

African Americans from electeds to journalists remember President George H.W. Bush



George H.W. and Barbara Bush

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The death of former President George H.W. Bush November 30 was the impetus of much comment and debate on his legacy.

Many kept their tributes to a focus on his incredible military service in World War II. Others focused on the simple fact that, compared to the unprecedented behavior of the current occupant of the White House, Bush represented a more respectful political time.

Several black journalists who worked around him and had a close-up view of the man as an individual, shared memories on social media.

“I am posting some of my images of President George H. W. Bush. I enjoyed a great relationship with both Presidents Bush, who allowed me great access to both the Oval Office and Air Force One. Rest In Peace. You will be missed,” wrote Fred Watkins, a veteran African-American still photographer who has covered the White House for four decades.

Another African-American still photojournalist, Ron Thomas, posted two photos of himself and George H.W. Bush on his Instagram account. One included the former President greeting Thomas with a handshake after an event.

“It’s important to me to join the Bush family in celebrating President George H.W. Bush’s exemplary life. This will unfortunately preclude my visits to Paris and Berlin. I’ve been deeply touched by the enthusiasm for my memoir, and I’m working to reschedule my trip for next year,” wrote former First Lady Michelle Obama on twitter December 2.

Michelle Obama’s book “Becoming” sold over two million copies in fifteen weeks. She is now taking time away from her book tour to attend the former President’s funeral December 5.

But many others wanted to discuss the other side of the legacy of the 41st president. That side included an extension on the war on drugs.

“President George Bush wanted to show America what crack cocaine looked like at his first Oval Office address Sept 5, 1989. He wanted to show you could even buy crack in front of the White House. That’s how bad the crisis had gotten. That’s how Bush announced his War on Drugs,” tweeted Joshua Davis, an assistant professor at the University of Baltimore.

Lisa Biggs, an assistant professor at Brown University, wrote, “SHAME on Fareed Zakaria for allowing James Baker to attribute the fall of apartheid to George Bush. Black people freed themselves, period,” December 2.

“George Bush using the legendarily racist Willie Horton ad, was an example on how white supremacists use one black person as a proxy to represent all black people,” wrote Tariq Nasheed, an anti-racism strategist based in California, on Twitter.

But still others mentioned, “a thousand points of light” and a kindler gentler Republican that is now viewed in stark contrast to what has been witnessed during Trump’s time in office. Trump’s two years has featured xenophobia, a specific racist attack on what Trump defined as “s***hole countries, and two close former advisors, Michael Cohen and Omarosa Manigault, telling reporters that Trump has made openly

Bush

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IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ann Newsome Coleman

May 3, 1926 - November 29, 2018

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.....Ecclesiastes 1-8

Mary Ann Coleman Newsome loved the lyrics to ‘I Just Can’t Afford to Let My Savior Down.’ She transitioned at the age of 92 November 29, 2018 at the Claiborne Medical Center surrounded by family and friends.

Mary Ann was born May 3, 1926 in Pattison, MS to the late Annie and Theodore Newsome. She was the oldest daughter of 11 children born to this union. She was affectionately known as “Mother Coleman.” Mary Ann confessed Christ at an early age and was baptized at Clark Creek Church of Christ Holiness in Pattison, MS. She was married to the late James Coleman for over 30 years.

Mary Ann was an active member of the Church of Christ Holiness U.S. A. for over 60 years. She worked in numerous aux-



Coleman

iliaries in the church to include the Diocese where she served as president of the Christian Willing Working Women. She was actively involved in the church where she loved to do public speaking to uplift the name of Jesus.

She attended Lanier High School in Jackson, MS.

Mary Ann was a homemaker for many years prior to being employed with the County Extension Service for Claiborne Coun-

ty, MS. She would visit homes throughout Claiborne County teaching homemakers how to prepare meals and stretch meals. She would cook wild game competitively and was known and loved for her coon and sweet potatoes.

