



HCCSD holds grand opening for Graduates Within Reach Academy



Supt. Henderson with a student.

Special to The Mississippi Link

The holiday season has already brought the gift of a second chance and renewed focus to students attending the Holmes County Learning Center (aka Alternative School).

In a unanimous vote Dec. 13, the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) Board of Education approved a recommendation to change the center’s focus to a new name and purpose: Graduates Within Reach Academy.

The grand opening was held Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

Located in Tchula, Miss., the Graduates Within Reach Academy is a makeover of the Learning Center. Students who want to recover credits, regain eligibility and rejoin their cohorts will take online and/or virtual learning courses using a blended model to include paper and real-world projects and assessments. “These students will attend classes at the academy, as well as continue to participate in school life at the high school,” said Superintendent of Schools James L.

Henderson, Ed.D.

Henderson points out that the goal is for seniors to graduate in 2019 and for juniors and sophomores to recover credits and return to the high school on grade level to graduate in 2020 and 2021.

Eddie Allen, the director of the Graduates Within Reach Academy, said a program for students who need and welcome such an opportunity is “long-time needed.”

Both parents and students are excited about the second-chance opportunity. “It’s awesome!” said Jacqueline Banks, mother of Brock Banks. “My son was so excited. He called me and said, ‘Mama you got to come up here and sign these papers and see what they are talking about.’”

Student Eric Martin and his mother Matassa Smart are just as excited. “It’s a good thing, and I can graduate on time,” said Martin. Martin plans to attend Hinds Community College Truck Driving Program. “It is great that this academy

Holmes

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The Mississippi Link Staff

“A season of hope, a season of love, a season of blessings. May the divine light of Christmas shine in your life this season.” Merry Christmas from the staff of The Mississippi Link.



Members of Congress introduce bill to award Aretha Franklin with Congressional Gold Medal

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In the wake of the August 16 death of the “Queen of Soul,” Aretha Franklin, Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), along with Representatives Brenda Lawrence (D-MI) and Doug Collins (R-GA) have introduced legislation to posthumously award Franklin the Congressional Gold Medal.

The legendary artist died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76.

“Aretha was simply a legend. Her work and impact will be felt for generations to come, and it’s long past time Congress honor

her with the Congressional Gold Medal,” said Harris.

The legislation will be called, “The Aretha Franklin Congressional Gold Medal Act” and, should it become law, it will honor Franklin’s role in “shaping the nation’s culturally and socially relevant discography and highlight how she was an example to all people in how one person’s talents can make a difference in the lives of millions of people across the globe.”

Many of the tributes to Franklin since her passing have emphasized not only her musical talent but her role in shaping and empowering the role of



Many of the tributes to Franklin since her passing have emphasized not only her musical talent but her role in shaping and empowering the role of women with songs that gave voice to life experiences from a decidedly female perspective.

women with songs that gave voice to life experiences from a

Franklin

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Holiday health hazards to keep in mind

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Christmas Day is finally here but, alongside the happiness surrounding the festive season, there are a lot of

health risks.

Yes, it may be the most wonderful time of the year, but Christmas is top of the list for health hazards, too. And while it’s the peak period for colds, flu and hangovers, not all the seasonal dangers are immediately obvious.

So, keep safe and follow our guide for a happy, healthy Christmas:

1. Don’t let it be a turkey

Turkey is probably the biggest thing that goes in your oven each year – if not what else? – and here are some simple ways to make sure it’s part of a meal to remember for the right reasons. Don’t wash it before cooking. The majority of us do and that simply risks spreading harmful bacteria over worktops. If you have bought a frozen bird, then make sure it is fully defrosted with no ice crystals inside. Cook it properly un-

til none of the meat is pink and the juices run clear. In the interest of being fair, you should know that summer is the peak time of year for food poisoning.

2. High lights, low lights

It may look festive but dragging a tree – plastic or wooden – into your living room and covering it with electric lights and tiny glass baubles is asking for trouble. Consider a new set, and remember to turn them off at night.

3. Up in smoke

That line of tea lights flickering in the window ledge won’t seem such a good idea if your

curtains are set ablaze. Candles cause more than 1,000 house fires and several deaths every year. Fairy lights, decorations and even Christmas cards are also a fire hazard. You are more 50 percent more likely to die in a house fire at Christmas than any other time. Make sure you don’t take the battery out of your smoke alarm to supply a new toy. But remember the majority of house fires start in the kitchen.

4. Watch your step

There are more accidental falls and traffic accidents in December with bad weather and

short daylight hours both playing a part. Snow and ice can be a lethal opponent to even the fittest individual and the best drivers. Last winter there were 76 deaths due to exposure to the cold, 25 fatalities caused by falling on ice or snow and even one involving ice skates.

5. Keep an eye on the kids

Christmas offers a whole variety of choking hazards from Christmas tree bulbs to decorations. Make sure presents are appropriate for the age and watch out for small items that could be swallowed by toddlers.

6. I couldn’t eat another...

Let’s face it most of us will eat too much over Christmas. That’s not a problem if it’s a one-off, but two out of three adults are overweight or obese. The American Heart Association says Christmas lunch can provide more calories than are needed in an entire day and you should pay close attention to reducing fat and calorie consumption, such as removing skin from turkey and eating slowly.

7. Hic...

Eating too much will simply

Hazards

Continued on page 3



A Christmas Poem

by Langston Hughes
(1902-1967)



Shepherd's Song at Christmas ~

Look there at the star!
I, among the least,
Will arise and take
A journey to the East.
But what shall I bring
As a present for the King?
What shall I bring to the Manger?
I will bring a song,
A song that I will sing,
In the Manger.
Watch out for my flocks,
Do not let them stray.
I am going on a journey
Far, far away.
But what shall I bring
As a present for the Child?
What shall I bring to the Manger?
I will bring a lamb,
Gentle, meek, and mild,
A lamb for the Child
In the Manger.
I'm just a shepherd boy,
Very poor I am—
But I know there is
A King in Bethlehem.
What shall I bring
As a present just for Him?
What shall I bring to the Manger?
I will bring my heart
And give my heart to Him.
I will bring my heart
To the Manger.



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Holmes

Continued from page 1

gives them another chance at life,” said Smart. “I did not want him to give up.”

Student Khadajah Smith says it gives her the opportunity to continue pursuing her goal to attend nursing school.

For more information about the program or media coverage, please contact Deborah Antoine, chief of staff and media ppokesperson at 662 834-2175.

Franklin

Continued from page 1

decidedly female perspective.

Franklin’s involvement in civil rights is also noted in the legislation. Her music often served as a call to action that inspired thousands to join civil rights movements and maintain a social context that resonates across events even in present day.

“I am proud to join Senator Harris in introducing a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor an American music legend, Aretha Franklin, for her contributions to American music culture,” said Lawrence.

“Aretha Franklin was soul personified and she gave us the gift of her voice, her truth and her unapologetic passion to demand compassion, love and R-E-S-P-E-C-T for women everywhere. An iconic entertainer, powerful civil rights leader, history maker and a beautiful spirit I was privileged to call friend; we honor this Detroit native, the true Queen of Soul. She will be dearly missed, never forgotten and always treasured,” Lawrence added.

“Aretha Franklin’s legacy, like her voice, will sing through the generations,” said Hatch. “Through her talent, she touched the hearts of millions, lifting all of us with songs of hope and humanity. Aretha brought light, laughter and love to all who would hear. I’m grateful to play a small role in honoring the life of this remarkable artist.”

The legislation is expected to pass and be signed into law.

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PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Juanita Starks had a surprise 90th year birthday party Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 at Char Restaurant in Jackson. She celebrated with children Gail Gettis, Ivan Starks, Carmen G. Castilla and other family and friends.



Hazards

Continued from page 1

harm your own waistline, excess alcohol can ruin the lives of others too. Assaults and fights – many fueled by alcohol – and drunk driving both rise over Christmas and New Year. There is also a rise in alcohol poisoning.

8. Unfestive fevers

There are always more deaths in winter than other times of year, with causes such as respiratory and circulatory diseases, and infections like flu. There are five times as many emergency admissions for pneumonia in December compared to August and cold weather also triggers a rise in asthma problems. There are more cases of norovirus – or winter vomiting bug – around than in recent years. Colds, sore throats and painful joints are all more prevalent in winter. There are things you can do to minimize some risks such as have a flu shot, stay warm and wash your hands regularly.

9. The season of ill will

Let’s face it, family arguments are a far more reliable bet than the chances of a white Christmas. The advice is not to play the blame game with your partner or family; confront the issue at hand, and not each other and do your best to avoid sarcasm. Don’t overstay your welcome as a houseguest. As the old saying goes – guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.

10. Lonely this Christmas

There’s only one thing worse than being surrounded by your relatives at Christmas and that’s not being surrounded by them. Research suggests there is a fall in suicides during the Christmas period followed by an increase just after the New Year. Of course, loneliness is just one of many problems people face in the coming weeks. Some will be confronted by a growing mountain

of debt early in the New Year as Christmas bills start to pour in. Then there is marital breakdown – more people consider ending their relationship in January than at any other time.

No wonder hospital admissions shoot up between December 19 and the New Year.

This time of year can spark all kinds of unexpected reactions and behaviors in even the most well-adjusted among us. There’s the loneliness, the anxiety, the guilt, the overindulgence (which can also lead to guilt), and, of course, the bitterness.

Don’t hope for too much, but don’t freak yourself out preparing for the worst. And keep in mind the most comforting advice of all: It’ll all be over soon.

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 apECIALIST. 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. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com



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100 Black Men Mentee Christmas Celebration Luncheon

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Westhaven Memorial Christmas Luncheon

Westhaven Funeral Home Reception Hall • December 12, 2018 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Sudoku

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

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

© Feature Exchange

Kidz Maze Mania

Help the pig find the food trough at the end of the maze.

