the center's main focus is on domestic violence and helping victims develop a safety plan, White said it also addresses mental health issues for students, faculty and staff. She noted the



Blue and White Flash staffers join in bringing awareness to domestic violence and abuse. They are Aaron Walker, left, a senior from Jackson; Deja Davis, a junior from Atlanta; Clement Gibson, a senior from Minneapolis, Minnesota; Shay Humphrey, a senior from Marks; and Darrius Barran, a junior from Chicago.

long-lasting psychological effects of domestic violence.

White said the problem is complicated further because "there are so many people who feel they don't have a voice. They are not aware of the resources that are out there."

She cited organizations such as the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence that serves as a resource.

As for the competition, women's winner Edwards was stunned by her performance because "I haven't run in over a year."

However, Edwards works out regularly and had another reason for participating in the run/walk.

"I witnessed domestic violence against my mom when I was a little girl. I kept that in the back of my head as I was running because I'm actually running for everybody else, including my mom and me. It was a personal thing. To victims, I want to say just keep pushing. Stay strong and stand up for yourselves. Know your worth. Whoever is experiencing domestic violence please do something and don't just take the abuse."

Men's winner Grant said, "I've been coming here the last two years, and I wanted to show my support and be a blessing and help raise awareness."

The Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence was also present.

Policy coordinator David McDowell, said, "We want to bring awareness and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. I see a lot of men here today. I'm excited because it's very important that we all speak up together and stand in solidarity."

Using the acronym STAND, McDowell is urging individuals to confront domestic violence head-on:

S – Speak up if you hear excuses for violence or victim blaming

T – Treat your partner with respect

A – Always challenge abusive behaviors

N – Never assume they'll be OK

D – Direct, Distract, Delegate or Deny

"We don't ever want to be in a situation where we have to bring awareness because of some-

thing that happened. We have an opportunity every day to stop systemic issues, stop violence against women and interpersonal violence of all sorts," McDowell said.

As well, he said, "We are able to find shelter for people and help them find jobs and move forward in their lives. Unfortunately, if they feel alone or don't feel there's a community to support them, they might not come forward. This could be deadly."

Similar to the coalition, other participants in the run/walk sought to lend their voices to the movement.

Michael Caples, leasing and facilities coordinator for JSU's Housing and Residence Life, called the event "a great deal because we're spreading awareness."

Previously, Caples worked with the Latasha Norman Center and still continues urging victims to use available resources. "People who are affected by domestic violence should create a safety plan on how to leave and get help," he advised.

Jasmine Collins from Missouri gave a helping hand by distributing bags to participants and cheering them on as they made their way to the finish line.

"I go to the center to help with my own problems, so it just makes sense to be there to cheer on other people who might be going through something. The center has helped me to have a more positive outlook on things. For any hardship that someone is going through, it's easier when you know that there are people supporting you. Going through something by yourself – while it's possible – it can be harder because you feel like you're alone."

Bilal Hashim, a runner from Benton, has been an annual participant for quite some time.

"I always run for Latasha. Addressing domestic violence is necessary, especially in our community. It's been so endemic for so long because no one talks about it. I don't know that there's anyone who hasn't been touched by this. My message is to speak up. If you're a victim, let somebody know."

Sylvia Morris, from Clinton, chose to walk. "It's very impor-

tant to bring as much awareness as possible. It's happening every day. Young women need to know they don't have to take it. Ladies and men, if it's happening to you speak up," she implored.

Morris was accompanied by 12-year-old son Sachem Stamps. "This is his first. I want him to be a part of this. He understands this issue."

Stamps said, "I never experienced domestic violence myself, but I believe we should bring awareness to it because not all people have the courage to use their voice to speak up and say something about it."

Additionally, a nonprofit organization called "Women in Need" delivered its message of empowerment, too, by distributing information about its services.

Carolyn Hutton White, president and CEO, started a nonprofit organization in June 2018 called Women in Need to educate women on domestic violence, physical abuse, mental and sexual abuse.

"It's been a passion of mine for a while and something that I decided to put into place," Hutton White said.

Women in Need aims to help single-parenting mothers with different trials in their lives.

"As a single parent, I raised two sons. It's difficult being a single parent. I have a son who has suffered health issues, and my mother suffers dementia. Women go through a lot," Hutton White said.

"A lot of girls have been abused by young men, and men sometimes go through abuse. But this program is designed to help women of all ages. Young women and children have committed suicide. I just feel women need to be educated as to what goes on in their daily lives," she said.

Because of issues females face, Women in Need sponsored a workshop Nov. 17 at Hinds Community College in Raymond in the Eagle Ridge Conference Center to address domestic abuse and violence.

Money collected from Latasha Norman walk/run registration fees will go toward developing programs against domestic violence.

JSU alum establishes \$100,000 endowment for first-time college students from Yazoo County

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Annie Rene Harris Slaughter earned three degrees from Jackson State University, and now she's established a \$100,000 endowment in memory of her mother – also an alum – to help undergraduates pursue their academic dreams at their alma mater. Funds will be matched by Title III.

Harris Slaughter, a native of Yazoo County, currently resides in Atlanta. She said the Rosetta Tolbert Harris Endowed Scholarship would help defray expenses for eligible candidates. Funds will pay for tuition, textbooks, supplies and other fees included in the cost of education.

"My mother started teaching around 1928. She liked school a lot. She felt that you should have a college education even if you don't use it for anything but to fall back on. She was particularly concerned about children who lived in rural areas, where she chose to teach," said Harris Slaughter, who recalled a doctor's attempt to persuade her grandmother to keep her daughter (Harris Slaughter's mother) from going back to school.

"He told my grandmother that going to school was the reason my mother's head kept hurting," said Harris Slaughter. "But my mother persevered." Her grandmother would eventually support her daughter's decision to go back to school.

Harris Slaughter earned her bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees from JSU and her doctorate from Indiana University in elementary and early childhood education. She was a longtime elementary teacher in Jackson and taught briefly at IU, Kentucky State and Western Kentucky University. She retired from Atlanta Public Schools in 2004. She said the endowment is a fitting tribute because her mother "loved helping children and parents in rural areas that others neglected. She was 'no nonsense,' but some of her students were household names because her mother spoke about them so often.



Slaughter

Early on, Harris Slaughter described JSU as the "best state school in Mississippi." She said, "JSU laid the foundation for everything that I was to become." She added, "At this point in my life, I want to assist some high school graduates who would not otherwise consider college an option. I want to make sure young people have an opportunity."

Also, she said, "When they become actively involved in campus life they will be more apt to go out in the world and become leaders."

She said her life can be summed up in the words of a song by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson: "If I can help somebody ... my living shall not be in vain."

To be eligible, scholarship candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be an undergraduate student attending JSU
- Reside in a residence hall on campus
- Participate in one or more campus-life organizations
- Maintain a 2.00 GPA or above
- Be an African-American first-generation college student
- Be a resident of Yazoo County in Mississippi (priority will be given to students who attended Linwood Elementary School).

Harris Slaughter's desire now is to see more people support JSU through endowments and scholarships – especially since many African-American leaders graduated from HBCUs.

"People don't need a hand-out as much as they need a hand-up," she said.

'Rob Jay' named interim general manager of JSUTV

Jackson State University

Robert "Rob Jay" Jeuitt, a JSU alum and longtime sports broadcaster, has been named interim general manager for JSUTV, in addition to his duties as executive producer of JSU Sports Media.

"It's a major undertaking, but I am confident that with the support of my talented team, we will elevate JSUTV to the next level," said Jeuitt, who spent over 20 years as a sports director with WLBT-TV, a local affiliate of NBC.

Earlier this year, the National Sports Media Association named Jeuitt Mississippi Sportcaster of the Year for his coverage of JSU sports.

Elayne Hayes Anthony, chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, said she is pleased to have Jeuitt as interim.

"He has the expertise and organizational skills needed for the position. He is known throughout this market for his work in broadcasting," she



Jeuitt

said. "Additionally, I am very pleased to have an alum of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies in this position."

Jeuitt said he has plans to boost JSUTV programming and would like to increase viewership.

"We also want to work more with athletics; airing all of the sports teams that the university offers, highlighting shows and more games and streaming more games, which we've already started doing," he said.

Griffis to become next Chief Judge of Mississippi Court of Appeals

Mississippi Link Newswire

Judge T. Kenneth Griffis Jr. will become the next Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals, Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. announced recently.

Griffis, 57, of Ridgeland, will begin his service as administrative head of the Court of Appeals on Jan. 2, 2019. He will take over the leadership position from Court of Appeals Chief Judge L. Joseph Lee, who will retire Dec. 31.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court selects the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Waller said, “Judge Griffis is a seasoned appellate judge with extensive experience who has always worked for and supported the improvement of the judiciary and the administration of justice. I appreciate his willingness to take on the additional administrative duties of chief judge. He will be an outstanding leader as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.”