She was active in the 4-H Club as a youth leader where she was passionate about working with the youth in the community. She made sure that the children were involved in 4-H competitions,

county fairs and that they visited multiple state parks. She established several homemaker clubs in the Claiborne County community.

For many years she was also affectionately known as the “The Avon Lady.” She was a member of the Eastern Star and the Heroines of Jericho until her health failed.

Coleman

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More than 60 national Civil Rights organizations and stakeholders call on Congress to diversify top staff

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, along with more than 60 national civil and human rights organizations and stakeholders, has sent a letter calling on members of Congress to prioritize diversity in hiring top staff.

“The next two months provide an amazing opportunity to address the lack of diversity among top congressional staff, as it is a time of great staff transition when new and returning members will fill hundreds of staff openings,” said Spencer Overton, Joint Center president.

“This is especially true for newly elected members who are building an entire personal office staff, House committee Ranking members who are transitioning to chairs and doubling their committee staff and new committee chairs and ranking members in both chambers who are building their committee staff. New and returning members of Congress must seize this window of opportunity to increase diversity among top and mid-level staff before it closes. Doing so will increase the



Overton

ability of their offices to most effectively understand and represent their constituents back home.”

In addition to calling on members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate to prioritize diversity in

hiring their top staff, the groups called on members to focus on diversity among their key mid-level staff openings that are “feeder” positions to the top staff positions.

The groups also called on mem-

bers to adopt practices that will increase diversity among top staff, such as the Rooney Rule (interviewing at least one person of color for every opening), creating a long term diversity plan with clear goals and unconscious bias training for staff. The groups also pressed members to support chamber-wide efforts to improve staff diversity, such as the establishment of an independent and bipartisan diversity office and disclosure of demographic data of staff.

A total of 67 national organizations and diversity stakeholders signed on to the letter, including the Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, the Human Rights Campaign, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Action Network, the NAACP, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the National Organization of Women (NOW), the National Urban League and UnidosUS.

“This historic incoming Con-

Congress

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Hinds County Human Resource Agency holds IMPACT training



Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds County Human Resource Agency (HCHRA) Project Head Start conducted its “Together, Let’s Make an IMPACT” In-Service Training November 19, at the Jackson Marriott Hotel.

IMPACT is an acronym that stands for integrity, motivation, professionalism, accountability, change and teamwork. Participants received useful information on engaging and

interactive processes during the training that can be readily applied to their daily tasks.

The workshop included training sessions on effective class concepts and strategies, health and safety practices, conflict resolution strategies, best practices for nutrition services and instruction on the Virtual ROMA system as well as the ROMA (results-oriented management and accountability) Cycle.

Several in-service train-

ing sessions are held throughout each school year for Head Start staff, which is part of the agency’s ongoing commitment to ensure that staff is accurately trained and equipped with the tools that provide the best possible environment for children and families who are a part of the Head Start program at HCHRA.

For more information on HCHRA’s Head Start program, or any of its other programs and services, visit www.hchra.org



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Bush

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racist statements.

In contrast, Raynard Jackson, a black Republican, wrote of a positive relationship with Bush and his advisors. Jackson also added, “Because of the Bush family, I am slowly backing away from a lot of political activities simply because relationships seem to mean nothing in today’s political climate. Everything seems to have denigrated into nothing more than transactional relationships; not relationships of substance. This devaluing of relationships is what’s going to be severely missed by the death of 41 and others in his generation.”

Part of what makes the current analysis of the George H.W. Bush’s legacy complicated is that the bar has been lowered by Trump. Against that backdrop, there’s not much about the legacy of the 41st president that is now seen as being all that bad.

A state funeral for the 41st president was held in Washington, D.C, December 5.

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

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Preceding her in death were her parents, Annie and Theodore Newsome; daughter, Gwen Coleman Robinson; son Edward Bernard Coleman; brothers, Miligan Newsome, Chester Newsome, Richard Newsome, James Newsome, and John Newsome; sisters, Annie Hyder, Martha Newsome and Maggie Newsome.