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9					10				
11					12				
13				14			15		
				16			17		
18	19	20							
21				22			23	24	25
26			27				28		
29							30		
31							32		

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Stan Lee

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

Z T MBZVG Z ' E E E T E
VFQFR SMXWWFJ
EE E
EFFOZVL OZGF T GZJ

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ACROSS

- Scorch
- Syllables used in songs (2 wds.)
- South of the border crazy
- Theme
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
- Metal tip on the end of a lance
- Disinherit
- Ripen
- Cruder
- Miser
- Expression of surprise
- Infirm
- Literature
- Beat
- Willing
- European monetary unit
- Prow
- Cincinnati baseball team

DOWN

- Oaf
- Shoshonean
- Pros
- Excessively ornate
- Murk
- Book of maps
- Superior
- Not before
- Direct
- Speaker
- Joint
- Wise people
- Shaft
- Extend
- Azure
- Male aristocrat
- Id's counterparts
- Rapid eye movement

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National Geographic Society launches partnership with Jackson Public Schools

Mississippi Link Newswire

Last week, the National Geographic Society (NGS) and Jackson Public Schools (JPS) announced a partnership that will empower educators and inspire students to engage with their world. The district-level partnership will provide JPS with customized classroom resources that will prepare students for the 21st century and guided professional development programming for educators developed by NGS.

While NGS currently provides resources for students and educators nationwide, this collaboration is only the Society's second in-depth district-level partnership in the country. JPS is the second-largest district in Mississippi, with 54 schools serving nearly 24,000 students. Throughout the collaboration, administrators and educators will provide valuable feedback on NGS resources.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the National Geographic Society to collaborate at the district level," said Lina Gomez, vice president, education strategy and operations, at NGS. "Not only will the Society provide Jackson students with resources that will inspire the next generation of explorers, conservationists, geographers and changemakers,



JPS educators kicked their shoes off to take part in a lesson with the large-scale floor map. The demonstration took place during a partnership announcement between JPS and National Geographic. The event was held December 5 at Blackburn Middle School.

but the process of working with JPS administrators and educators over the next year will improve the Society's educational offerings, ensuring that our work meets the diverse needs of educators throughout the entire United States."

Developed to provide educators and students with tools to engage students' curiosity about the world and how it works, this partnership will provide JPS students with resources such as customized National Geographic Explorer magazine issues that align with Mississippi state science and reading standards and a suite of large-scale maps for students to explore the world. The partnership also includes access to National Geographic Explorers for in-person and digital events.

JPS educators will also be

eligible to receive National Geographic funding to support their ideas related to geographic education. Interested educators can also become National Geographic Certified Educators, making them eligible for future leadership and grant opportunities, building their skills and connecting them to a robust online community of like-minded educators.

"This partnership will allow the National Geographic Society to collaborate with JPS and provide the District with stellar NGS professional development opportunities, as well as provide educational resources that build capacity for JPS educators to engage students with the world around them," said Dr. Cynthia Armstrong, executive director of the Office of Professional Development at

JPS.

The partnership was announced at an event on December 5 at Blackburn Laboratory Middle School. JPS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Frederick Murray; Dr. Cynthia Armstrong, executive director, JPS Office of Professional Development; Sylvia Leggette, JPS project leader; and Carley Lovorn, regional director, Educator Network, at NGS made remarks. During the event, JPS school administrators and educators learned more about NGS resources and opportunities that will be available to them in the coming year.

For more information about NGS's commitment to education and for other opportunities to get involved, visit *National Geographic's Education site*.

UMMC holds exploratory classes for Lanier Academy students in its medical science labs



Lanier Health Services Academy students learn about the cell structures of the brain during a visit to the medical sciences laboratories at UMMC.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Lanier High School's Academy of Health Services students took part in health sciences classes at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. They studied at the histotechnology and medical science labs under the direction of Dr. Felicia Tardy, Dr. Stacie Vance, Bevilyn Perkins and Dr. Renee Wilkins. The aspiring health professionals participated in a series of classroom and lab activities in the areas of histotechnology, urinalysis, and microbiology.

"As a student and a member of the health science class, it was a great experience to go to UMMC and to be exposed to careers in the medical field," said Christina Buckley, a 10th-grade Academy of Health Services student. "We gained a wealth of knowledge that captivated our interest."

In the histotechnology lab, the guided experiments helped students understand how the cell structures of the brain are formed. Instructors shared the process of their experimentation with the students step-by-step. At the medical laboratory, students viewed the different types of bacteria under a microscope and learned how to make an isolated strand of bacteria. In their lessons with the urologist, the students learned how to test body fluids and to interpret the test results.

Dr. Latoya R. Moore is a professor at UMMC who connected Lanier students to this experience. The trip was sponsored by Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, the UMMC Department of Medical Laboratory Science and the Lanier High School Academy of Health Services.

Jackson Zoo benefits from harvest of ever-expanding Wingfield Ag Academy

Mississippi Link Newswire

During the Thanksgiving break, some Wingfield High School students helped to take care of the animals at the Jackson Zoo. They harvested over 300 pounds of produce from the gardens maintained as part of the agriculture program at the school. The haul included red and green kale, red and green cabbage, Georgia collards, Morris Heading collards, four types of lettuce, and cauliflower leaves. After trucking it all to the zoo, they helped keepers feed some of the animals.

This project came about when some of the Agriculture Academy students at Wingfield developed an interest in veterinary science. Their persistence and good timing might have opened the door to a win-win partnership. It turns out, the Jackson Zoo is also considering a garden at its location.

Officially known as the Academy of Natural Resources and Resource Management, the program includes compo-



Wingfield Agriculture Academy students and teacher Jeff Gibson (standing, 2nd from left) prepare to feed some of their harvest to animals at the Jackson Zoo.

PHOTO COURTESY SARAH WARNOCK, CLARION LEDGER

nents of science, technology and business. Through a dual enrollment/dual credit partnership with Hinds Community College, Wingfield Ag Academy

students can earn college credits.

Since the Hinds CC Utica branch also has an arrangement with Alcorn State University, students' credits may be ap-

plied towards a bachelor's degree in an agriculture-related field at Alcorn.

Jeff Gibson, a teacher and assistant football coach, oversees the agriculture program at Wingfield. He has said he hopes to establish the farming program in elementary and middle schools.

"The primary purpose is to create a hands-on academic and performance-based program that creates real-life opportunities for students to be producers and entrepreneurs and to be productive in the environment in which they live," said Gibson.

As indicated by the Jackson Zoo collaboration, the program has endless potential for expansion. Gibson's vision is to establish an agricultural and engineering academy model through 4H Clubs and scouting troops. He hopes this will lead interested elementary and middle school students through the Wingfield program to advanced post-secondary degrees at the partner IHLs.

Besides increasing educational op-

portunities for the students, the school also hopes the program will serve a larger need in the community. Their gardens provide a source of locally grown produce. Both teachers and students hope this will lead o healthier lifestyles for south Jackson residents that they serve.

The gardening project started in 2013 when Gibson was the head football coach. The idea came from his upbringing in Wilkinson County where it was common for athletes to pay for the sports programs through farming.

Cindy Ayers Elliott of Foot Print Farms generously offered the use of her time and farm to get the project off the ground. The partnership gained national attention. Talk show host Katie Couric featured the program on her national television show and also donated letterman jackets to players on the football team. Even now, the majority of the agriculture program students are also members of the Wingfield High School football team.

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Alfred Rankins Jr. inspires fellow MSU graduates to make their mark through leadership, service

The Mississippi Link Newswire

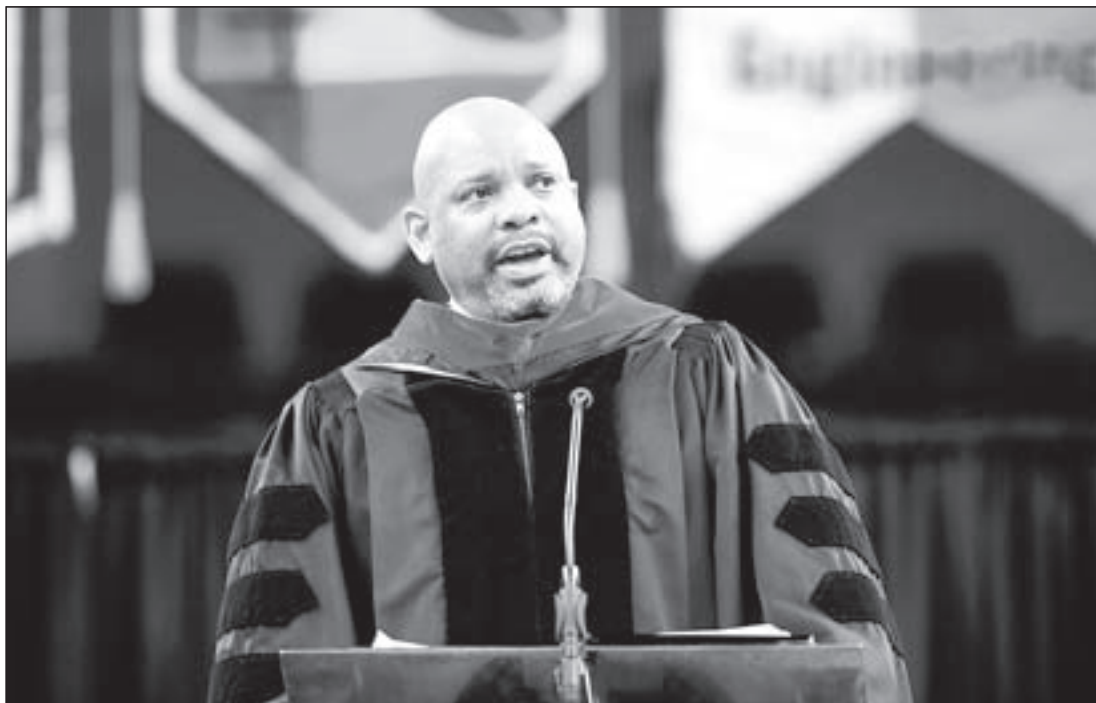
Mississippi Public Universities Commissioner of Higher Education Alfred Rankins Jr. encouraged more than 1,400 Mississippi State fall graduates to celebrate their accomplishments while moving forward with character and determination during commencement exercises Dec. 14 at Humphrey Coliseum.