Griffis said, “I thank Chief Justice Waller for his confidence in me in making this appointment. I look forward to continuing the excellence of the Court of Appeals and working with other members of the Court as we meet our responsibility of rendering well-reasoned and timely decisions. I am honored to serve the Court of Appeals in this capacity.”

With the Dec. 31 retirements of Chief Judge Lee and Presiding Judge Tyree Irving, Griffis will become the longest serving member of the Court of Appeals. He has been a member of the court for 16 years. He was elected in November 2002 to District 3, Position 2, and took office in January 2003. Lee selected him as a presiding judge March 3, 2011.

The Court of Appeals handles cases in three-judge panels, although all 10 judges of the court vote on decisions. Presiding judges preside over the panels during oral arguments and during the internal discussion of cases.

Griffis will become the sixth Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The court was created by the Legislature and began hearing cases in January 1995 to relieve a backlog of appeals. It is an intermediate appellate court, deciding cases assigned to it by the Supreme Court.



Griffis

Griffis is a native of Meridian. He earned accounting and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. He attended Meridian Community College and Mississippi State University – Meridian Branch. He was a certified public accountant from 1984 through 2007.

Griffis is admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, and all Mississippi state courts. He is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar Association, the Madison County Bar Association, the Capital Area Bar Association and the Rankin County Bar Association. He is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

He previously served as a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court’s Rules Advisory Committee and as chair of the Bench Bar Committee of the Mississippi Bar. He also served on the Committee on Continuing Judicial Education and the Committee on Electronic Filing and Case Management Systems. He was an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law, Belhaven University, the University of Mississippi School of Law and Meridian Community College.

Griffis and his wife, Mary Helen Griffis, are the parents of five boys. They live in Ridgeland and attend Christ United Methodist Church. Griffis has served as a youth Sunday School teacher, a Cub Scout leader, and a coach for more than 80 youth sports teams, including baseball, basketball, soccer and hockey.

Employees honored for service at Mississippi State Hospital



Mississippi State Hospital November recipients (from left) Taquila Foster, Brandon 10 years; Sharon Sharp, Brandon 25 years; Jerry Johnson, Jackson 5 years; Jeanette Shoulders, Jackson 20 years; Ora Buchanan, Florence 30 years.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with November anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital.

Service awards are given to MSH employees in the month of their date of

hire, beginning with one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin.

The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.

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.

MDWFP provides CWD sampling for hunters statewide

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) encourages hunters to participate in voluntary statewide Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling efforts during the 2018–2019 hunting season. MDWFP has set up 21 drop-off freezers across the state for hunters to deposit deer heads for testing. Instructions and materials are on-site and MDWFP staff check the freezers weekly.

In addition, MDWFP will operate

check stations for hunters to bring their harvested deer for CWD sampling.

Check station locations and dates of operation:

- Onward Store and the intersection of Highways 465 and 61 (boat ramp) Saturday, November 17 Friday, November 23 Saturday/Sunday, December 29/30, January 5/6
- Ecru Volunteer Fire Department AND Pontotoc County Compound (across from Prater’s Grocery on

Highway 41) Saturday, November 17 & 24, December 29, and January 5 Friday, November 23

All hunters who submit a sample will complete a uniquely numbered biological sample card that will assist them in accessing test results online.

For more information regarding CWD, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com/cwd or call us at 601 432-2199. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.



INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM CULTURES



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Islamic Heritage Month is a great opportunity to GET TO KNOW YOUR MUSLIM COMMUNITY. We are planning for GREAT Programs and an EXCITING Festival. This is a FREE event.





We're also looking for volunteers to make this event even better and would greatly appreciate your assistance.





Both Abrams and Gillum fall short of governors' mansions

By Barrington M. Salmon
TriceEdneyWire.com

In the end, Stacey Abrams said voter suppression and systematic voter manipulation by former Secretary of State and Governor-Elect Brian Kemp tilted the Georgia governor's race in his favor.

After 10 days of legal, electoral and other maneuvering, Abrams bowed out of the race, ending a combative and bitter contest in her bid to become the first black woman governor in the country.

An attorney, author and former minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives, Abrams called Kemp "the architect of voter suppression" and accused him of purging voter rolls, delaying and denying new registrations and generally disenfranchising African-American and other non-white voters.

"I acknowledge that former Secretary of State Brian Kemp will be certified as the victor in the 2018 gubernatorial election," said Abrams at a Nov. 16 press conference. "But to watch an elected official who claims to represent the people in this state baldly pin his hopes for election on suppression of the people's democratic right to vote has been truly appalling."

Abrams castigated Kemp — who served since 2012 as secretary of state until he stepped down last week — making it clear that she refuses to act as if the election was normal, while pointing out that she wasn't making a concession speech.

She castigated Kemp for the "deliberate and intentional" voter suppression he employed and promised to continue to fight for fair and comprehensive elections.

"Pundits and hyper-partisans will hear my words as a rejection of the normal order. You see, I'm supposed to say nice things and accept my fate," she said. "They will complain that I should not use this moment to recap what was done wrong or to demand a remedy. As a leader I should be stoic in my outrage and silent in my rebuke but stoicism is a luxury and silence is a weapon for those who would quiet the voices of the people. And I will not concede because the erosion of our democracy is not right."

Investigative Journalist Greg Palast filed an affidavit November 15 in federal district court in



Surrounded by supporters, Stacey Abrams ends her pursuit of the Georgia governorship.

Atlanta in support of the Common Cause Georgia's case filed against Kemp. Palast said on his website that an expert report from one of his consultants shows that 340,134 voters were wrongly purged from Georgia's voter rolls — without notice — by Kemp in 2016 and 2017 while Kemp was Secretary of State and preparing his run for Governor.

There are documented efforts of Kemp's machinations to suppress the vote in investigations by the Associated Press, Mother Jones and other news outlets. Kemp has removed significant swathes of African-Americans, Asians and Latinos from voter rolls by purging more than 1.5 million voters — almost 11 percent of those registered — from the rolls between 2016 and 2018. He also closed 214 polling stations, the majority of them in poor and non-white neighborhoods.

And using a program called 'exact match,' he blocked almost 35,000 Georgia residents from registering from 2013 to 2016. Exact match only grants residents the right to vote if their registrations exactly match information found in state data bases. Registrations aren't accepted if there is a name difference, a misspelled word or an accent. Kemp's office also put more than 50,000 voter registrations on hold by using the unreliable "exact match" system. Fully 70 percent of those are black.

Abrams' election run electrified African-Americans around the state. And the black-woman-powered ground game brought Abrams to within two percentage points of beating Kemp.

"We've been working in Georgia all year," said Melanie

Campbell, president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. "Sisters laid the groundwork. We've been doing voter registration. While the focus has been on leaders, this was a coalition effort of women like Helen Butler of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, who was all over the state. We were phone banking since the primaries calling black women. People like Deborah Scott and Felicia Davis and groups like the Southern Black Women's Initiative and Shirley Sherrod were canvassing neighborhoods, developing voter profiles and putting women together."

Campbell said the emergence of Donald Trump, the rise in hate crimes and the ratcheting up of racism are of most concern to black women. This has animated their resistance to Trump and the Republican agenda.

"The whole notion is that our lives are at stake. It's in our DNA," she said. "There is a drumbeat, a drumbeat knowing that this country is in peril. We're seeing, feeling and hearing it. It took a minute for folks to tune in."

Campbell said campaigns like Abrams represents a power shift and will have important implications for African-Americans in 2020 and beyond.

In Florida, after a flurry of lawsuits, uncertainty about the fate of uncounted ballots and two South Florida counties failing to meet the deadline, a machine recount determined that Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum was unable to catch Republican Ron DeSantis in that gubernatorial contest. Gillum trailed DeSantis by 33,683 votes, a net gain of one vote for Gillum from the unofficial results reported last



Andrew Gillum and wife, R. J., concede the Florida gubernatorial race for a second time.

week. Of eight million votes cast, the margin was a mere 0.41 percent.

Despite the apparent insurmountable lead, Gillum would not concede and called for counting to continue. His lawyer hinted at a lawsuit.

"A vote denied is justice denied — the State of Florida must count every legally cast vote," Gillum said in published reports. "As today's unofficial reports and recent court proceedings make clear, there are tens of thousands of votes that have yet to be counted. We plan to do all we can to ensure that every voice is heard in this process."

There grew a cacophony of calls for Gillum to concede. So far, he has refused. The Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board has called him "ungracious," saying that his refusal to concede is "a display of ill-grace that won't help his political future in Florida."