Precious memories of Mary Ann will forever be cherished by her children: Margie (Arthur) Davis, James Wilkes, Augusta McClure and Knox (Mary) Coleman of Port Gibson, MS; Rose (Ronny) Barrett and Homer (Kim) Wilkes of Madison, MS; Wilbert Coleman of Cordova, TN, Eloise Coleman and Lucille (Leo) Collier of Baton Rouge, LA; Thelma Mixon of Denver, CO; Mary Jenkins of Hermanville, MS; brothers, Samuel Newsome of Tucson, AR, Theordore Newsome of Berkeley, CA; 40 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Services will be held December 8, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Mercy Seat Baptist Church, 3169 Hwy 547, Port Gibson, MS. Visitation for family and friends will be December 7, from 5-7 p.m. at Mercy Seat Baptist Church.

Congress

Continued from page 1

gress, with more Latinos, African Americans and women representatives than ever before, has an opportunity to build a new generation of diverse government leadership. With recent votes signaling a new speaker of the house and the election of a new minority leader, we urge Democratic and Republican members alike to reflect on the mandate for diversity that voters expressed in November’s election,” stated Arturo Vargas, chief executive officer, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund.

“Through Staff Up Congress, a national initiative we launched to build a representative congressional workforce, we have seen the incredible talent waiting to be tapped firsthand. We will continue working with members and leadership on both sides of the aisle to help strengthen our democracy through diversity.”

“Diversity and inclusion is a key pillar of National Action Network’s activism. From our pensions diversity campaign to our Madison Avenue Initiative, we know that representation matters,” said Ebonie Riley, Washington, D.C. bureau chief, National Action Network. “We know that embracing the rich diversity of our nation and employing people of color results in better outcomes for all. With the 116th Congress being the most racially diverse in U.S. history, we urge House Leadership to hold Members of Congress accountable to hire senior staff that reflects the diversity of our nation.”

“The tapestry of America is woven from the fabric of many diverse cultures, and as the nation’s lawmaking body, it is up to Congress to not only recognize this country’s diversity but to also embrace it in the people it hires. Better governance will only come from involving diverse perspectives in decision-making,” said John C. Yang, president and executive director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. “Our organization represents Asian Americans who have often been marginalized when it comes to representation in government. Increased diversity in Hill staff would mean that our communities will be better represented, not only in the elected officials we vote for, but in the day-to-day work of congressional staff who help craft the critical policies that impact our communities.”

“Despite the fact that the next Congress will be the most diverse ever, African Americans and other minorities still find it very difficult to work on Capitol Hill. It is even more difficult for staffers of color to rise to senior staff positions,” said Donald Cravins, Jr. Esq., Washington, D.C Bureau executive director, National Urban League, and a former chief of staff in the U.S. Senate. “Members of Congress, especially those who represent diverse districts and states, must be called upon to recruit and promote staffers of color. Such efforts will better serve their constituents and the nation.”

The national letter comes on the heels of groundbreaking Joint Center research on the lack of diversity in Congress. In a September report, the Joint Center found that while people of color account for 38 percent of the U.S. population, they make up only 13.7 percent of all top House staff. In 2015, the Joint Center issued a similar report, Racial Diversity Among Top Senate Staff, which found that people of color accounted for only 7.1 percent of top Senate staffers.

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 WE POWER LIFESM

Windfield tabbed as MVSU's new director of alumni relations



Alford-Windfield

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University's Office of University Advancement has brought on a new director of alumni relations who is familiar with the institution and all things Valley.

Jackson native Kylon T. Alford-Windfield, a 2013 graduate of MVSU, has been tabbed as the director of alumni relations. His primary duties include serving as a liaison between University administration, the National Alumni Association, area chapters and alumni of the institution.

He officially began his new role Nov. 1.

Windfield said he's humbled and excited to serve in this capacity at his alma mater.

"I am honored to have been chosen to be the new director. To have the opportunity to work in this capacity with a university that means the world to me is truly a blessing," he said.