“MSU has given you an outstanding tool and means to be great for the rest of your life,” said Rankins, who holds master’s and doctoral degrees in weed science from MSU. “The education you have received provides the foundation for your future. Your credential from MSU tells the world you are ready.”

Rankins told his fellow Bulldog graduates that knowledge, leadership skills and a service-oriented mindset are traits that make the value of an MSU education ring true.

“You have left your imprint on Mississippi State and Mississippi State has left its imprint on you, just as it has on me,” he said. “MSU has given you the gift of the tools and knowledge you need to lead, and now it is your responsibility to use these gifts to become leaders in your communities and your chosen profession.”

Greenville native Rankins was appointed to serve as com-



Mississippi Public Universities Commissioner of Higher Education Alfred Rankins Jr. encouraged more than 1,400 Mississippi State fall graduates to celebrate their accomplishments while moving forward with character and determination during commencement exercises Dec. 14 at Humphrey Coliseum. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

missioner of higher education by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning earlier this year and provides leadership to the university system, including all eight public universities.

A former tenured associate professor in MSU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and extension specialist for the MSU Extension Service, Rankins encouraged graduates to thank friends, family, faculty, staff and others who have pro-

vided support and inspiration throughout their MSU journey.

The 19th president of Alcorn State University and former acting president of Mississippi Valley State University also urged the newest members of the Bulldog alumni family to use their voices to support higher education and to work together for the greater good.

“I hope you will pay it forward and encourage those coming behind you to stay the course, persevere through

the difficult times and break through whatever barriers or challenges stand between them and earning their Mississippi State degree,” Rankins said. “I can tell you from experience that having a degree from Mississippi State is worth it. It is worth the time, the money and the persistence. This investment will pay dividends to you for the rest of your life.”

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

Hinds CC academic, technical graduates thrived upon return to school



Sanders

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Kiana Sanders already had a degree in psychology from Jackson State University when she faced a crossroads in life.

“I had started in the nursing program, then became pregnant with my daughter, Jade,” said Sanders, a third-generation Hinds graduate. Her late grandfather, Robert Pickett, was a superintendent of Vicksburg Warren School District and president of the college’s Board of Trustees.

“Someone told me about the practical nursing program at the Vicksburg-Warren Campus and here I am,” she said. “This ceremony feels so different from my previous graduation because I’m going after my passion, which is to be a nurse practitioner. I’m going after my RN and I’m not stopping.”

Hinds Community College awarded 1,337 degrees or certificates to 912 graduates, with some graduates receiving more than one credential. Of the 1,337 fall graduates, 182 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 112 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 81 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average.

More than 600 participated in one of three ceremonies Dec. 13 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Dan Fuller, an English instructor at the Utica Campus who has been named the faculty HEADWAE honoree, was the speaker for all three ceremonies.

Fuller used story of the 1903 founding of the Utica Institute, an HBCU (Historically Black College and University), by Tuskegee graduate William Holtzclaw as a guideline to talk to graduates on the themes of persisting, finding one’s passion and dealing with pain. The Utica Institute eventually became the Utica Campus of Hinds Community College after a federal court order merged two colleges merged in 1982.

Fuller noted that Holtzclaw tried three times to establish a college for black students in Mississippi before he finally succeeded in Utica in rural Hinds County. “He persevered, even when the going wasn’t easy,” Fuller said. “As

you continue your careers, you’ll run into roadblocks, no doubt. And we often say that sometimes life closes doors, but you know that all doors have handles. Sometimes a closed door doesn’t mean quit, but rather, turn the knob and push your way through.”

Holtzclaw was able to expand the college because his board of trustees was willing to take personal risks, he said.

“His board of trustees felt so passionate about the work that they pledged their farms and homes to secure the purchase of the property, even without the promise of outside funding. The personal risks that these men took to risk everything they owned shows the kind of passion that makes life worth living,” Fuller said. “So I ask you, what are you passionate about? What’s the thing that if you can’t do, your heart would break? Do that thing and do it well.”

Holtzclaw founded the group now known as the Utica Jubilee Singers to travel in the North and help raise money for the school. The first year, the group was stranded at a train station in the cold and the choir director later died after falling ill from the exposure.

“The tragedy could have broken the fledgling enterprise, but Holtzclaw was able to deal with the pain of this loss by looking to the larger dream, even when life didn’t go according to his plan,” he said.

“Some of you have gone through tremendous personal pain to make it here today and all of us will face adversity at some point in the future. The relationships you have built during your time here, along with those of your friends and family, can be a source of strength to you when the road gets difficult.”

Fuller closed his remarks to graduates by reminding them that “education is a lifelong journey.”

“This doesn’t have to be the end of your association with Hinds. We urge you to become involved with your Hinds Alumni Association. Come back to the college and share with future students what you’re learning in your future careers,” he said.



Fuller PHOTOS BY HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/TAMMI BOWLES

Hinds CC graduates more than 900 for fall semester

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College awarded 1,337 degrees or certificates to 912 graduates, with some graduates receiving more than one credential.

Of the 1,337 fall graduates, 182 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 112 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 81 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average. Among them was Jacobus Roby, of Raymond, who earned an Associate of Applied Science degree, as well as technical and career certificates.

More than 600 participated in one of three ceremonies Dec. 13 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

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



Jacobus Roby, center-right, of Raymond, was among more than 900 who earned credentials from Hinds Community College during fall ceremonies Dec. 13. He also earned technical and career certificates. With him are his parents, James and Maxine Roby, Rex Roby and Cynthia Montgomery. HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/TAMMI BOWLES

of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teach-

ing job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000

students each fall semester. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.

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Jackson State University

stay nasty and hungry, God will see you through," said Felton.

Mississippi Children’s Museum recognized as MSBJ Top Non-Profit and Leader in Finance

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) received two awards from Mississippi Business Journal (MBJ) this year. Top Non-Profit Award and Leaders in Finance were awarded to Sarah Skelton, director of finance and administration.

“We were truly delighted to honor and recognize so many worthy Mississippi non-profits. We’ve felt for some time that these hard-working, dedicated agencies don’t get near the recognition they deserve, and we’re happy to shine a light on their good works,” noted Tami Jones, associate publisher, Mississippi Business Journal.

MCM was recognized during a recent breakfast at the Old Capitol Inn, along with 30 other MS non-profits as a “Top Non-Profit.”

“Receiving this award is a tremendous honor for our museum and our Board of Directors. Together we are committed to being responsible stewards of our resources at MCM,” said President and CEO Susan Garrard. “Outside evaluators such as Charity Navigator have rated us the #1 non-profit in Mississippi for fiscal stewardship (December, 2018) and #3 museum in the United States for fiscal stewardship (December, 2018). Also, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) designated our museum as an ‘Accredited Charity Seal Holder’ (since 2008) which is awarded to organiza-



Mississippi Business Journal Associate Publisher Tami Jones and Mississippi Children’s Museum President Susan Garrard with the Top Non-Profit Award. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS JOURNAL.



Mississippi Business Journal Associate Publisher Tami Jones and Mississippi Children’s Museum Director of Finance Sarah Skelton with the Leader in Finance Award.

tions that meet all 20 of the BBB’s standards for Charity Accountability. These rankings validate our performance in three important areas; financial health, accountability and transparency which are all critically important to successfully operating a non-profit.”

Sarah Skelton, MCM director of Finance and Administration, oversees the museum’s budget, payroll and financial statement preparation as well as a variety of administrative and human

resource duties. Skelton was recognized as a Leader in Finance during a MBJ luncheon.

“Sarah uses her accounting and analytical review skills along with cash management abilities to further the museum’s vision of inspiring Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. Her attention to detail is impressive and MCM is fortunate to have had her expertise and leadership for eight years,” noted Garrard.

Hosts of Party at Mississippi State Hospital



St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church



St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church



Virden Grove Baptist Church



New Hope Baptist Laymen’s Ministry

Mississippi Link Newswire

Volunteers from St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Clinton, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 9.

Volunteers from St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, Virden Grove Baptist Church of Clinton, MS and New Hope Baptist Laymen’s Ministry of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 15 to provide food,

fun and joy for patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church is one of more than 60 groups who will provide parties and activities to over 700 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

“The outpouring of love and support from all of our volunteer groups adds so much to the lives of our patients and res-

idents during the holiday season,” said Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services director for the hospital.

Holiday festivities at MSH will culminate on Santa Day, Friday, Dec. 21. An annual tradition, Santa Day is a day when community volunteers and leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa and deliver gift bags to each and every patient and resident.

Threatening emails target Mississippi businesses

Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney General Jim Hood is issuing a warning to businesses across the state about an international email scam that threatens to bomb a business if money is not transferred to the sender.

The Attorney General’s Office was first alerted of such an email Thursday afternoon. The targeted businesses said they received an email that threatened to bomb their business if they did not send a large amount of money in the form of bitcoin, which is a digital currency. This scam is not unique to Mississippi – national news outlets have

confirmed the same scam has been identified across the country and other parts of the world.

“The only action someone who receives this email should take is to report it to local law enforcement,” Hood warned. “Our cyber crime investigators worked with local law enforcement to quickly identify this message as a scam and not a credible threat.”

Hood reminded Mississippians of ways to protect themselves against similar types of scammers:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited e-mails, text messages, or phones calls of this nature.

- Do not click on any attachments associated with such emails, as they may contain viruses or malware.

- Educate yourself and your family on how the scam works.

- Be suspicious of anyone who emails unexpectedly and wants you to wire money – especially out of the country.

- Consider creating a “code word” or a “password” for your family to use in emergency situations as verification of identity, and do not tell it to anyone outside of the family.

- If you get an email or pop-up message that asks

for personal or financial information, do not reply or click on the link in the message. Legitimate companies don’t ask for this information via email.

- Don’t email personal or financial information. Email is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.

- If you initiate a transaction and want to provide your personal or financial information through an organization’s Web site, look for indicators that the site is secure, like a lock icon on the browser’s status bar or a URL for a website that begins “https:” (the “s” stands for “secure”).