Ultimate, he conceded saying he will not stop working for fair elections in Florida.

"We wanted to make sure that every vote, including those that were undervotes and overvotes — as long as it was a legally cast vote — to be counted," Gillum said.

He concluded, "We also want you to know that even though this election may be beyond us, that this — although nobody wanted to be governor more than me — this was not just about an election cycle... This was about creating the kind of change in this state that really allows for the voices of everyday people to show up again in our government, our state and our communities."

This story includes information from The Tallahassee Democrat, gregpalast.com and NPR.

African-American use of tobacco products remains high even as cigarette smoking drops to all time low



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

An estimated 14 percent of American adults smoked cigarettes every day or some parts of the day during 2017, which is the lowest rate ever recorded since 1965, the first year the Public Health Services established a clearing house for smoking and health. In 1964, the office of the U.S. Surgeon General issued its first ever report on smoking and health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced recently that the number of cigarette smokers was down from 15.5 percent in 2016, a 67 percent drop since 1965.

The drop, which has affected 34 million individuals, occurred mostly among young adults between 2016 and 2017, the CDC reported. About 10 percent of young adults 18 to 24 smoked cigarettes in 2017, down from 13 percent in 2016.

"This new all-time low in cigarette smoking among U.S. adults is a tremendous public health accomplishment — and it demonstrates the importance of continued proven strategies to reduce smoking," said CDC Director Robert Redfield. "Despite this progress, work remains to reduce the harmful effects of tobacco use."

The report notes that about

47 million U.S. adults used a variety of tobacco products in 2017, including cigarettes, cigars, hookah/water pipes, smokeless tobacco products and e-cigarettes. The most common tobacco products are cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

The City of Chicago, which has filed a lawsuit against online sellers of E-Cigarettes, said since 2011 Cook County and the State of Illinois have raised taxes on tobacco products, resulting in the reduction of smoking. A pack of cigarettes costs \$11.50 in Illinois, the highest in the nation, compared to the average price of \$5.51 per pack elsewhere, according to Fair Reporters, a website.

Black adults are one of many population groups who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products at a much higher rate. More than 20.1 percent of blacks use some sort of tobacco product compared with 21.4 percent of whites. Smoking is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Lung cancer is the leading cause of death among black men, according to the American Cancer Society.

The study was also produced by the Food and Drug Administration and National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute.

National Trust raises over \$10 million to preserve historic black sites

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that one year after the launch of the African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund the organization has hit a funding milestone, raising more than \$10M dollars for this \$25M initiative.

The Action Fund aims to uplift stories of African-American achievement, activism and community, crafting a narrative that expands a view of history, and that helps to reconstruct our national identity while inspiring a new generation of activists to advocate for diverse historic places, according to the announcement.

"We are proud of how over this past year we've helped to broaden the conversation about the places that matter," Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said in a news release.

"Since the launch of the Action Fund, we have seen overwhelming support across the country in saving spaces that tell the full American story."

Launched in partnership with national foundations, and with support from a national advisory council, including co-chairs Darren Walker, president of



The historic home of John and Alice Coltrane/National Trust for Historic Preservation

the Ford Foundation and actress and director Phylicia Rashad, the Action Fund has changed the landscape of African-American preservation.

In year one, the Action Fund empowered youth through a hands-on preservation experience, modeled innovative approaches to interpreting and preserving African-American cultural heritage at historic sites, continued on-the-ground work protecting significant historic places and launched a national grant program.

"The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund has seen remarkable

grassroots engagement, in the more than 800 grant applications asking for help protecting African-American historic places, and in the tremendous community support at newly-launched national treasures like the John and Alice Coltrane Home," said Brent Leggs, director of the African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

"As we embark on year two of the Action Fund, we will continue working to foster a national landscape where every person can see themselves, their history and their potential in our collective story," Leggs said.

In this inaugural year, the Action Fund was able to award 16 grants, totaling more than \$1M, to preservation organizations across the country, with funding going to support the preservation of sites and stories of black history.

The grants, presented at Essence Festival this July, covered work in communities from Birmingham to the South Side of Chicago, including sites of struggle and strength, according to the announcement.

"The Action Fund grant enabled us to move forward with the goal of transforming the August Wilson House into a community space, a hub of art, memory and interpretation that will support young artists in Pittsburgh and across the country, and celebrate August Wilson's legacy," said Paul A. Ellis Jr., executive director of the August Wilson House, an inaugural grant recipient.

Ellis, an attorney, is also Wilson's nephew and the founder of the Daisy Wilson Artist Community, named after Wilson's mother, Daisy.

"This house and this community are more than just a place where August lived — they are the inspiration for his plays and the physical representation of what he was able to accomplish," he

said.

In addition to grant funding, the National Trust through its Action Fund has supported four new National Treasure designations, including the childhood home of singer Nina Simone, and Memphis-based Clayborn Temple, famed for its role in the Sanitation Workers' Strike of 1968.

In the coming year, the National Trust has pledged to continue work on key preservation efforts, including conducting research exploring the impact that preservation has on contemporary urban issues that disproportionately affect communities of color — equity, displacement and affordability.

Additionally, support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will continue, from celebrating their history to advocating for the reauthorization of the HBCU Historic Preservation Program which ensures that their histories and legacies are preserved.

"The Action Fund draws support from a renowned group of leaders in academic, business, government, art and philanthropy, as well as the continued support of first-year lead funders Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, and others," Leggs said.

What sin or weight is besetting you?

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



Please examine your life right now. What are the things that you are comfortable with, that may not be acceptable to the Lord. We read in Hebrews 12:1, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Every Christian believer is likened in the Holy Bible to a runner in a race, specifically a marathon. The goal is not to finish first; but rather, to finish the course set before us by God. There are sins which will sidetrack us. And then there are weights which are not necessarily sinful, but they will hold us back and slow us down from serving

God. What is it that’s keeping you from serving as you should the Lord Jesus Christ? There is something that we can all do for God; however, it starts with an attitude of desire. Abiding in the inspired Words of God ought to burn a passion in our hearts to serve the Lord in every way possible while we still have the opportunity to do so.

This life is short. Time is running out! You and I will be in eternity before we realize it. What are you doing for Jesus Christ? Get involved in a local church. God wants us to enjoy this life, just so long as we always include Him in everything that we think, say or do. Jesus wants to be a part of everything in our life.

My prayer for you is to sincerely search your heart and ask God in prayer to show you if there are areas of your life which need improving. We read in First Corinthians 3:1-2, “And I, brethren, could not

speak unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” The church at Corinth probably resembles most churches today. The members had problems with a lot of bickering, forming cliques and even living in fornication in the church. The Apostle Paul called them carnal, babes in Christ and said he couldn’t even talk with them about spiritual issues because they were in their comfort zone, allowing sin to go unchecked in the church. Morality is still important to God, whether people believe it or not.

Many Christians are in financial woes because they are trying to keep up with the heathen American lifestyle which requires a vacation to Florida once or twice a year, a brand new vehicle, new clothes, dining out regularly and lots of electronic toys, gadgets and the monthly ser-

vice charges to use them. No one can help the poor, support missionaries and tithe as they ought who’s in massive financial debt to banks. We read in First Timothy 6:6-8, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” With this in mind, the writer of Hebrews closes his letter with one last plea. “Remember your leaders who taught you the Word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:7-8).

Happy Thanksgiving!
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.

Be thankful for what you lost

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Is it possible to be thankful for what you lost? I know it’s Thanksgiving season and we are focused on being grateful for the many blessings we have. However, in some cases, homes and jobs have been lost. Hope for some is fading. It’s hard to be thankful because of growing fear and uncertainty. How can you be thankful when you feel like you’ve lost so much?

Philippians 4:11-12 says, “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

How do you apply that scripture to everyday life, especially if you are struggling? I had to re-learn this a few years ago when I dealt with an unexpected loss of something I valued. For a time, I struggled with coming to terms with the disappointment of the loss. Then it hit me one day: the loss was really God making room for what he really wanted me to have. And, less than one month later, God blessed me with something better than what I’d previously complained about losing.

We complain to God and wonder why he doesn’t give us certain things when we pray for them. Spiritual temper tantrums might happen when

we send up heart-felt prayers and they are not answered. We spend so much time focusing on what we didn’t get that we miss what God has for us on the other side of that disappointment: A challenge to trust Him again. And in trusting him again comes the opportunity to show obedience to God’s awesome sovereignty.

Do we pass the test of being able to congratulate the person who got their prayers answered when their prayer was similar to ours? An even bigger test is praying that God would bless that person as they accepted those new blessings if/when they run into difficulties. Being able to pray that kind of prayer requires that we go back to thanking God for what we didn’t get...regardless of the reason why we believe he didn’t allow it to happen for us. Sometimes when we get blessings from God, we quickly forget that he is sovereign; we’d rather give credit to our prayer partner.