Dameon Shaw, MVSU's interim vice-president of advancement, said bringing Windfield aboard should provide a boost of energy to the department.

"We are excited to add Kylon to our team. With his experience in admissions and having to deal with both students and parents, he brings a fresh perspective which should allow us to move the Office of Alumni Relations in a strong direction," said Shaw.

Windfield said he hopes

to help improve efficiency in key areas of the office while maintaining the same welcoming culture that was established by the previous director, Willie Young, who retired in June.

"My objective for the Office of Alumni Relations is to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan that increases alumni engagement and participation," he said.

"I plan to work collaboratively with the Office of Communications and Marketing to rebrand alumni publications, fundraising and soliciting tactics that will keep 'Valley in motion,'" Windfield added.

Windfield said he also plans to increase contributions from alumni and university stakeholders.

"Currently, I am working to design innovative approaches to encourage millennials to become active alumni," he said.

Before joining the Office of University Advancement, Windfield served in MVSU's Office of Admissions and Recruitment for three years. Prior to that, he worked briefly at Rust College in Holly Springs.

He believes the skill set he gained while working in admissions will transfer well in his new role.

"Being that I have experience in admissions, I completely understand the importance of maintaining a relationship with alumni and creating new relationships with prospective students," he said.

Heart-liver transplant – one for UMMC history

UMMC

Davis Beasley had no inkling his heart was on borrowed time until he passed out at work, which happened to be the oil well he was helping to drill that day.

"They took me to the local ER, and they said I had an irregular heartbeat," said Beasley, 48, a resident of Millry, Alabama, population 510. "It went from there."

That was almost a decade ago. On Nov. 15, he made history at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where a transplant team replaced his damaged heart, which had strained his liver to the point that it, too, was barely functioning.

Minutes after giving him a donor heart, a second transplant team placed a new liver into Beasley's abdomen, making him the medical center's first combined heart-liver recipient. It's a rare procedure that latest data from the United Network for Organ Sharing shows has been completed just 35 other times nationally this year.

The transplant surgeons were Dr. Christopher Anderson, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of the Abdominal and Transplant Division; Dr. Mark Earl, professor of abdominal transplant surgery; Dr. Brian Kogon, professor of pediatric and congenital heart surgery; and Dr. Hannah Copeland, assistant professor of cardiothoracic surgery.

Dr. Larry Creswell, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery, removed the donor heart; Dr. Felicitas Koller, assistant professor of transplant surgery, removed the donor liver.

Anderson and Earl led the liver team; Kogon and Copeland led the heart team. Kogon has performed one other combined heart-liver transplant and one combined heart-liver-kidney transplant, both at Emory University.

"The liver team and the heart team at UMMC had to mature to the point where they felt confident in taking on something like this," said Anderson, who was recruited to UMMC in August 2011 with a mission: Bring back the liver transplant program following a 20-year hiatus, and build an abdominal transplant team to keep that momentum going.

The surgery also was made possible by a skillful anesthesia team, one for each organ transplanted; a stellar OR support team; and excellent work by the abdominal and heart transplant coordinators and intensive care and nursing support teams, Anderson said. "Our operating room capabilities are at the point where we can do this, and do this well," he said.

The combined transplant is most often performed on patients with end-stage liver and cardiac failure, or for certain patients who have a genetic condition that can cause heart failure and can be cured with a liver transplant. The two organs almost always come from the same donor. So far this year, just 14 other hospitals have performed one or more simultaneous heart-liver transplants, UNOS says.

The first heart-liver transplant was performed in 1984 on a 6-year-old girl who survived for 10 weeks. Survival rates have skyrocketed since then, with a one-year rate of greater than 80 percent and a 10-year rate of greater than 70 percent, a 2016 national transplant study showed.

Between 1992 and this year to date, 269 heart-liver transplants have been performed, UNOS reports. Nationwide, there were 18 in 2016 and 29 in 2017.