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Gentrification: The new “Negro Removal” Program, displacing black people and culture

A call for an emergency summit April 4-6

By Dr. Ron Daniels
TriceEdneyWire.com

Gentrification has emerged as a major threat to black communities that have been centers for black business/economic development, cultural and civic life for generations. Gentrification has become the watch-word for the displacement of black people and culture. Gentrification is the “Negro Removal Program” of the 21st Century. There is an urgent need for people of African descent to mount a serious offensive to defend black communities from this insidious onslaught.

COMMENTARY

During the Civil Rights, Black Power era, the term “Negro Removal” was virtually synonymous with “Urban Renewal,” local, state and federal highway and development projects that often disconnected and destroyed stable black communities. It was not unusual for a local highway project designed to benefit residents from the suburbs or a component of an Interstate Highway system to be routed through the center of a black community, uprooting and displacing black people or permanently weakening businesses, institutions, networks and relationships that bound folks together.

As advocates for black entrepreneurship correctly urge black people to create and support black business districts in our communities, it is useful to remember that urban renewal destroyed thriving business districts in black communities across the country in the latter part of the 20th Century. In fact, there is a historical pattern of marginalizing, subverting or outright destroying black communities to thwart our ability to achieve full political and economic empowerment and equity in this nation. Gentrification is the latest manifestation of this pattern.

There are a multiplicity of testimonies about this destructive phenomena. The caption of a feature article in the May 2, 2018 edition of *The New York Times* captured the essence of the crisis confronting black communities across the country:

“When home no longer looks the same: Rapid change in Durham has left many black residents feeling unwelcome.”

The article details how the revitalization of Durham, N.C. has increasingly meant development/progress for middle and upper-income whites, but displacement for large numbers of black working-class and middle-class people who can no longer afford to live in certain sections of the city. An article in the October 21, 2018 Edition of the *Houston Chronicle* is also illustrative of the growing concern about gentrification in Black America:

“Historic black neighborhoods disappear all the time. But they don’t have to.”

In Atlanta, the “Black Mecca” of the South, Vine City, the neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights and political leader Julian Bond lived, no longer exists. It was wiped-out by sports stadium projects. Public housing development after public housing development has been felled by an advancing wave of “progress.”

The “Sweet Auburn” Dis-



Stop Gentrification Protest PHOTO: COURTESY, COMMUNITY MOVEMENT BUILDER/IBW



Protesters at the vehicular entrance to the Brooklyn Museum during the 2015 Brooklyn Real Estate Summit. PHOTO: BENJAMIN SUTTON, HYPERALLERGIC/IBW



Crenshaw Subway Coalition, Resist Gentrification Summit. PHOTO: HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT/IBW

trict, which was once the home of major black businesses, is now stagnant. In the face of this onslaught, a youthful group of community advocates called the Community Movement Builders have recently launched an Anti-Gentrification Campaign to mobilize community residents and their allies to address the massive displacement of black working class and poor people from their neighborhoods. One of their slogans is: “Stop Gentrification: Keep Residents in Place.”

“Development” in Washington, D.C., the original “Chocolate City,” has displaced thousands of black people, forcing them to move to surrounding suburban areas; the prosperous central city neighborhood and black business district in Seattle, Washington has vanished as blacks have been forced to flee to Tacoma and other outlying cities where housing is more affordable; in Los Angeles, the Crenshaw Subway Coalition is vigorously resisting a subway extension that would spur gentrification in one of the most storied communities in Black America; in neighborhood after neighborhood in New York City, from Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx to Harlem, gentrification is rapidly displacing hundreds of thousands of black people.

In a few years, Harlem, the cultural-political Capital of Black America, will hardly be recognizable. A Whole Foods

Store now stands where Malcolm X once held his legendary rallies.

Chocolate cities, once the domain of black political and economic power are vanishing as increasing numbers of whites who in previous generations abandoned urban centers for the suburbs are now returning to establish more comfortable and convenient spaces in closer proximity to their work places. “Development” to accommodate the newcomers is driving up the cost of housing, especially rental properties in a manner that is unaffordable for large numbers of black residents.

Property taxes are also skyrocketing, putting enormous pressure on black homeowners as well. As blacks are displaced and replaced by newcomers, this is inevitably leading to dramatic shifts in political power from neighborhood advisory boards, to city councils and the office of mayors. Black power is diminishing.

What is equally egregious are the attitudes of some of the newcomers whom residents of black communities sometimes characterize as “invaders” or “neo-colonialists.” This is because some newcomers are not content to become a part of the community; they arrogantly attempt to change the rhythms, culture and character of the community.

For decades it has been a well-established and accepted custom that scores of drum-

mers gather on a designated date at a regular time in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem to play African music. But, once a large number of “invaders” became occupants of a nearby apartment building, they began to complain to the police and petitioned local elected officials, seeking to ban this longstanding weekly ritual.

In Detroit, three white women, who are newcomers to a predominately black neighborhood, falsely accused a black man of being a pedophile and demanded that the police file charges against him. The brother in question was starting a community garden on a vacant lot in the neighborhood and the women protested this activity taking place in “their neighborhood.” Fortunately, the judge dismissed the charges in a case of “gardening while black.”

Reports of these kinds of attitudes and behavior across the country is breeding resentment and hostility towards the “invaders.”

Let me be clear, as a civil right, any person in the United States has the freedom to live wherever they choose. People of African descent have waged a relentless struggle to achieve this precious right. People also have the right to live amongst their own nationality, ethnicity of ethnic group if they choose, hence there are Irish, Italian, Polish, German and Jewish communities in this country. And, occasionally these com-

munities change in composition. “Little Italy” in lower Manhattan in New York is now mostly shops and stores as people of Italian descent have largely chosen to migrant to other neighborhoods.

Voluntary migration is one thing, forced displacement is another matter. Time and time again, black people have faced schemes, targeted policies and outright violence, e.g., Tulsa, Rosewood, to force their removal from neighborhoods and communities they worked and invested in to “develop” as their home.

Black people believe in “development” and no reasonable person would be opposed to improvements or progress that would better their community. The crucial issue for people of African descent is not development, it is “development” that is displacing black people and culture. Therefore, the order and challenge of the day is to achieve “development without displacement.”

The question is, can development strategies be devised that prioritize improving the lives of the current residents and preserving the culture and character of their communities? The answer is yes. The collective brainpower, skill, experience and will exists within Black America to mount an offensive to defend black communities against gentrification, the “Negro Removal” program of the 21st Century.

Therefore, we must gather our brightest and best, the conscious and committed in our brain trust to devise plans and a policy agenda to rescue, preserve black communities. We possess the collective genius to develop just, safe, viable, vibrant and sustainable black communities.

To that end, the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW) is issuing an urgent call for a National Emergency Summit on Gentrification to be convened in Newark, NJ, April 4-6, 2019 in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the martyrdom of our beloved Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Newark has been selected because the city’s ambitious development plans incorporate community-based strategies designed to mitigate gentrification.

IBW has requested that Ras J. Baraka, the mayor of Newark, host the summit. This gathering is viewed as an extension of the milestone Urban Marshal Plan and Black Economic Development Symposium convened by IBW in Newark in April of this year. We envision anti-gentrification advocates, community economic development practitioners, mayors, urban planners, faith, civil rights, labor, business and professional leaders attending the Emergency Summit on Gentrification.

The Urban Strategies Program of Faith In Action, National Urban League, Democracy Collaborative and Freedom Caucus of the Center for Community Change have already signaled a willingness to partner with IBW on this crucial undertaking.

Now is the time to act boldly and courageously to defend black communities from the destructive forces of gentrification...and we will!

Ron Daniels is president/CEO of Black World 21st Century

Two black men elected to top leadership Positions in congress

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com



For the first time ever, two African Americans will hold two top leadership positions at the same time in Congress.

U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, recently announced.

U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, was elected chair of the Democratic Caucus, and Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, was elected Majority Whip, the third most-powerful party member. Clyburn also is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

COMMENTARY

“When the Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971, I know our 13 founding members dreamed of the day we would have more than one member in our ranks competing for top leadership positions in Congress. Today is that day, and I know they are proud,” Richmond said.



Clyburn



Jefferies

The majority whip is a member of the dominant political party whose job is to keep voting members in line with the party’s ideology and goals. The whip ensures attendance at all important votes and legislative sessions.

The 78-year-old Clyburn, who represents South Carolina’s 6th District, has been a member of Congress since 1993.

Clyburn, who also was majority whip from 2007 to 2011, has been criticized for accepting millions of dollars from the pharmaceutical industry over the past decade. Clyburn has received more money from drug maker PACs over the past decade than any other member of Congress – more than \$1.09 million. During the 2018 election cycle, Clyburn received at least \$170,000.

In 2013, he was the featured speaker at a conference hosted by PhRMA, the industry’s leading trade group, according to Kaiser Health News. The conference was held at the James E. Clyburn Research Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, a hub of biopharmaceutical research.

Kaiser Health News reported that voters complained about soaring prescription drug prices during the 2018 election campaign, and Democrats claimed they would do something about them in the next Congress.

Nancy Pelosi, the incoming House Majority Leader, has received nearly \$193,000 from drug maker PACs (political action committees). And Pelosi’s number two, U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, has accepted \$1.02 million from drug maker PACs since 2007. Hoyer received \$128,000 from drug maker PACS during the recent election cycle.

Prescription drug expenditures are nearly 20 percent of health care costs, and prescription spending is growing faster than any other part of the health care dollar. Spending on prescription drugs increased 13.1 percent in 2014 – the largest annual increase since 2003. This uptick was largely driven by an unprecedented 30.9 percent increase in spending on specialty medications. In 2015, spending rose another 12.2 percent, according to the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing.

The chair of the Democratic Caucus makes sure party members achieve a consensus and achieve their goals. The 48-year-old Jefferies has been a member of Congress since 2013. He represents the 8th Congressional District, which includes Brooklyn and Queens, New York.