It seems a little odd to thank God for not giving you something, but this kind of thankfulness is just as important because it forces us to take a crash course in spiritual maturity. Not getting a prayer answered is God’s ironic reminder that he really is still in control and knows what is best for us.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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.

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

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Michael T. Williams
Pastor


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The 27th run-off

By Jannie B. Johnson
Special to The Mississippi Link

Yes, I plan to go back to the polls on Nov. 27. I want to sign my name in the voters’ Book of Signatures. This privilege came at great cost; therefore, every voting day is a Thanksgiving Day again and again.

Cast my vote for Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith or Atty. Mike Espy? Don’t know; does it matter? How so...?

I have not seen or heard the moral courage or felt the moral strength in either that gives me cause to believe that they can and will do what is needed to separate the good from the evil, the right from the wrong.

America has some serious issues before her as a civilized nation. Her issues are core, fundamental and basis to her civilization. Am I to assume that the 2 run-off candidates know and understand what needs to be done to stop America’s inner destruction? Am I to trust the good things Senator Smith and Atty. Espy say about themselves or approve to be said about them? Why?

Daniel Webster, a great orator said, “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering.” I say that if we choose not to abide by those principles, we have cause to fear for our civilization in America.

I have come to this realization about people. People are people and if they are allowed to judge themselves by themselves, whatever they choose to do is right in their eyes. Without guilt, shame or disgrace, they can justify their choice of behavior be it moral/immoral, legal/illegal or whatever. They can get to be comfortable; feel no responsibility for or accountability to anybody.

What’s the moral guide for Senator Smith or Atty. Espy? What’s their source for the moral strength they will need to resist the temptations that come along side power, authority and influence? What’s their motivation for doing the right thing for America or for holding themselves accountable to the MS voters? I don’t know; do you?

Democrats must address voting irregularities

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



In the days after midterm election day, November 6, 2018, you could not turn on a television or even have a conversation without hearing about aspects of voter suppression, voting irregularities, or merely extreme voting inconvenience. The lines were long, according to most reports, with too few voting booths at too many places.

I waited forty-five minutes in the rain and watched several people walk away in frustration, or because they had to get to work. My wait was short compared to those who said they waited hours in line because their polling place had too few voting booths or nonworking voting booths.

At Morehouse College in Atlanta, polls stayed open until 10 p.m. because the polling station ran out of paper ballots. The voting space near Clark Atlanta University had mostly nonworking voting booths until 5 p.m. when new ones were delivered. At a Michigan polling place, the poll workers and voters were on time, but voting booths were locked in a closet no one had access to.

As I write this, ballots are still being counted in Florida and Georgia, and seven Congressional districts remain undecided. Georgia was nothing but shenanigans, with “Secretary of State” Brian Kemp manipulating voter registration and more as soon as he realized that the amazing Stacey Abrams was a formidable candidate.

He seems to have targeted African-American voters with the voter registrations he did not accept because of the trivial “exact match” law. Of 53,000 registrations denied, it was estimated that 80 percent were African American.

Florida has been a hot monkey mess since 2000, and while Governor Rick Scott (R) is complaining now, he could have done lots of things to ensure a clean vote, including providing more resources for voting operations in the state’s most populous counties, Miami Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. All of these had challenges getting recounts submitted on time, and because Broward County submitted their results a scant two minutes late, their recount (which includes absentee, military and other ballots) will not be added to vote totals. Instead, their original voter count will stand. We don’t know how many additional votes have been disregarded, but we must understand that with additional resources, Broward might have submitted on time.

We have to be better than this. While our “democracy” is weighed against people who live on the margins, who don’t have driver’s licenses, who don’t vote regularly, who move frequently, we ought to be focused on ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to vote. Other countries do it almost effortlessly. In South African, the polls are open for three days, and these days are national holidays with most businesses and schools closed. An indelible hand stamp allows everyone to vote and prevents fraud. Why can’t we

do the same things in these United States?

As we move toward the 2020 election, many Democrats are focused on who ought to be their choice of a presidential candidate. They might be better served if they focused on the laws that make it difficult for people to vote, ranging from laws that allow secretaries of state to purge the voting rolls, laws that make registering difficult, and more. Who determines what hours polls are open? Why not 24 hours instead of the scant 12 or 13 (usually 7a.m. - 8 p.m.) presently available? Why not allow people to vote over two or three days?

The 2013 Supreme Court decision in the Shelby case allowed some targeted jurisdictions (mostly, but not exclusively in the South) to make changes in voting rules without clearing them with the Justice Department. Sections 4(b) and 5 of the Voting Rights Act prohibited changes that adjusting voting districts or taking other acts to disadvantage part of the voting population. In response to the changes in the Voting Rights Act, dozens of states passed voter suppression laws, requiring more voter ID, restricting the student right to vote where they matriculate, and more. The 116th Congress that will be seated in January 2019 ought to deal with voting rights and voter access as their first order of business.

Whoever is selected as Speaker of the House, be it Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi or another leader, must convene hearings to catalog the many voting irregularities that took place during this election. The Speaker must work with organiza-

tions like the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, the NAACP, and others, to draft omnibus legislation that deals with the many aspects of voter suppression that were experienced in 2018. The Congress must appropriate enough funds to provide jurisdictions with working polling booths and enough poll workers. And the Justice Department must observe elections, especially in places like Florida, for fairness.

We send poll watchers all over the world to ensure that elections are fair. Why don’t we have a national poll-watchers corps to review ballots here at home? The reports of irregularities are staggering. Voter manipulation is an issue that must be addressed.

Former DNC Chairman Donna Brazile has called for restoring Section Five of the Voting Rights Act, but that’s not enough. The entire voting enterprise needs to be comprehensively examined, and the possibility of voter suppression needs to be drastically reduced. And, to be sure, Republicans will start talking about nearly non-existent voter fraud. We can investigate so-called fraud, as well. But if Democrats want free and fair elections, they need to make them a legislative priority. If they fail to address this issue, they don’t deserve to win the Presidency in 2020.

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

Does Democratic takeover of the House mean the ACA is safe?

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“I’m signing it for 11-year-old Marcelas Owens, who’s also here. Marcelas lost his mom to an illness. And she didn’t have insurance and couldn’t afford the care that she needed. So in her memory he has told her story across America so that no other children have to go through what his family has experienced ... We are a nation that faces its challenges and accepts its responsibilities. We are a nation that does what is hard. What is necessary. What is right.

Here, in this country, we shape our own destiny. That is what we do. That is who we are. That is what makes us the United States of America.” – President Barack Obama, March 23, 2010, on signing the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act of 2010, also known as “Obamacare,” is one of the most consequential acts of Congress in the 21st Century, especially for African Americans. The ACA slashed the black uninsured rate by 40 percent. According to the National Urban League’s annual report on the social and economic status of African Americans, State of Black America, racial health disparities began to narrow as a result of the law.

The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to repeal the ACA more than 50 times since 2011, only to have the repeal blocked by the Senate. While the Administration may have succeeded in chipping away at the law through executive action, the Democratic takeover of the House at least will put an end to attempts at full repeal.

The 2018 midterm campaign season saw candidates across the political spectrum campaigning on promises to retain the ACA’s provisions barring insurers from denying coverage to people with preexisting conditions or charging sick people more. Even candidates who previously voted to repeal the ACA adopted the

rhetoric.

Voters in Idaho, Nebraska and Utah even passed ballot initiatives that will expand Medicaid to more than 330,000 low-income adults, an option made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

Recent polling and the results of the election make it clear: the vast majority of Americans support the ACA and rely on its protections. And the incoming Congress has vowed to strengthen it.

To be sure, there is work to be done. The very first executive order issued by the current administration was a vague directive to “to waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay the implementation of any provision

or requirement of the Affordable Care Act” that imposes a cost, fee or “regulatory burden.”

Since then, the administration and the Congress have taken dozens of steps to sabotage the law, the most significant being the repeal of the individual mandate requiring most Americans to carry health insurance.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the repeal is estimated to leave 13 million more Americans uninsured by 2027, and to cause premiums to spike 10 percent.

A pending lawsuit by 20 states, with support from the administration, challenges provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including the protections for people

with pre-existing conditions.

Reversing this sabotage must be a top priority for the incoming Congress. The individual mandate, which is a key factor in keeping premiums affordable, must be restored. Prescription drug prices remain too high.

One of the Urban League Movement’s core goals is that every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions. It’s why we fought so hard for the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and why we continue to fight so hard to protect it. A majority of the members of the 116th Congress, which convenes in January, have vowed to protect it, too, and we will hold them to that promise.