Beasley's heart condition is called arrhythmogenic right ven-



Davis Beasley, center, visits with members of his transplant teams, from left, Dr. Mark Earl and Dr. Christopher Anderson, liver; and Dr. Brian Kogon and Dr. Hannah Copeland, heart.



Beasley poses with the surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, operating room support staff, abdominal and heart transplant coordinators, intensive care staff and others who helped make his heart-liver transplant a success.

tricular dysplasia. It's a rare disease, sometimes inherited. "Scar tissue forms in the right ventricle and prevents the heart from pumping properly," Kogon said.

Beasley deteriorated to the point that "his medical options were exhausted," Kogon said. "The next step is a transplant."

The dad of two "wasn't a candidate to have a transplant of either organ without the other," Anderson said.

Anderson began caring for Beasley more than a year ago for his liver issues. His cardiologists are Dr. Craig Long, associate professor of cardiology and Dr. Charles Moore, professor of cardiology. "He was being followed for his heart failure at that point, and as it progressed, it became clear that he wouldn't survive without a transplant of both organs," Anderson said. "Both transplant teams agreed."

But first, surgeons had to get him well enough to get through the double transplant. Beasley was in a wheelchair when he saw Copeland a year ago for his heart issues, "and he was completely jaundiced. He was yellow," she said. "I said, 'He needs a heart-liver.'"

Copeland, who completed a heart and lung transplant and mechanical circulatory fellowship at Indiana University, said Beasley's medical team optimized his medications to improve his heart function enough to withstand surgery. Beasley went on the transplant list in spring 2018.

He had no qualms. "I trusted them," he said of his surgeons. "I wanted to continue living. I wanted to do what was necessary to save my life. I got to where I couldn't walk sometimes, or get out of bed. The week before the surgery, it was pretty rough."

The eight-hour procedure began at 6:30 a.m. The teams worked in tandem to transplant first the heart, and then the liver. "You had two heart surgeons, two liver surgeons, the heart team, the liver team, the anes-

thesiology team, the nurses and other assistants," Anderson said. "Each team had some of its residents and students."

"Even in our biggest OR here, it was a tight squeeze," he said. "But it was very coordinated. We followed the strategy that we all followed at our prior institutions, with the heart transplant going first."

"That transplant is finished, and the patient comes off cardiopulmonary bypass. Then, we proceed to the liver transplant. Once that's done, the heart team comes back and looks at the chest to make sure there is no bleeding and makes a decision about closing the chest. Then, the liver team comes back."

The transplanted heart and liver had immediate good function, Anderson said. "The time it took was probably a little quicker than normal for a heart and liver together, but it's certainly indicative of the smooth operations and coordination by the teams."

The organs came from the same donor, but it was more important that the heart be suited to the size of Beasley's chest than the liver be a perfect fit into his abdomen. "This is a prime example of the positive effect that organ donation can have," Anderson said. "The difference that one donor can make is huge, and I am always humbled to see patients like Mr. Beasley improve because of this gift of life."

Almost two weeks after his surgery, Beasley walked – his own choice – from his intensive care room to a bed on the cardiovascular care hospital floor. "It's getting better every day," he said of how he feels with his new organs. "I've just got to get through all this."

Beasley has received the directions that all transplant recipients receive in order to steer clear of infection and germs: Avoid crowds and places where large groups gather, like shopping malls or churches. Wash your hands, and ask those around you to wash theirs, too.

"We always tell them to tell people that they can't hug and kiss on you," Anderson said. "We never want someone to be locked in their home, or live in a bubble, but we do educate them on the proper processes. We want them to live their lives smartly."

A number of UMMC milestones have followed the 2013 jump-start of the abdominal transplant program: the first transplant of both a pancreas and a kidney in 2013; the first transplant of an isolated pancreas in 2014; in 2015, the 50th liver transplant since Anderson's arrival; and a record number of transplants in each of kidney, liver and heart in 2016.

In June, the transplant teams together performed UMMC's first heart-kidney transplant, with the organs being transplanted into the same recipient one day apart.