Conforming to Christ's image

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



Romans 8:28-29 tells us: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did fore-know, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." If you love God, whatever happens to you will work for good. It will not always look good or feel good, but somehow, because God's grace is involved, it will work for good. God is in control. Whatever we are going

through is to make us more Christ-like. All things work together for that purpose so that we might conform to the image of His Son. Why? Jesus Christ was here as an example for us. I often think since Jesus came here as an example, does that not make us examples to others? Since He came as an example, and we are to follow in His steps, we too, ought to be examples to others so that they might desire the things of God.

God has blessed His people; therefore, we need to let Him work His Will in our lives without murmuring.

As you get older, there will be less that you can do physically, but God still has a work for you to do. I suppose all of us would love to stay young,

but we all have to age. From the day we are born, we start getting older. As we age, the body starts to break down. That is part of God's plan. He is trying to prepare us for eternity, to get us ready to shed the body. If you did not want to leave it, it would be difficult to leave. The plan is that by the time you are old enough to go, you will be ready to shed your body. You will be glad to leave.

We need to learn to age with grace. As we age and accept these things, we can show the world that we are still worshipping a Living God who can take us through all the stages of our lives. It is a blessing to be around older saints and to listen to them. God has given us His grace, so it is up to us

to use that grace.

He has given us gifts, so we have to use them if we intend to be a blessing to others. God's ultimate goal for us is to make us like Christ (read 1 John 3:2). As we become more and more like Him, we discover our true selves, the persons we are created to be.

How can we be conformed to Christ's likeness? By reading and heeding the Word, by studying His life on earth through the Gospels, by being filled with His Spirit and by doing His work in the world.

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

P R E S E R V E D Spiritual time management

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"It's the most wonderful time of the year" doesn't just apply to Christmas. For college teachers, this phrase also applies to the end of any school semester. In my case, students are working hard to finish up paper assignments which lets me take the less stressful position of writing coach.

There is one peculiar thing that happens. With the end near, students who realize that they might not pass anxiously ask for extra credit to help them pass. Some even have a hard time focusing on the last few weeks of class work because of the distraction of the work that has not been done. Many admit that it was poor time management that put them behind.

I think we sometimes unintentionally poorly manage our spiritual time in much the same way. We wait until it seems as though things are at the breaking point and then we rush to God and ask for help. We pray only after someone has been sent to jail or after the bad diagnosis from the doctor. But by doing so, we may end up anxious and stuck in place where it's hard to follow God into the future.

Even worse, many of us can't deal with the future and miss out on present blessings because we still haven't let go of the past.

A few years ago, I was dwelling on something that I was worried could happen. I don't even remember what it was but I do remember God's response during my prayers: "Why are you worried what happened last year or what

may happen next week? I've already taken care of those. Why don't you follow me into 2006?" Since it was mid 2005 and I was bound by time and not the maker of it, I obviously couldn't do that. Then the words of the praise song "Jehovah Nissi" came to my mind. "Jehovah Nissi you are our banner, you go before us and prepare the way." I had to follow him in faith.

We are taught to follow God in faith and not by what we see or feel through scriptures like Isaiah 46:10: "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." We can follow confidently because God would never lead us somewhere his grace can't keep us.

Because he is not limited to time and he already knows what's ahead, God can take care of the present, restore our past and prepare the future...all at the same time. With New Year's coming up, we should keep that in mind as we put together resolutions for 2019.

Many of those lists begin with very admirable goals. "I will start to exercise." "I will pay off my credit cards." Some of them will include things we didn't get done in 2018.

Here's a thought: Think yourself about where you believe God already is concerning that thing... and try to meet him in there in faith.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

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

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What's next?

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



What's next? One of the first things I heard about this week was a group of high schoolers in New Hampshire feeling okay with joining the nastiness of the person living in the White House. I guess their music was inspired by #45's crude behavior and his entertaining a 'gangsta' rapper in the White House by the name of Kanye West who sings a crude song called "I Love It." (Look online for the song and you'll understand why our "Respect Us" campaign is critical.) It's directed at black women, so I guess those students thought it was okay for them to sing, "Let's kill all the blacks" in a racist rendition of Jingle Bells. #45 sets such a low standard.

I thought we'd heard just about everything there was about #45 and his criminal cohorts. This week alone, we've saw Michael Cohn get three years of jail time for his activities with #45 who would like to have us believe he hardly knew Cohen. He has been claiming Cohen did very little work for him. Of course, now he would have us believe Cohen did lots of stuff for him or on his behalf, which he apparently allowed and directed Cohen to handle. He says he was thinking that as a lawyer Cohen knew what he was doing.

He followed that up saying even if he did those things for which Cohen has now been sentenced, that was not a violation. First, he told us he knew nothing about the payments to Stormy Daniels, and we'd have to ask Cohen about that. Guess he's figured out he can have it both ways.

We just learned that the Cohen raid spurs a new criminal probe on #45's inauguration spending. All that money has raised questions about how big those parties were. Until now, #45 must have been awfully proud that he'd raised about twice as much as President Barack Obama's committee raised. Now, he's probably asking himself why he raised so much because there is a mighty big question that's probably giving him grief. The question being from whom did all of that money come and what did he promise to do in exchange for the money? The answer just might lie in that raid on Cohen's home and office. There was a lot of smoke in that raid. Now, we may soon see a lot of fire.

The past week has been a nightmare for #45 because Cohen has promised to give even more information that may not sound too good. It's hard to keep up with all of the criminal and alleged criminal activity of #45 and his cohorts.

It didn't help that Maria Butina, the Russian woman who Vladimir Putin claims to have no idea who she is, has agreed to talk and cooperate in the investigation. She admits to trying to infiltrate the NRA and from what we now know, her cooperation may be about the direct involvement of the NRA in #45's campaign. She admits to engaging in a conspiracy against our nation by trying to influence our politics. She admitted working closely with a U.S. citizen — member of the Republican Party. There goes that lie about Republicans loving America more than any of the rest of us. Add to that the group of high schoolers appearing to give the Nazi salute at their high school prom a short time ago and the group in Charlottesville, VA that #45 thought consisted of good people.

I think we are going to find out what's next soon.

E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women. www.nationalcongressbw.org. 202/678-6788. She is also host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3.

Congratulations to Rep. Karen Bass, elected to chair the largest ever Congressional Black Caucus

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"More than building a career, what I have done throughout my life is followed my passion for activism ... So the theme I've noticed in my life is that great success has come when I was simply doing the things I was passionate about to make whatever difference I could. That's the lesson I would have to offer to anyone and that's always lead with your passion. But I'm not done yet." — U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, chair-elect, Congressional Black Caucus

In January, the most ethnically and culturally diverse Congress in United States history will be seated. Among the historic "firsts," the Congressional Black Caucus will exceed 50 members for the first time in its 47-year history and Rep. Karen Bass has been elected its chair.

Bass, of California's 32nd District, has a history of blazing trails



Bass

for black women. She was the first to lead a state legislative body when she was sworn in as Speaker of the California State Assembly in 2008. She led the state through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, fast-tracking economic stimulus legislation to jumpstart billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure projects. Her successful bipartisan efforts to negotiate a state budget during the economic crisis earned the 2010 John F. Ken-

nedy Profile in Courage Award.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee and its Task Force on Over-Criminalization, Bass is well-positioned to effect advance one of the CBC's signature issues, criminal justice reform. Earlier this year, the Committee passed the Formerly Incarcerated Reenter Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Every Person (FIRST STEP) Act with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

Bass has been a leading advocate for a legislative package based largely on the National Urban League's Main Street Marshall Plan, the Jobs and Justice Act. As she explained in a statement announcing the introduction of the omnibus bill, during the 2016 Presidential campaign, an infamous question was asked of African Americans: "What do you have to lose?"

Bass and the CBC executive leadership team answered that question in the form of a 130-page policy document titled, "We Have A Lot to Lose: Solutions to Advance Black Families in the 21st Century." That

document, along with the Main Street Marshall Plan, served as the basis for the Jobs and Justice Act.

Prior to serving in elected office, Bass worked as a physician assistant and served as a clinical instructor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.

In response to the gang violence epidemic sweeping Los Angeles in 1990, Bass founded Community Coalition, a community-based social justice organization addressing the root causes of injustice.

The other officers elected to lead the CBC for the 116th Congress are Rep. Joyce Beatty (Ohio 3rd), 1st vice chair; Rep. Brenda Lawrence (Michigan 14th), 2nd vice chair; Rep. Hank Johnson (Georgia 4th), secretary; Rep. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia 4th), whip; and Congressman-elect Steven Horsford (Nevada 4th), parliamentarian.

We congratulate Rep. Bass and the rest of the leadership team and look forward to working with the CBC in the coming two years to address issues of opportunity, equality, and justice.

"Green Book" – Not our story; his-story, their fiction

By Dr. Wilmer J. Leon, III
TriceEdneyWire.com



"The greatest struggle of any oppressed group in a racist society is the struggle to reclaim collective memory and identity. At the level of culture, racism seeks to deny people of African, American Indian, Asian and Latino descent their own voices, histories and traditions. From the vantage-point of racism, black people have no story worth telling; that the master narrative woven into the national hierarchy of white prejudice, privilege and power represents the only legitimate experience worth knowing." — Dr. Manning Marable — "Escaping From Blackness: Racial Identity and Public Policy" September 2000

Marable also referenced Frantz Fanon's book, Black Skin, White Masks, "...that the greatest triumph of racism is when black people lose touch with their own culture and identity, seeking to transcend their oppressed condition as the Other by becoming something they are not." This is the false impression of Donald Shirley that one is left with given the many false narratives that are perpetuated in the film "Green Book."

"Green Book" is the story of Dr. Donald Shirley, a world-renown African-American classical and jazz pianist and composer who embarks on a concert tour from New York City into the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver, Shirley hires Tony Lip, a racist Italian-American nightclub bouncer for the job. This is just about as far as the facts in the film go.

The film is formulaic. It plays to the prejudices of a predominantly white audience employing the too often used tropes and worn out stereotypes about African Americans to weave a totally false narrative about Shirley and his relationship with Lip. Even though Lip is Shirley's driver, the film portrays Lip in the traditional but false position of the white "bwana" who introduces Shirley to African-American culture and who he "should be" as an African-American man.