America has come to this

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Recently we learned of boys in Wisconsin throwing Nazi salutes and flashing white power signs. This is disturbing. Who taught them to do this? Did they learn it at home or school? Did they pick it up from the chaos in our nation? I wonder if students even know what the salute means.

I wonder how their parents and teachers reacted. Obviously, the salute was planned. It defies imagination to believe so many boys just happened to throw the salute at the same time. Appar-

ently, what they did was okay with the photographer, school administration (until recently) and the parents from whom I’ve heard no public comment.

The school district issued the following statement following a public outcry, but surely they had seen the photograph previously:

“The photo of students posted to #BarabooProud is not reflective of the educational values and beliefs of the School District of Baraboo. We are investigating and will pursue any and all available and appropriate actions, including legal, to address.”

I wouldn’t call that statement sufficient to address such a serious case, so I’m left to believe

America really has come to this. As much as many of us tried to believe America is better than this, we’ve been greatly disappointed to learn that all of our efforts, things really aren’t getting better. It’s like what my ancestors often said: “We take a step forward, and two steps back.”

This isn’t the only disgusting incident that’s been made public from the same school. There was an incident in 2012 where students from Baraboo found it okay to fly Confederate flags claiming it was to honor the death of a friend. We’ve certainly seen our share of pickup trucks running around with Confederate flags and guns in the windows representing an “in your face” act of

racism. This isn’t just by high school boys. These are adults to whom these boys must look for appropriate behavior. So, whatever is wrong with these boys, they learned it from adults who never taught their children the sacrifices some of their ancestors made to perfect our union for all of its citizens. They had to fight within and outside our country to protect us and to save our nation from destruction.

My ancestors, as well as the ancestors of these boys, died in various wars. Either they don’t care or they don’t know what they were doing.

I’m told as many as 20,000 people from Wisconsin died fighting confederate powers dur-

ing the Civil War and World War II. Many of them are buried in Wisconsin and other places in the U.S. and the world.

Instead of honoring their sacrifice, these high school students have totally disrespected them. They must be taught the history of this country and who did what to allow them to live as they live today. Adults are responsible for teaching these boys what these hateful symbols mean. They run counter to what so many gave to keep us safe and be fair to all citizens.

Our hopes were so high when we witnessed the young people’s “March for Our Lives,” and their show of respect for all without regard to race, creed, color, re-

ligion, national origin or gender. These boys in Wisconsin, the neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, sending bombs to leaders, bombing the synagogue in Pittsburgh, recent shootings in a California Bar, shooting of the black man and woman in Kentucky, hate filled tweets and language of #45 – all of these minimize our progress in America. It’s time for us to realize that America is in danger of having to admit that we’re not who our country’s documents say we are.

E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women; host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM 89.3 in Washington, D.C.

Student nurses conduct health fair at Mississippi Baptist Convention

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi College nursing students administered flu shots, checked blood pressure and offered valuable tips on weight control.

Working several hours at a health fair at the Mississippi Baptist Convention provided good practice for School of Nursing students.

Many of the students will work as professionals in a state with vast healthcare needs. Mississippi's rate of diabetes, heart disease and obesity remain the worst in the nation.

The student nurses assisted pastors, their spouses and other visitors at the 183rd convention at First Baptist Church Jackson.

President Blake Thompson visited with the 22 student nurses as he attended his first Mississippi Baptist Convention as the university's new leader.

Student nurse Tamera Lowe picked up insights by serving her fellow Mississippians at the large church in downtown Jackson.

"I got to learn a lot of things I didn't know about my own health," said Lowe, a senior from Itta Bena. "This is great."

Standing by their "healthy joints" display on stage, student nurses Ben Tarver of Greenville and Parker Thurman of Pearl dished out free advice to convention guests.

How to maintain healthy joints?

Regularly getting exercise and eating a healthy high fi-

ber diet is one approach that works, Tarver told a visitor as the convention opened October 30.

Other Mississippi College nursing students assisting at the convention included: Kaitlynn Wright of Pearl; Ashley Richard of Florence; Janesia Smoots of Canton; Sammie Mack of Little Rock, Arkansas; Joya Johnson of Meridian; Elizabeth Kimbrell of Carrollton and Alanna Kron of Decatur.

MC student nurses returned as volunteers to help the Christian university's faculty and staff during a November 13 health fair held in Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus.

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 5,100 students, from 40 states and more than three dozen countries. Founded in 1826, Mississippi College is the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi, the largest private university in the state and America's second oldest Baptist college. Mississippi College is home to 84 areas of undergraduate study, 16 graduate programs, a doctor of jurisprudence, a doctor of education leadership degree and a doctor of professional counseling degree. Mississippi College seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Sleep apnea is a common condition in the United States. It can occur when the upper airway becomes blocked repeatedly during sleep, reducing or completely stopping airflow. This is known as obstructive sleep apnea. If the brain does not send the signals needed to breathe, the condition may be called central sleep apnea.

In some cases, this pause in breathing (called apnea) can last 10 seconds or longer and it can occur 30 times or more in an hour. And despite the condition being common, it often goes undiagnosed because many of the symptoms – such as loud snoring, gasping for air, and interruptions in breathing – occur during sleep, when individuals may not even realize what's happening.

What makes the under-diagnosis of sleep apnea so problematic is that the condition if untreated can lead to numerous health problems, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and even increased risk of sudden death. And because this sleep disorder is associated with chronic daytime sleepiness, it has been found to be the cause of a number of devastating industrial and transportation accidents.

Common sleep apnea signs and symptoms are snoring or gasping during sleep; reduced or absent breathing, called apnea events; and sleepiness. Undiagnosed or untreated sleep apnea prevents restful sleep and can cause complications that may

affect many parts of your body.

Sleep apnea can be caused by a person's physical structure or medical conditions. These include obesity, large tonsils, endocrine disorders, neuromuscular disorders, heart or kidney failure, certain genetic syndromes and premature birth.

Here is some of reasons that each of these conditions can contribute to sleep apnea:

Obesity is a common cause of sleep apnea in adults. People with this condition have increased fat deposits in their necks that can block the upper airway.

Large tonsils may contribute to sleep apnea, because they narrow the upper airway.

Disorders of the endocrine system can produce hormones that can affect sleep-related breathing. The following are examples of endocrine disorders associated with sleep apnea:

Hypothyroidism: People with this condition have low levels of thyroid hormones. This affects the part of the brain that controls breathing, as well as the nerves and muscles used to breathe. People with hypothyroidism can also be diagnosed with obesity, which can cause sleep apnea.

Acromegaly: People with this condition have high levels of growth hormone. This condition is associated with changes in the facial bones, swelling of the throat, and an increased size of the tongue. These changes can obstruct the upper airway and lead to sleep apnea.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS): Sleep apnea is also seen in women with PCOS, an endocrine condition that causes large ovaries and prevents prop-

er ovulation. PCOS is also associated with overweight and obesity, which can cause sleep apnea.

Neuromuscular conditions interfering with brain signals to airway and chest muscles can cause sleep apnea. Some of these conditions are stroke and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Sleep apnea is commonly found in people who have advanced heart or kidney failure. These patients may have fluid build-up in their neck, which can obstruct the upper airway and cause sleep apnea.

Genetic syndromes that affect the structure of the face or skull, particularly syndromes that cause smaller facial bones or cause the tongue to sit farther back in the mouth, may cause sleep apnea. These genetic syndromes include cleft lip and down syndrome.

Premature babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy have a higher risk for breathing problems during sleep. In most cases, the risk decreases as the brain matures.

It's estimated that nearly 30 million people in the United States have sleep apnea. Published data suggests that the disorder is significantly more prevalent in men, affecting approximately 14 percent of males and five percent of females. For reasons that are still not clear, in the United States, sleep apnea is more common among blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans than among whites.

If you are diagnosed with sleep apnea, your doctor may make recommendations to help you maintain an open airway during sleep. These could in-

clude healthy lifestyle changes or a breathing device such as a positive airway pressure (PAP) machine, mouthpiece or implant. Talk to your doctor. Depending on the type and severity of your sleep apnea and your needs and preferences, other treatments may be possible.

Sleep apnea can affect anyone at any age, even children. Untreated sleep apnea may be responsible for poor performance in everyday activities, such as at work and school, motor vehicle crashes, and academic underachievement in children and adolescents.

If you have been diagnosed with sleep apnea, it is important that you adopt and maintain healthy lifestyle habits and use your prescribed treatment.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

Glenn Ellis, is a health advocacy communications specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. Listen to Glenn on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham or visit: www.glennellis.com

Black Voters

Continued from page 1

candidates; nine percent for Republicans.