Although 2018 might not surpass 2016 on total transplants, it's already been the busiest year for livers – 42 through Nov. 21. All told, the medical center has transplanted 188 livers since 2013.

The history-making of the heart-liver transplant "is another example of us following up on the vision that Mississippi patients in need of a transplant shouldn't have to leave the state for expert care," Anderson said. "I'm glad we reached this milestone. I had no doubt that we would. But, it boils down to the transplant team we've built, the transplant coordinators, the OR teams and hospital administration. We have confidence in them."

Said Kogon: "A heart transplant alone is a monster operation. A liver transplant is a monster operation. A combination of the two is huge. For our program to accomplish that is pretty special."

For Beasley, the transplant boils down to two people: his daughters.

"They are the real reason I did this," he said. "I wanted to be there for them. I wanted to show them that I love them."

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Braves win first SWAC competition ever held on the Alcorn State University campus

Alcorn State University • December 1, 2018 • Lorman, MS

PHOTOS BY DR. JERRY KOMIA DOMATOB

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

Alcorn State University made history as they won the first Southwest Athletic conference (SWAC) competition ever held in Lorman, Mississippi with head coach Fred McNair and star Alcorn quarterback, Noah Johnson. Alcorn won 37-28.

A capacity crowd of over 5,000 fans, friends, families and even foes, converged on the Alcorn State University campus, Saturday, 12/1/18, where they witnessed the star-studded event.

Alcorn State University (9-3, 6-1) heads for the Celebration Bowl at the Georgia Dome December 15. Alcorn's Brave will tackle North Carolina A&T for the second time since the bowl's inception in 2015. The first time, the Braves lost to A&T (34-41).

Alcorn State University's Braves trounced Southern University's Jaguars (7-4, 6-1) in a tense and terse match. Attendees were spellbound by the game's flow and rhythm. After what seemed like a lost battle for the Braves, the tide turned in their favor as they battled and won the first SWAC campus championship competition.

Southern University, Baton Rouge, raised the curtain with a swift and efficient attack orchestrated by quarterback Ladarius Skelton. That placed the Jaguars 7 points ahead. However, the shock did not shatter Alcorn. Rather, they recollected themselves and answered back with seven points on the score board. Alcorn then leapt ahead. No sooner had they settled than Southern responded with another goal, increasing their score tally.

A remarkably interesting match, both teams put up an impressive show as they ran, intensified their offensive assault and mounted a fierce defense. Both teams fumbled occasionally. However, they also exhibited excellence in their passing game and overall performance.

Another splendid facet of the match was the fan support from the two teams. The campus, and to some degree Lorman, transformed into a loud and congested megacity of cars, tents, family, food, fun and friends. Music boomed. Sororities, fraternities and other associations met, danced and exchanged views. Sumptuous barbecue dominated the campus. While some folks chatted, served meals and communicated, others chanted, sang, clapped and cheered their teams.

Important dignitaries from the state and elsewhere also graced the occasion. Both the Mississippi Commissioner, Institute of Higher Learning, Alcorn alumni Dr. Alfred Rankins Jr. and SWAC President Dr. McCullum graced the event with their presence.

They converged at the podium at the game's end, where the victory trophy was presented to Alcorn Braves coach McNair. The experienced and talented McNair, who graduated from Alcorn State University and was the quarterback, praised the team for playing with undaunted determination and expressed his appreciation to Alcornites, the school administration and above all, faithful fans who turned out en masse to encouraged them.

Another uplifting dimension of the game was the performance of the two bands. Both orchestras which played with virtuoso are among the best in the country. They elevated peoples' spirit with their vibrant musical selection and instruments. Their expertise in playing trumpets, trombones, clarinets, saxophones, flutes and drums was spectacular. The bands' rhythm and harmony along with their moves, steps and overall entertainment was stupendous.

In summary, SWAC scored a big A in organizing this event at Alcorn State University. Furthermore, supporters' motivation, attendance and myriad activities made the day special. The game, meetings, planning sessions and fiesta made it an event which deserves a repeat.