To discover who the real Shirley was, I spent an hour interviewing his

youngest brother, Maurice Shirley Sr., his sister-in-law Patricia Shirley and his niece, Karole L. Shirley-Kimble. In addition to the interview, I also spent several hours speaking one-on-one with Karole L. Shirley-Kimble about her uncle and family.

Here are a few of the lies told in the film that are important for the public to understand.

The film portrays Shirley as being raised by a single mother. In fact, he was one of five children born to Pastor Edwin Shirley Sr. and his wife Stella Shirley a school teacher. The children were Calvin, Lucille (died at birth), Edwin Jr., Donald and Maurice. His mother passed when he was nine. The four boys were raised by their father. All four boys obtained advanced degrees; two were physicians. They all were very successful in their own right. Contrary to the film narrative, Dr. Donald Shirley remained very close to his family until his death in 2013.

His talent was recognized when he was 2 years old. His mother was his initial piano teacher and he was quickly recognized as a prodigy and provided with formal piano lessons. With a father who was an Episcopal Priest with a large congregation in Pensacola, FL, the boys were raised upper middle-class. Contrary to the film narrative, he and his mother never "panhandled" for money.

Shirley did not have an issue with alcohol. The rare times he drank scotch he preferred Chivas Regal or Pinch. He did not have a bottle of Cutty Sark delivered to his room every night while on the road.

Tony Lip did not "introduce" Shirley to fried chicken, Kentucky Fried or any other kind. As a "PK" or preacher's kid, there was plenty of "gospel bird" consumed on Sunday's after services during his childhood.

Tony Lip did not "introduce" Shirley to the music of Little Richard, Aretha Franklin, R&B or Soul. Shirley was well versed in and appreciated all types of music genres and incorporated them into his own compositions. According to Karole, the black community was, "...the center of his world...he pulled from African proverbs and spirituals...he was a

black man..." He was not out of touch with the black community, its people or its culture. In fact, he was very good friends with the giants of his day, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Leontyne Price, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He also had long-lasting and great friendships with Paul Robeson, William Warfield, Harry Belafonte and many others.

Shirley did not sit on a throne in his apartment like the "king of the coons" as was described. He did not own a throne. He knew who he was and from whence he had come.

There was no green Cadillac. He only rode in black limousines. Tony would not have worn a personal suit. All of Shirley's drivers wore a grey chauffeur's uniform provided to them by Shirley. According to Maurice Shirley," there was no friendship relationship between Donald and Tony... in fact, Donald could not stand him. He fired Tony."

There are many other fallacies in the film that would take too long to point out. So you may ask, "Why is it important to point out all of these inconsistencies?" Why is the Shirley family upset over the portrayal of their brother/uncle? It's simple, Marable writes, "Under colonialism and Jim Crow segregation, people of African descent were constantly pressured to conform to the racist stereotypes held of them by the dominant society." This proud, educated and accomplished family cannot sit idly by and allow "Hollywood" to make them out to be anything other than what they are.

This film purposely and lazily infuses generally accepted stereotypes about African-American people such as being born impoverished to a single mother, no strong male figure, disconnected from his family, community and self.

Here is a man that earned a doctorates in music, psychology and liturgical arts. Shirley was fluent in eight languages and was a talented painter. Still the film would have us believe that it wasn't until the great white benefactor rode in on his trusty white steed (in this case a green Cadillac) that Shirley was able to find himself and connect. Actually, he was never

lost or out of touch with his family or who he was as a black man.

Shirley's real-life story would have made a much better film. Had the screenwriters and producers taken the time to perform even the most rudimentary research and reached out to the Shirley family they would have uncovered a much more interesting, enlightening and empowering story. A story about a brilliant African-American man, born in the deep South in 1927. A man born into a highly educated family, earns three Ph.D. degrees, becomes a world-renowned pianist and composer, millionaire, friend of Dr. King's and supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. A man that died beloved by his entire family and community and is missed to this very day.

Unfortunately, for the Shirley family and all of those who have viewed this film, they have been denied this great American story because those involved with the film chose to misinterpret this phenomenal man through the blurred lens of the American ethos of the White Man's Burden. This racist mythology that the white man has a moral obligation to rule the non-white peoples of the earth, whilst encouraging their economic, cultural and social progress through colonialism.

They were unable to properly assess and comprehend the complexities of Shirley's everyday existence as the man that he always was because they cannot understand Dubois' "double-consciousness" — the American, the Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

Langston Hughes wrote in 1946, "America does not yet permit Negro artists and intellectuals to wash their hands in the water of cultural freedom." So, it was in in 1946; so, it is with "Green Book" today.

Wilmer Leon is the producer/host of the nationally broadcast call-in talk radio program "Inside the Issues with Leon," on SiriusXM Satellite radio channel 126. Go to www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com. www.twitter.com/drwlleon and Dr. Leon's Prescription at Facebook.com

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Healthcare spending and the national debt

By Richard D. Kocur
Special to The Mississippi Link



In a recent article titled “Spending More on Debt than Defense,” author Mark Hendrickson highlights the interest payments on our rapidly growing national debt in relation to defense spending. By 2023, Hendrickson points out, interest payments on the national debt will exceed the amount spent on national defense. There is one factor, however, which could hasten that day and dramatically accelerate the growth of an already large national debt. Healthcare spending.

For many progressives in the U.S. Congress, “fixing” the healthcare system in the United States is a major policy initiative. Their prescription? Medicare for All – a single payer, government-run healthcare scheme which uses the existing Medicare system as a template for healthcare utopia in America.

Medicare for All would seek to transition everyone to a Medicare style system over four short years, all the while promising to expand benefits, eliminate deductibles and cut costs. But free healthcare is not free.

According to estimates by the Mercatus Institute, Medicare for All carries a price tag in the neighborhood of \$32 trillion over 10 years. For some sobering perspective, the total of all individual and corporate taxes collected by the federal government over the next 10 years is projected to be approximately \$30 trillion. Where will the money come from in order to fund the nationalization of the U.S. healthcare system?

Advocates of Medicare for All claim that it will be funded by administrative savings generated from a massive consolidation of the health-insurance industry by dramatically reducing fees for physicians, hospitals, and other providers and through a significant increase in personal and corporate tax rates. Even in a best-case scenario, these three sources of funding are not enough to cover the approximate

\$32 trillion price tag.

A major portion of Medicare for All funding would have to be covered by a significant increase in deficit spending which in turn will generate more debt and the need to pay even more interest on the debt.

Today the federal deficit is more than \$21 trillion. By 2023, the Congressional Budget Office projects it to grow to over \$27 trillion. Those projections, as significant as they are, do not account for the impact of Medicare for All.

Assuming full implementation of Medicare for All over a four-year period, the required level of deficit spending would cause net interest payments to increase by more than \$5 trillion during that same time period; this according to data from the House Budget Committee. The same analysis predicts that fully funding Medicare for All over its first 10 years would add approximately \$38 trillion to the nation’s debt. Even at a modest interest rate, service on that level of debt would eclipse all other areas of government spending combined.

Hendrickson accurately concludes, “We eventually will have to learn to live within our means.” This entails having to say no to government spending on programs whose negative impact includes driving up our national debt. Unfortunately, that lesson hasn’t been learned yet. Let’s hope our legislators learn it before socialized healthcare becomes a reality. Medicare for All, like many socialized healthcare systems, will negatively impact patients, providers and payers to a significant degree. Now add to that list a dramatic impact on the already high national debt.

Don’t look now, but with Medicare for All, overwhelming debt, like objects in your car’s side-view mirrors, may be closer than it appears.

Richard D. Kocur is an assistant professor of business at Grove City College. He specializes in marketing and business strategy and has over 25 years of experience in the healthcare industry.

Dr. Thomas E. Dobbs named new state health officer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently the Mississippi State Department of Health announced that Interim State Health Officer and former State Epidemiologist Thomas E. Dobbs, MD, MPH, has been appointed Mississippi’s new State Health Officer.

Former State Health Officer Mary Currier, MD, MPH, retired October 31, 2018, after almost nine years as state health officer. Dobbs’ appointment came during a regularly scheduled State Board of Health meeting.

Dr. Dobbs is a board certified Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine physician with extensive training in public health and epidemiology. Dr. Dobbs recently joined MSDH as the deputy state health officer after two years working in Laurel as a practicing physician but also as vice president for Quality and chief medical officer of South Central Regional Medical Center. Prior to this he served four years as a district health officer in southern Mississippi and then four years as the state epidemiologist with MSDH.

Dr. Dobbs is a graduate of Emory University and received his medical degree and his Master’s degree in public health



Dobbs

at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has been active in public health research and advocacy, working globally through the Gorgas Tuberculosis Initiative in Russia and Cambodia, and in the U.S. through appointments at UMMC and the

University of Florida (as regional clinical consultant with the Southeastern Regional TB Center). He has an appointment to the John D. Bower School of Population Health at UMMC, teaching epidemiology and health policy.

“The Mississippi State Department of Health is privileged to have someone of Dr. Dobbs’ experience and caliber to lead our health department as we continue to face challenges and changes,” said Chair of the Mississippi State Board Health Ed D. “Tad” Barham, MD, FACR. “Dobbs’ knowledge of infectious diseases, his work both in the field and in the administrative arm and his community involvement will all be a great asset to the department.”

“I am grateful for this opportunity to help address the health needs facing all Mississippians. Although we have many challenges, we have great people, institutions and resources in our state to meet those challenges,” said Dobbs. “The Mississippi State Department of Health has a long, proud history as a potent force of change and as an innovator. I am humbled to step into a role previous held by some of our nation’s public health leaders.”

Award winners named during Forrest General’s annual employee Christmas party

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General’s top employee, leadership and physician awards were presented December 14 at the hospital’s annual Employee Christmas Party.

Employees recognized during the event included Forrest General’s We C.A.R.E. Award recipients, honored for upholding the hospital’s We C.A.R.E. philosophy; Service Award recipients, who were recognized for years of service to the organization; and the 2018 employee of the year, Chuck Pierce.