"African Americans and other people of color were motivated to turn out in record numbers for mid-term elections due to the desire to see Trump's power curbed," Cummings observed. "African Americans know exactly what Trump is and what he means for our future. Indeed, he has made no effort to hide his disdain for African Americans and other historically marginalized groups."

Some black analysts argue that a tax-cut-driven bump in personal income should prompt African Americans to vote Republican. But in Mississippi, in precincts where well-to-do and middle-class African Americans reside, Trump's tax cuts had no measurable impact in the mid-terms, according to Charles Taylor, principal and founder of Peyton Strategies, LLC, based in Jackson, Miss. Though he has provided consulting services for the Espy campaign, he is not a spokesperson.

"Precinct 83 is an affluent black precinct in Jackson. Espy got 97.67 percent of the vote," Taylor said. "In Precinct 84, 95 percent. Precinct 85, predominantly black middle class, 97.2 percent."

Republican columnist Raynard Jackson, though not an ardent Trump fan, criticizes the Democratic party for failing to deliver policies that enable African Americans to reach economic independence.

"I carried this message across the state to black communities: 'How much are you willing to pay to make history?'" explained Jackson, who is president and CEO of a government affairs and public relations firm in Washington, D.C. He has worked on numerous Republican campaigns, including Ron DeSantis' gubernatorial campaign in Florida against the Democrat candidate, Andrew Gillum, mayor of Tallahassee.

Jackson says Gillum's vow to increase the minimum wage and raise taxes to accomplish policy objectives would have

made Florida's costs for electing its first African-American governor too high.

"I'd ask a black businessman, 'Which of your employees are you going to lay off?' They'd stop and say, 'I hadn't thought of it like that.'"

Jackson derides African-American candidates he claims are fearful of being openly vocal advocates for their own people.

"Obama said he was going to be president of all the people. We hear it over and over from black candidates," Gillum included. "But if you speak to a Latino candidate, he will tell you exactly what he will do for the Latino community."

Kevin McNeir, editor of the *Miami Times* during the hanging chad controversy in the Bush-Gore 2010 election and now editor of the *Washington Informer*, finds some truth in Jackson's assertions, but takes each candidate on his or her own merits.

"I'm an independent. Democrats haven't done a damn thing for me, including Barack Obama. I've been black all my life, so I don't care about your color. I'm not going to vote for you just because you're black."

Regardless of African-American voters' views on Trump, McNeir attributes the Democrats' success in the mid-terms to their expansive field of qualified candidates.

"From women, to Muslims, to Native Americans, to transgender, to veterans – all those numbers went up. The result is the most significant increase in Democratic House members since Watergate. That's truly noteworthy. Now, Trump can spin it all he wants to."

But McNeir does believe Trump's influence in Florida was significant because he elevated DeSantis's visibility by "giving him a shoulder to lean on," much like with Supreme Court Judge Kavanaugh.

"Had Gillum been white, he would have won by 99 percent, he's that much

more qualified than DeSantis."

McNeir added, "He was too progressive. And he was going to raise taxes. It was honest for him to say, but you don't talk about raising taxes with white folk. He should have done what white folks do, lie; raise taxes once he got in."

Tax cuts were also in play in the predominantly Democratic state of Maryland, where Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ben Jealous, African American and a former NAACP president, was defeated by Republican incumbent Larry Hogan, who won a second term.

African-American Democrats crossed party lines, not en masse but in significant numbers, in part because they felt Hogan's tax reduction initiatives had improved their personal finances.

Yet, as *The Baltimore Sun* noted the day after the election, "No coattails: Maryland voters backed Republican Gov. Hogan, but also showed their disdain for Trump."

In exit polling, and across racial lines, voters rejected what they perceived as Trump's divisiveness, apparently despite whatever personal gain they may have derived from his tax cuts.

Charles Taylor described this year's mid-terms in Mississippi as historic. "In the 2014 mid-terms, for all voters, we had 631,000 voters; in this one, close to 900,000."

Indeed, the Hyde-Smith versus Espy contest may be the defining moment for how black voters view the political landscape in 2020 as they face yet another opportunity to raise the bar against Trumpism in American politics.

McNeir concludes, "The hatred that has been under the radar in America has gotten an invitation from Trump to express yourself."

Khalil Abdullah, a veteran reporter with both the general market and the Black Press, was former director of the National Association of Black State Legislators.

I N M E M O R I A M

Frank Monroe Mickens, Jr.

July 27, 1951 - November 17, 2018



Frank Monroe Mickens Jr. peacefully transitioned Saturday, November 17, at Magnolia Senior Dare Center in Jackson, MS.

He was born July 27, 1951 in the Bronx, New York to Mary Smith and Frank Monroe Mickens Sr. Growing up in New York he had a passion for baseball, mathematics and engineering, eventually finding his way to Brooklyn Technical High School.

Frank received a B.S. in civil engineering from Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio. Shortly after graduation, he married his college sweetheart Agnes Joann Eppes.

For more than 20 years, Frank stood at the helm of EnCon, Inc., an engineering and contracting

firm formed with college classmate, Albert Leason. While taking on various construction contracts, the company participated in the JPS Adopt-A-School program, taking Powell Junior High School under its wing.

After EnCon, he signed on to lend his business and construction expertise at Jackson State University through MTEP and AJA Management as a project manager and supervisor.

Community outreach was a major part of Frank's life outside of the office, coaching at CJSO, Oak Grove Little League and as a robust member of New Hope Baptist Church's youth ministry as an AWANA leader and Children's Church leader. He also served as a mentor to students at Oakley Training Center.

Frank spent 43 years with his Joann, the love of his life. He leaves behind two children, Frank (Chasatee) and Melissa, as well as grandchildren Ava, Langston and Jaxen.

There will be a family hour Friday 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, 3580 Robinson Road.

The homegoing service will be held at New Hope Baptist Church, 5202 Watkins Drive, Jackson, MS Saturday, November 24, at 1 p.m.

LEGAL		
<p>REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF SMITH WILLS STADIUM</p> <p>SECTION I – INTRODUCTION / INVITATION</p> <p>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 Smith Wills Stadium, located at 1200 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216. 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.</p> <p>Sealed Professional Management Service packets will be received by the</p>	<p>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, Tuesday, January 8, 2019.</p> <p>The bid advertises November 8, 2018 through December 20, 2018. Bids will continue to be accepted and must be stamped by the City Clerk, prior to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.</p> <p>This Request For Professional Management Services is also being posted on the Central Bidding website at: https://www.centrauctionhouse.com/main.php. You may submit your bids electronically through this provider. Packets may also be secured from the Department of Parks and Recreation, 1000 Metro Center, Suite 104, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, telephone number (601) 960-0471.</p> <p>A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., local time, in the City of Jackson Metro Confer-</p>	<p>ence Room, located at 1000 Metro Center, Suite 104, Jackson, MS 39209. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Professional Management Service packets shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.</p> <p>The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all Professional Management Service packets and to waive any and all informalities.</p> <div><div>Ison B. Harris, Jr., Director Department of Parks and Recreation</div><div>Dr. Robert Blaine, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Office of the Mayor</div></div> <div>11/8/2018, 11/15/2018, 11/22/2018, 11/29/2018, 12/6/2018, 12/13/2018, 12/20/2018</div>

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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





FILM REVIEW: THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB

CLAIRE FOY SHOWS HER VERSATILITY AS FEMINIST SUPERHERO IN REBOOT OF SWEDISH SUSPENSE FRANCHISE

By Kam Williams
Columnist

The late Stieg Larsson (1954-2004) is best remembered as the author of the Millennium trilogy of posthumously-published best sellers, all of which were eventually made into feature films (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire and The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest). His Swedish-language psychological thrillers revolved around a crime-fighting duo composed of veteran journalist Mikael Blomkvist and com-

puter hacker Lisbeth Salander.

In 2015, David Lagercrantz wrote the fourth installment in the series, "That Which Does Not Kill Us," which was lauded as a faithful extension of the famed franchise. That book has now been adapted to the big screen as The Girl in the Spider's Web.

Directed by Fede Alvarez (Don't Breathe), the film co-stars Claire Foy as Lisbeth and Sverrir Gudnason as Mikael. Foy, who won an Emmy, Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award for her portrayal of Queen Eliza-

beth on The Crown. And she's recently been getting a lot of Oscar buzz for her critically-acclaimed portrayal of astronaut Neil Armstrong's stoic wife, Janet, in First Man.

Here, the versatile thespian exhibits an impressive acting range in a demanding role where she plays a traumatized, incest survivor-turned-righteous vigilante. This incarnation of Lisbeth is not only a brainy, IT expert but a seemingly invincible heroine with an extraordinary set of fighting, driving and survival skills.