Jerry Komia Domatob, a graduate of E.W. Scripps of Journalism, Ohio University, is a professor of mass communication at Alcorn State University. He earned Master's degrees in International Affairs and Journalism from Carleton University, Ottawa Canada. A journalist, photographer, poet and researcher, he is currently working on two projects. His latest publications are: Communication, Culture & Human Rights and Positive Vibration. You may Contact him at domatobj@gmail.com



Better Together Commission releases report from study of Jackson Public Schools

Mississippi Link Newswire

On November 29, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Jackson Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba, the Jackson Public School District (JPS) and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, in conjunction with the Better Together Commission, released findings from the student-centered study of the district.

The release of the in-depth report, conducted over nine months by Insight Education Group, marks a significant milestone in the process that began over a year ago when this group of partners opted for a “third way” to support transformative change for the state’s second largest school district. The study, along with a diverse range of community engagement activities, focused on identifying the assets and opportunities that can be leveraged to ensure every JPS student receives an excellent education.

“As governor, I am committed to providing a world-class learning environment for all school children in Mississippi. The recommendations in this report provide a solid foundation on which the Jackson Public Schools can continue the process of improving the educational outcomes for its children,” said Bryant. “As a partner with the City of Jackson, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Jackson Public Schools, I will do everything in my power to support the school improvement efforts needed to provide the learning environment all children deserve.”

The findings are informed by a review of previous reports and a deeper analysis of the district, including an examination of student achievement data; attendance and behavior; district staffing; school scheduling; classroom instruction leadership capacity; instructional coaching; professional development; student supports; and district finances. In addition to a comprehensive set of recommendations, the report outlines several assets the district can build upon to be a model for change, including ambitious students, caring staff, dedicated leadership and invested community support.

“We have an opportunity before us to not only transform the public education system of Jackson, Mississippi but to provide a model for the rest of the country to subscribe to,” said Lumumba. “We believe that the only way to have a truly successful educational system is to have strategic partners in both the city, the state, philanthropic support of people and institutions like the Kellogg Foundation, and lastly, but



most importantly, the parents and the students themselves in the community. Through those partnerships, we believe that we can truly execute something amazing for the city of Jackson.”

The findings shared closely align with much of what the commission learned early in the process – teacher quality, teacher supports, district leadership and college and career readiness are critically important to improving student achievement in JPS.

“One of the things that is clear from these findings and from our conversations with the community is that we have a multitude of assets and opportunities we can use to improve how we serve students and support parents,” said Errick Greene, JPS superintendent. “We have a wealth of information we can use to prioritize and plan for the future – a future we can only achieve if everyone in the community remains invested in the success of our students and our schools.”

Some of the findings and recommendations from the report include:

Organizational Structure: The district should focus on defining and communicating its mission, vision and goals, as well as revisiting its organizational structure to serve those goals and improve teaching and learning in schools.

Core Instruction: JPS needs to develop a systematic process for continuous improvement that will ensure there are clear, rigorous expectations for teachers, and support the consistent delivery of standards-based instruction. These changes will help improve student achievement and align district assessments with statewide standards.

Exceptional Education and Struggling Students: The district’s current approach to exceptional education and struggling students is not meeting the needs of students with the greatest need. Standardizing the support for struggling students across all schools will help the district improve support for students over time.

Talent Management: Currently, there is not a rigorous and consistently

implemented evaluation plan in place for the district, which makes it difficult to link staff performance with student achievement data or other measures. The district should consider revising its principal supervisor model; increasing the capacity of its educators; developing a robust plan for recruitment and retention; and codifying expectations for performance at all levels through an accountability system based on the instruction framework.

Finances: Over the years, declining enrollment across the system has resulted in less money. Next steps will require tough decisions and trade-offs.

Over the course of the year, thousands of Jackson residents weighed in to share their hopes and aspirations for their children’s education and how to strengthen JPS to achieve those aspirations. The commission conducted several multi-faceted community engagement events to hear from all pockets of the city, including two youth summits, a series of stakeholder meetings, a family literacy event at the Jackson Zoo, and canvassing households across the city.