Also honored were the four winners of the 13th Annual Philip Rogers Quality Award. The award is named for Dr. Philip Rogers, a nephrologist with Hattiesburg Clinic, who dedicated 32 years of his life to serving the people of South Mississippi as a physician, mentor and humanitarian. Dr. Rogers, Forrest General’s first nephrologist, was known as a kind-hearted, brilliant physician and great medical staff leader, and was greatly admired and respected for his commitment to his patients



Employee of the Year, Chuck Pierce, Emergency Department

and the medical field.

Four recipients, each influential and important members of Hattiesburg’s medical community, were announced during the presentation and honored for their roles as a humanitarian, innovator, leader or mentor.

The following is a list of those Forrest General staff members and physicians who were honored as winners during the celebration:

Employee of the Year
Chuck Pierce, Emergency Department

We C.A.R.E. Awards
Lance Bailey, LSW, Emergency Department Social Work
Alex Hali Beasley, RN, 8T
Wai Chan, Environmental Services

Amanda Mazingo, Epic

We C.A.R.E. Physician Award

Steven Stogner, MD, ICU

We C.A.R.E. Leadership Award

Amber Chancellor, RN, Pal-

liative and Supportive Care

Philip Rogers Award Winners

Leadership: John Fitzpatrick, MD, nephrology, Hattiesburg Clinic

Innovator: Jose Fernandez, MD, neurology, Hattiesburg Clinic

Mentor: Randel Smith, MD, cardiology, Hattiesburg Clinic Heart and Vascular

Humanitarian: Joseph Sal-loum, MD, radiation oncology, South Mississippi Associates in Radiation Therapy, PLLC

Service Awards (30 Years)

• Thomas W. Barber, Pharmacist, Pharmacy

• Lisa A. Beckum, unit assistant, Emergency Services

• Carolyn L. Broome, senior operating room tech, Surgical Services

• Lisa R. Davis, patient care coordinator, ICU

• Vickie L. Duncan, environmental tech, Environmental Services

• Walter J. Hearn, biomed

tech III, Bio-Med

• Pamela D. Lindsey, nephrology coordinator, 7T-Resident & Renal

• Lela McMillion, RN, OI-Medical Surgical

• Laura J. Miley, director of Nursing, Marion General Hospital, Operations Support

• Sandra J. Prater, Diagnostic RN, Radiology

• Judy L. Schlott, EPIC analyst, Information Systems

• Susan M. Smith, clinical registry coordinator, Cath Lab

• Edna M. Strickland, secretary, Cath Lab

• Linda F. Taylor, unit secretary, 7T-Respiratory and Renal

• Renita Travis, unit secretary, Emergency Services

• Joanne Warren-Johnson, team leader, Lab

• Carolyn L. Woullard, administrative registration supervisor, Radiology

Service Awards (35 Years)

• Randy H. Applewhite, pharmacist, Pharmacy

• Sue E. Crabtree, senior program analyst, Information Systems

• Deborah F. Esters, unit secretary, 3T

• Terri P. Hutson, Epic RN analyst, EPIC

• Berniece Hyche, LPN, Same Day Surgery

• Sandra D. Oneal, EPIC RT Analyst, Epic

• Sherry L. Phillips-Dykes, Epic RN analyst, Epic

• Lynn Smith, senior system administrator, Information Systems

• Patricia L. Watts, environmental tech, Environmental Services

Service Awards (40 Years)

• Jamie C. Campbell, support specialist II, Information Systems

• Patricia A. Keys, unit secretary, NICU

• Karen A. Simmons, payroll specialist, Payroll

• Meida I. Sinclair, patient care supervisor, Patient Care Services Administration

For more information on Forrest General and its available services, visit forrestgeneral.com.

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Thursday, 01/24/2019, for:

RE: GS# 320-055 Roof Repairs Wilkinson CCF (Re-Bid)
Department of Corrections
RFx Number: 3160002670

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

Professional: Shafer & Associates, PLLC
Address: 510 University Drive
Starkville, Mississippi 39759
Phone: 662-323-1628
Email: s-a@shafer-architecture.com

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

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

12/20/2018, 12/27/2018

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR
PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
OF
SMITH WILLS STADIUM

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION / INVITATION

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.

Sealed Professional Management Service packets will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at the Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, until 3:30 p.m., local time, Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

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.

This Request For Professional Management Services is also being posted on the Central Bidding website at: https://

www.centralauctionhouse.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.

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 Conference Room, located at 1000 Metro Center, Suite 104, Jackson, MS 39209. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

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.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all Professional Management Service packets and to waive any and all informalities.

Ison B. Harris, Jr., Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
Officer (CAO)

Dr. Robert Blaine,
Chief Administrative
Office of the Mayor

11/8/2018, 11/15/2018, 11/22/2018, 11/29/2018,
12/6/2018, 12/13/2018, 12/20/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE
RURAL AREAS PROGRAM (5311) ENHANCED MOBILITY OF
SENIORS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM (5310)
TRANSPORTATION APPLICATIONS

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is soliciting applications for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula grant transportation programs through the Public Transit Division:

Section 5311 Rural Areas program

Eligible applicants include State and local governmental authorities, Indian Tribes, private non-profit organizations, and private operators of public transportation services under special contractual arrangements. Although an applicant's proposal may target specific client groups, services for the general public must be included. Applicants are reminded that participation in a local coordinated planning process must also be clearly documented. Consequently, projects must be derived from an approved local Human Service Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

This program funds general public, job access and reverse commute and certain intercity bus transportation services in areas with less than 50,000 in population. Approximately \$14,500,000 in FTA funds are expected to be available for capital, operating, planning and administration expenses that may support general public, job access and reverse commute and intercity transportation services. These funds will be made available based upon Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act federal appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5311 Safe Affordable Flexible Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and Moving Ahead for Progress in 21st Century (MAP-21) funds to fund projects.

A job access and reverse commute project is defined as a transportation project that may provide planning, capital and/or operating costs of services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment". This may

include projects that involve trips to and from urbanized areas or rural areas to suburban employment locations.

Intercity transportation services may include rural and small urban areas. Eligible intercity bus activities include planning and marketing for intercity bus transportation, capital, some operating cost and coordination of rural connections between rural transit projects and intercity carriers.

5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Rural, Small and Large Urbanized Area)

This program provides funds for private non-profit organizations to implement services that:

1) Serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation service, where public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable;

2) Exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);

3) Improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance on complementary paratransit;

4) or alternatives to public transportation

Capital and operating awards will be provided from approximately \$1,800,000 in federal funds made available for rural (Less than 50,000 in population) and small urban areas (50,000 —199,999 in population) City of Jackson Urbanized Area (Over 200,000 in population) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These funds will be made available from FAST Act funding appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5310 SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 to fund projects.

Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations or public bodies that coordinate services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Applicants must document that they can provide the local match required

for all capital and operating costs. Local match funds may be derived from state, local or certain other federal funds. Projects must be included in a locally developed coordinated plan.

Applicants wishing to apply for funding via this announcement must register in the grant application software portal on the MDOT website at <http://mdot.ms.gov/gms/default.aspx>. All grant applications for funding must be received in our office on or before 3:00 p.m. on March 1,2019.

It is the policy of the MDOT and the FTA that no persons or groups shall, on the grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

For more information about these programs and the respective application process, please contact Shirley Wilson, Director, Public Transit Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation at P. O. Box 1850. Mail Code 61-01, Jackson, MS 39215-1850 or by telephone at (601) 359-7800, FAX at (601) 359-7777, or by email at swilson@mdot.ms.gov.

The Public Transit Division has scheduled a 5310 and 5311 new prospective applicants (all programs) Application Workshop on Thursday, January 10, 2019 for perspective applicants at the Jackson Medical Mall in the Community Center Room, located at 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, MS 39213. All attendees are requested to register for the workshop on or before Friday, December 28,2018.

The registration form is located on the MDOT website at http://mdotms.gov/portal/Public_Transit.aspx#. Registration forms may be submitted via email to devans@mdot.ms.gov, faxed or mailed to the above address and number. The workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. for 5310 applicants and 1:00 p.m. for 5311 applicants. The workshops will include discussions of each formula grant program as well as the local coordinated planning requirements.

12/20/2018

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

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T H I N K I 'V E N E V E R S T O P P E D

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S	C	R	O	O	G	E			
A	H	A			F	E	E	B	L
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Jackson Medical Mall
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SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

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MURPHY USA
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Week of December 16, 2018

Vicksburg AKA's Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Vicksburg Convention Center • December 15, 2018 • Vicksburg, MS

PHOTOS BY JERRY KOMIA DOMATOB

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer



AKA Mu Xi Omega Chapter hosted their 40th anniversary at the Vicksburg Convention Center with elegance and style. Pomp, pageantry and panoply, highlighted the occasion held Dec. 15. Trena Warren is chapter president.

Santa Carpenter introduced guest host Othor Cain. He introduced Warren who warmly welcomed attendees. Her salutation was followed by greetings from Warren County Board of Supervisors President Richard George.

Vicksburg Mayor George Flagg recognized and acknowledged attendees and extended special congratulations and appreciation to the AKAs for their laudable community services. Marble Jennings followed with grace before the meal.

Other highpoints included: pre-

sentation of service Awards by Fannie Glasper, Julia Hood and LaToya Lumpkin. A special HBCU presentation by Zelmarie Murphy, celebratory toast by Mayor Flagg and acknowledgements from Anitra Nichols graced the celebration.

Interpersonal conversations, music, dance, network and photographs closed the occasion which was well patronized.

AKA is reputed as the first Greek letter organization founded for black-college educated women. It was established in 1908 at Howard University, thanks to the vision and mission of nine women. One of their main objectives then, as it is now, is to foster service.