As the film unfolds, we find Lisbeth and her sister Camilla (Sylvia Hoeks) being molested by their father as youngsters. The former makes a daring escape from their snow-capped, mountaintop home, saving herself, but leaving her little sis behind to be violated by the monster for years.

Fast-forward to present-day Stockholm where vengeful Lisbeth is in the midst of unleashing a string of sadistic vigilante attacks against some of the city's worst misogynists. However, the plot makes a sharp turn into

world politics when she and sidekick Mikael are recruited to disable a dangerous computer program developed by America's National Security Agency capable of sabotaging other countries' nuclear defense systems.

What ensues is a grisly game of cat-and-mouse played by spies equipped with state-of-the-art gadgetry. As the body count escalates, the relentless bloodletting is presented in such a stylized fashion that it's never really upsetting until the humdinger of a reveal during the dramatic de-

nouement.

Kudos to Claire Foy for oh so convincingly reimagining Lisbeth Salander as a cartoonish, feminist superhero on the order of Wonder Woman!

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for violence, profanity, sexuality and nudity

Running time: 117 minutes

Production Studio: MGM / Columbia Pictures / Pascal Pictures / Yellow Bird / Scott Rudin Productions / The Cantillon Company / Regency Enterprises

Studio: Columbia Pictures

Kam's Kapsules

Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams
Columnist

For movies opening November 9, 2018

Wide Releases

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (PG-13 for action) Second installment in the Harry Potter prequel series revolves around an infamous evil wizard's (Johnny Depp) attempt to breed a race of pure-blood witches and wizards to rule over all ordinary people. Cast includes Eddie Redmayne, Carmen Ejogo, Jude Law and Zoe Kravitz.

Instant Family (PG-13 for sexuality, profanity, drug references and mature themes) Inspirational comedy recounting a couple's (Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne) real-life adjustment to parenthood after adopting three siblings (Isabela Moner, Gustavo Quiroz and Julianna Gamiz) simultaneously. With Octavia Spencer, Joan Cusack and Julie Hagerty.

Widows (R for violence, sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of the British TV series of the same name about four gangsters' wives (Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez, Elizabeth Debicki and Cynthia Erivo)

who, after a botched bank heist, decide to follow in their late husbands' felonious footsteps. Supporting cast includes Liam Neeson, Colin Farrell, Robert Duvall and Daniel Kaluuya. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

Independent & Foreign Films

At Eternity's Gate (PG-13 for mature themes) Willem Dafoe portrays Vincent Van Gogh in this biopic based on the legendary Dutch painter's letters and on anecdotes about his life. With Oscar Isaac, Mads Mikkelsen and Rupert Friend. (In French and English with subtitles)

Girl (Unrated) Transgender drama about a 15 year-old Belgian girl (Victor Polster), born in a boy's body, who pursues her dream of becoming a ballerina. Cast includes Arieh Worthalter, Oliver Bodart and Magali Elali. (In French, Flemish and English with subtitles)

Green Book (PG-13 for violence, mature themes, profanity, racial slurs, smoking and suggestive material) Unlikely-buddies dramedy, set in the Sixties, about the friendship forged between a black classical pianist (Mahershala Ali) and his white chauffeur (Viggo Mortensen) driving around the Deep South during Jim Crow segregation. With Linda Cardellini, Don Stark and P.J. Byrne.

The Last Race (Unrated) Poignant portrait of octogenarian Barbara and Jim Cromarty's struggle to keep the Riverhead Raceway afloat, the only surviving, stock car racetrack of 40 that once flourished on Long Island.

Of Fathers and Sons (Unrated) Eye-opening documentary shot by Syrian Talal Derki who lived with radical Islamists upon returning to his hometown of Homs. (In Arabic with subtitles)

Team Khan (Unrated) Boxing documentary following former world champ Amir Khan on the comeback trail for two years as he trains with hopes of securing a title fight with undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. Featuring footage of Lennox Lewis, Bernard Hopkins, Oscar De La Hoya and Manny Pacquiao. (In English and Urdu with subtitles)

The World beneath Your Feet (Unrated) New York City documentary chronicling peripatetic Matt Green's 8,000-mile walk around every block in the Big Apple.

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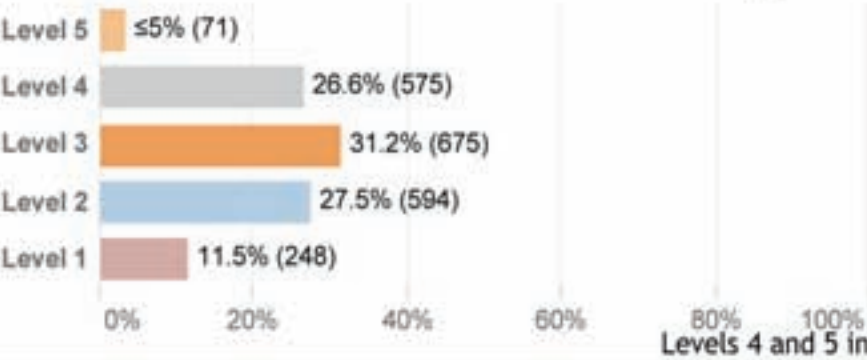


Literacy-Based Promotion Act Annual Report of Performance and Student Retention

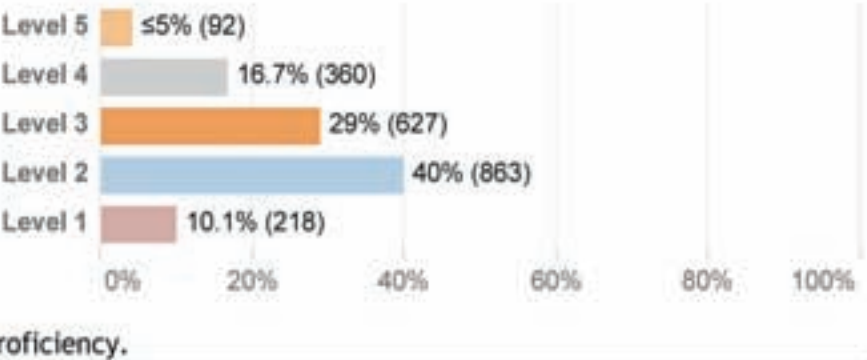
The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) was enacted to improve the reading skills of Kindergarten and First through Third Grade students enrolled in the public schools so that every student completing the 3rd grade is able to read at or above grade level. This report displays the components required under the guidelines of the LBPA, **which include the number and percentage of students:** scoring at each performance level on the state assessment in reading and math, taking the alternative assessment, being retained at each grade level Kindergarten through 8th grade, passing for good-cause exemptions; and any revised district policies for promotion and retention.

District: JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST (2520) School Year: 2017-2018

State Assessment - 3rd Grade Reading

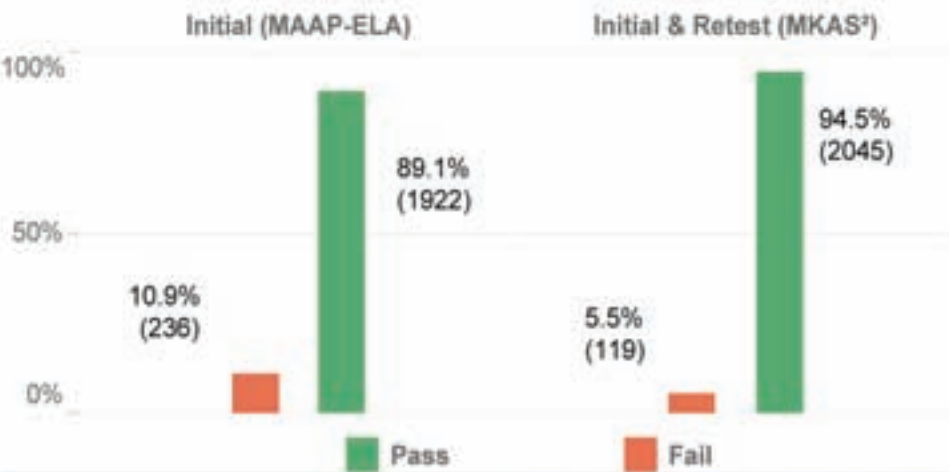


State Assessment - 3rd Grade Math

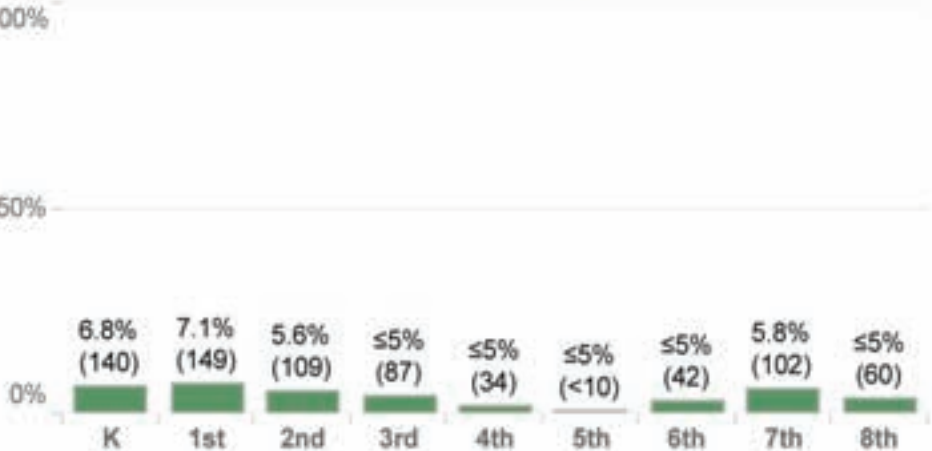


Levels 4 and 5 indicate proficiency.

3rd Grade Reading Assessment for Promotion



Students Retained K-8th



Students Promoted by Good Cause Exemption

- ≤5% (<10) A. Limited-English Proficiency with less than two Years in English Learner Program
- 6.7% (12) B. Students with disabilities for whom participation in statewide accountability system is not appropriate

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BOOK REVIEW:

“INVISIBLE:
THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF THE BLACK WOMAN LAWYER
WHO TOOK DOWN AMERICA’S MOST POWERFUL MOBSTER”

BYSTEPHEN L. CARTER
C.2018, HENRY HOLT
\$30.00 / \$39.00 CANADA • 365 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Here I am!
You raise your hand higher
so you don’t go unnoticed. You
speak up, so you aren’t over-
looked. It’s a natural human
need: pay attention, here I am,
look this way, see me. For some,
it’s easy to get recognition; for
others – as in the new book “In-
visible” by Stephen L. Carter –
years later, it still doesn’t arrive.
Eunice Hunton was eight
years old when she told a little
playmate that she wanted to be
a lawyer someday. That wasn’t

too far-fetched – both her par-
ents were successful, educated
activists for “the darker nation”
– but it was unlikely, since just a
handful of “Negroes” were law-
yers in 1907, and even fewer
were women.

Her mother believed that rais-
ing a family was a woman’s
highest achievement but as an
adult, Eunice would have none
of that. She did her duty, marry-
ing a Harlem dentist and bear-
ing a son, but when faced with
the possibility of a lifetime as a
socialite, she couldn’t bear the
thought. Mindful of her child-

hood dream, she enrolled at
Fordham Law School in the fall
of 1927.

“...Eunice,” says Carter,
“found the law fascinating.”

From tailor-made suits to
lawsuits was an amazing “re-
invention,” but not one without
sacrifice, including an even-
tual estrangement with her son
and a strained marriage. Still,
for her, the hardship must’ve
been worth it, especially when,
soon after graduation from law
school and becoming politically
active, she was asked to be one
of twenty lawyers (and the only

woman) appointed to work with
attorney Thomas Dewey to end
the hold that the mob had on
New York City.

For quite some time, New
Yorkers had been complain-
ing about prostitution in their
neighborhoods, and as the only
woman on-staff, it fell to Eu-
nice to deal with those everyday
citizens. Says Carter, the me-
dial job was probably meant to
discourage her but instead, she
“mined the stacks of citizen’s
complaints... and she found
gold” in the form of a crooked
line of corruption, pay-offs,

and a mobster who quietly con-
trolled it all. In the end, Eunice
“knew she had the makings of a
case. The question was whether
anyone would believe her.”

That, of course, is not the end
of this story; Eunice Hunton
Carter was a relatively young
woman when she helped take
down mobster Lucky Luciano
and she later went on to enjoy
brief fame for what amounted
to a second career in politics.
Here, though, author Stephen
L. Carter – who was Eunice’s
grandson – also recounts heart-
aches she endured, her frustra-

tions as an ambitious black
woman in Jim Crow America,
and personal stories that show
what made Eunice who she
was. What she accomplished
was astounding, but it’s that lat-
ter that makes this book lively
and touchable, as though we’ve
been invited to sit at someone’s
grand family table.

History is filled with legions
of people who affected lives but
never got properly lauded for
it. For one woman, “Invisible”
changes that and more, and if
you’re looking for a sink-your-
teeth-in book, here it is.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District
implements Clear-bag Policy
at athletic events

November 12, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff and Community Fans:

The Hinds County School District is dedicated to the safety and welfare of all students, staff, and visitors. Throughout the years, the district has initiated several safety and security procedures to strengthen campus security at all of our schools. In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for our parents, community members, students and staff, we will implement a Clear Bag Policy. The policy will go into effect on **Monday, November 5, 2018**. The policy will cover all on-campus activities, including athletic events.

Utilizing a screening process that includes a clear bag policy will enhance safety inside athletic venues and speed the screening process along. The clear bag is easily and quickly searched and greatly reduces faulty bag searches. This process also supports the Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign.

Guests are encouraged not to bring any types of bags inside HCSO athletic facilities; however, the following bags are permitted:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12";
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar); and
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5" (approximately the size of a hand).
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate designated for this purpose.

We are living in a difficult time requiring difficult decisions from school districts. While these changes present an inconvenience to our students and parents, we must continue to be vigilant to protect the safety of our students and staff.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours in Education,

Delescia Martin, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Education
Hinds County School District

CLEAR BAG POLICY

APPROVED BAGS	PROHIBITED ITEMS
	BAGS THAT DO NOT MEET THE HINDS CLEAR BAG POLICY
	WEAPONS
	THROWABLE OBJECTS, INCLUDING BALLS
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	OUTSIDE FOOD, BEVERAGES, COOLERS, OR CONTAINERS
	MASKS
	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS
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Community Bank lending coordinator addressed
Raymond High Upward Bound students

Elaine Toney, community lending coordinator with Community Bank addressed students at Raymond High School on Financial Literacy last week. Topics discussed included how to establish good credit, your credit score and how to budget your money. The program is designed to offer consumer education to young people in school and in the community. The program offers several financial education topics that prepares students to be more bank-smart.

The students attending this session are part of the Hinds Community College-Utica Campus Upward Bound program. The program is designed to assist low-income, first generation college bound high school students in the successful completion of secondary education and to prepare them academically for enrollment by offering enrichment programs such as the financial literacy piece. The program is in its second year at RHS and THS and is coordinated by Natalie Russell, Upward Bound director.



Pictured L-R Back Row: Catherine Guerdon, reading-language arts interventionist; Natalie Russell, Upward Bound director; Tenicia Boone, math Interventionist; Arneisha Page; Rachel Burleigh; NaKiera Coleman; and Lakesha Harmon, academic champion. Front Row: Johnathan Britt; Tiara Johnson; Elaine Toney, community bank lending coordinator; Gernicia Jones; Kera Turner; O'Myah Clark; and Mya Scott



Elaine Toney, community lending coordinator with Community Bank addressed students at Raymond High School

Dola “DJ” Greer, bus driver
for RES & CMS, named
Bus Driver of the Month



Pictured L-R: Curtis Washington, director of Transportation – Durham Services; Dola Greer, Bus Driver of the Month; Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5; Bobby Taylor, principal-RES; and Deborah Newman, principal-CMS.



Erika Vazquez-Masters, substitute teacher at Utica Elementary Middle School, named Substitute Teachers of the Month

Pictured L-R: La'Tesha Roby, assistant principal-UEMS; Erika Vazquez-Masters, Substitute Teacher of the Month-UEMS; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5.



Pamela Myles, bookkeeper at Utica Elementary Middle School, named Employee of the Month

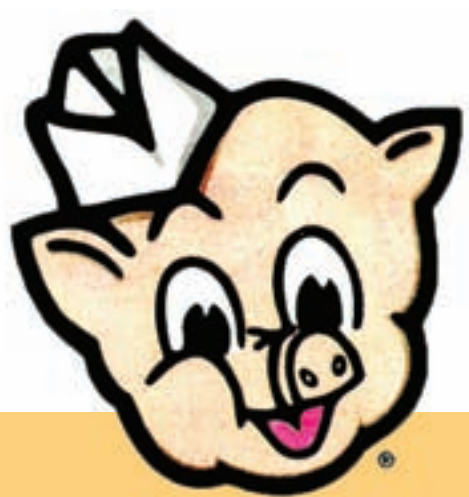
Pictured L-R: La'Tesha Roby, assistant principal-UEMS; Pamela Myles, Employee of the Month-UEMS; Timothy Myles, chief of police-Utica; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary – District 5.



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