As the program booklet asserted, "Known throughout the world for exemplary programs of service, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated chartered the Vicksburg chapter as a beacon of service to the community in 1978 at Bethel A.M.E. Church." The Late Bertha

Payne Flagg was the foremost leader and founder who also served as the pioneer president. Other charter members included: Zelmarie Murphy, Helen Martin, Ezell Mathews, Santa Carpenter, Linda Kay Powell, Thelma Winston, Gwendolyn Yates, Jimmie Jones, Louise Ross and Albirda Clay.

Winners of the Excellence Service Award included: Education: HBCU for life, Walter Sheriff; Women's Health and Wellness, Trophia Robinson; Financial Planning, Denise Edwards; The Arts, April Green and Global Impact Coreen Riggs.

Scholarship funds were awarded to Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University and Tougaloo College.

A dynamic group, AKA always strives to improve the quality of life in Vicksburg and neighboring towns. They host health and wellness, financial and educational workshops.





By Kam Williams
Columnist

Holly (Julia Roberts) and Neal (Courtney B. Vance) are raising a family in a quaint country home in upstate New York ostensibly far removed from the sort of woes which plague the inner city. It's Christmas Eve, and we meet Holly in church where she's patiently watching three of her four kids practicing for the Christmas pageant.

However, looks can be deceiving, since missing from the idyllic picture is her eldest child, Ben (Lucas Hedges). For, the troubled 19 year-old has been living at a drug rehab center where he's managed to keep clean for the past 77 days.

But Ben has left the facility without permission to be with the folks over the holidays. And the trouble starts when he breaks into the house when nobody's there

upon his arrival.

Understandably, Holly and Neal have different reactions to Ben's return. She naively welcomes her Prodigal Son with open arms. Meanwhile, his African-American stepdad is very skeptical about allowing the addict to stay, pointing out that, if he were black, he'd probably be in prison rather than a halfway house.

Neal's not only concerned

about the prospect of Ben using again, but about the welfare of Lacey (Mia Fowler) and Liam (Jakari Fraser), his impressionable, young offspring with Holly. By contrast, teenage stepdaughter Ivy (Kathryn Newton) is well aware of Ben's tendency to relapse, and is dead set against an impromptu reunion.

Unfortunately, headstrong Holly gets the final say. Against her better judgment and Ben's

own warning that he can't be trusted, she agrees to a one-day visit. What ensues is a harrowing 24-hour nightmare the gullible mom will come to regret.

Thus unfolds Ben Is Back, a timely cautionary tale written and directed by Peter Hedges (Pieces of April). It stars his son Lucas in the title role opposite Julia Roberts who proves quite convincing as a mom in denial who becomes increasingly frazzled over the

course of the misadventure.

As chilling a depiction of the suburban opioid epidemic as you are apt to find onscreen.

Very Good (3 stars)

Rated R for drug use and pervasive profanity

Running time: 103 minutes

Production Studio: Black Bear Pictures / 30 West / Color Force

Studio: LD Entertainment / Roadside Attractions / Lionsgate

Kam's Kapsules

Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams
Columnist

For movies opening December 21, 2018

Wide Releases

Aquaman (PG-13 for action, violence and some profanity) Jason Momoa stars as the legendary DC character in this origins tale which finds the reluctant superhero forced to face his destiny as king of Atlantis in order to defend the underwater kingdom and the rest of the planet from his power-hungry half-brother (Patrick Wilsson). With Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Dolph Lundgren, Djimon Hounsou and Nicole Kidman.

Ben Is Back (R for drug use and pervasive profanity) Lucas Hedges plays the title character in this coming-of-age drama about a troubled teen who arrives home unexpectedly on Christmas Eve after running away from a drug treatment center. With Julia Roberts, Courtney B. Vance and Kathryn Newton.

Bumblebee (PG-13 for action and violence) Spinoff of the Transformers franchise revolving around the adventures of a young autobot (Dylan O'Brien) resuscitated by an 18 year-old (Hailee Steinfeld) after being found battle-scarred and broken in a junkyard along the California coast. Cast includes John Cena,

Angela Bassett, Len Cariou and Justin Theroux.

The Favourite (R for profanity, nudity and graphic sexuality) Olivia Colman portrays Queen Anne (1665-1714) in this biopic revolving around the bitter battle between the Duchess of Marlborough (Rachel Weisz) and a servant (Emma Stone) for the frail monarch's friendship and affections. With Emma Delves, Faye Daveney and Paul Swaine.

Mary Poppins Returns (PG for mature themes and brief action) Emily Blunt assumes the title role in this musical sequel which finds the magical nanny reunited with the now-grown Michael (Ben Whishaw) and Jane Banks (Emily Mortimer) in the wake of a family tragedy. With Lin-Manuel Miranda, Colin Firth and Meryl Streep.

Second Act (PG-13 for profanity and crude sexual references) Fish-out-of-water comedy about a 40 year-old sales clerk (Jennifer Lopez) who lands a dream job she isn't qualified for with help of a doctored resume. Cast includes Milo Ventimiglia, Vanessa Hudgens and Charlyne Yi.

Welcome to Marwen (PG-13 for violence, profanity, mature themes, disturbing images and suggestive content) Fact-based drama about a transvestite (Steve Carell) left with amnesia after a

violent, bias attack who tries to recover his memory by building a miniature World War II village in his back yard. Support cast includes Janelle Monae, Leslie Mann, Diane Kruger and Eiza Gonzalez. (In English, French and German with subtitles)

Independent & Foreign Films

Cold War (R for sexuality, nudity and profanity) Romance drama, set behind the Iron Curtain in the 1950s, chronicling the unlikely relationship of a celebrated musical director (Tomasz Kot) and an aspiring, young singer (Joanna Kulig) from a humble background. With Borys Szy, Agata Kulesza and Cedric Kahn. (In Polish, French, Russian, German, Italian and Croatian)

Swing Kids (Unrated) Musical drama, set at an American POW camp during the Korean War, revolving around a rebellious prisoner (Oh Jung-Se) who forms a tap dancing team with the help of a guard (Jared Grimes) who once worked on Broadway. Cast includes Ross Kettle, Hye-soo Park and Matthew Darcy. (In Korean with subtitles)

They Shall Not Grow Old (R for graphic images) World War I documentary, directed by Peter Jackson, featuring unseen footage and commemorating the centennial of the conflict.

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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter in collaboration with WJMI & Jackson Police Department Christmas Toy Drive

The Mississippi Link Newswire

December 16, 2018 members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated- Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter in collaboration with WJMI and the Jackson Police Department participated in the Annual Christmas Toy Drive that was held at the Hilton Jackson (County Line Rd). We are grateful to the community for supporting this project that blessed the boys and girls in the Jackson Metropolitan Area.

We want to thank everyone who donated a toy(s) or gave a monetary donation. Because of your generosity, boys and girls in the Jackson Metropolitan Area will enjoy special gifts during this holiday season.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a community conscious service minded organization committed to helping other people excel- through a National Initiative called Z-HOPE.



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BOOK REVIEW:

“DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR!”

BY SHAREE MILLER

C.2018, LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
\$17.99 / \$23.49 CANADA • 40 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

May I have that, please?
That’s what you say when you want something, and people are impressed by your manners. You’re a kid who never just takes, you always ask first because you want the same kind of manners back. But in the new book “Don’t Touch My Hair!” by Sharee Miller, you might have to ask for them, too.

Aria loved her hair.
She loved it because it was bouncy and curly, dark and soft.

She loved it because it grew “up toward the sun like a flower,” and because she could do a whole bunch of different things with it, depending on her mood.

Problem was, everybody else loved her hair, too. And they all wanted to touch it.

Aria knew that people were trying to be nice. They were just curious because they didn’t have hair as bouncy-soft as hers. But nobody ever asked permission before touching, and that was a big problem!

She tried to hide, but they

found her on land. She pretended to be a mermaid but even the ocean’s creatures wanted to touch her hair. The jungle was no better, and someone very large was waiting for her when she hid “in the tallest castle tower.” Not even a trip to the moon helped Aria – even moony creatures were fascinated by fluffy hair. And when she did finally find a spot with no reaching hands, it was a lonely place.

That wouldn’t work at all, so Aria just went home, hoping she could ignore the problem. She

covered her hair with the hood of a sweatshirt but people still wiggled their fingers. Aria was at the end of her rope, and she let go.

She yelled and she screamed and she shook her arms. She stomped and she shouted. And finally, Aria stood up for herself, nicely. Because sometimes, “nicely” gets you what you want.

No. It’s such a simple word: two letters, one sound, one unambiguous meaning. It can be pretty powerful when used in the right situation, and in “Don’t Touch My Hair!” your child will

learn that it’s a perfectly good word to say.

And yet, learning to use “No,” isn’t all your child will get here: this book also conveys deep appreciation for one’s assets, which is doubly important at a time when African-American girls may struggle with curly-hair issues. Author Sharee Miller gives her little heroine total pride in her “soft and bouncy” locks, and that’s contagious. It almost hurts, later on, when Aria physically hides herself.

But back to that word: no.

Through an over-the-top tale, Miller goes on to show that the desire not to be touched casually is a normal wish with a simple solution that won’t chase away friends. The empowerment to put that solution to work is in here, too.

For a child who dislikes handsy people, that’s a game-changer that promotes firm self-preservation, “nicely,” but with the right touch of sass. The 4-to-8-year-old kid who needs “Don’t Touch My Hair!”... shouldn’t she have that?

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD students perform at Hinds Community College in production of POCAHONTAS



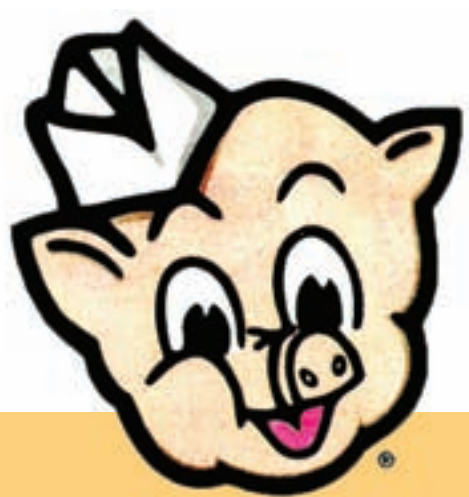
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