Along with the recently released report, this data when finalized will help Greene, district leadership and community partners develop a comprehensive plan of action to ensure all students graduate high school ready for college or careers.

“For Jackson’s children to thrive in school, their families and neighbors need the chance to envision a brighter future for students with people from every sector of the community,” said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the Kellogg Foundation. “We entered this partnership to support that process. The findings of these studies, and the other insights from parents and young people, are a powerful foundation for Superintendent Errick Greene and the community to move forward.”

With the study of the district complete and input gathered from a diverse cross-section of the community, the commission has met its goals outlined in the MOU. Detailed findings from the community engagement efforts will be released in early 2019.

After November 29, the commission will shift its focus to provide support for Greene and the JPS Board of Trustees as they work closely with the community and district staff to develop a strategic operating plan based on the findings of the study and community engagement process.

Hardwood Hero of the Week for November 26



Daeshun Ruffin

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS TODD, THE CLARION LEDGER

Mississippi Link Newswire

Daeshun Ruffin of Callaway High School is the Hardwood Hero of the Week for November 26. Ruffin is a 5-9 sophomore guard for the Callaway Chargers. He averaged 20 points in games against Memphis East and Huntsville high schools.

Circle B will donate \$120 in Smith’s name to the WJMI Circle B Brand Foods JPS High School Basketball Fund.

At the end of the season, one nominated player will be randomly selected to receive \$1,800 for their high school basketball program.

JPS selecting firms, awarding contracts for bond projects

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS Facilities and Operations issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Statements of Interest October 2, 2018, to architectural and engineering firms that may be interested in rendering professional design services for the 2018 Bond Construction Program. The response was impressive. Over 45 architects and engineers attended a pre-submittal conference October 11. Subsequently, 18 firms submitted RFQs and Statements of Interest. The District has begun the selection process and is presently issuing contracts.

The District will continue making architectural and engineering selec-



Jackson Public Schools

tions for Phase I of the upcoming Bond Construction Program, which is set to start in January. Construction activities are expected to begin in mid-January at various school locations. Phase I will consist of approximately 120 projects.

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

Member:

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Hinds CC PTA students volunteer at benefit



The second-year students who participated are, front from left, Ladrekia Culbert of Fayette, Nikki Vaughn of Crystal Springs, Danielle Smith of Clinton, Kelsey Nowell of Louisville, Emily Floyd of Brookhaven, Blake Ballard of Flowood, Bill Zaremba of Florence, Ashlynn Walker of Magee, Isaiah Weathersby of Flowood, Zane Warren of Byram; back row from left, Lizzy Oliver of Flowood, Destin Price of Byram, Caroline Bankston of Terry, Paige Summers of Midland, Mich., Miriam Johnson of Ridgeland, Victoria Massey of Canton, Evan Bauer of Corinth, Taylor Little of Crystal Springs, Lionel Lee of Isola and Katelyn Seeley of Ridgeland.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College second-year physical therapist assistant students volunteered for the Oct. 27 Laps for Little Ones event benefitting The Little Light House of Central Mississippi.

The Little Light House offers a tuition free early intervention program for children birth to six consisting of intensive therapeutic care and cognitive remediation.

As Mississippi’s largest com-

munity college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and

technical programs teaching 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.

Hinds CC Foundation scholarships available for 2019-20

The Mississippi Link Newswire

New or current students who want to apply for a Hinds Community College Foundation Scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year have until Feb. 15, 2019, to turn in their complete application packets.

About 85 percent of students at Hinds receive financial aid of some kind. Through the generosity of donors, the Hinds Community College Foundation awards scholarships to more than 600 students each year ranging from \$300 to \$2,400. The foundation manages nearly 300 scholarship

funds.

The application process for Foundation Scholarships is easy. Students can access the required forms on the college web site at www.hindscc.edu/foundation-scholarship.

Unless otherwise indicated, foundation scholarships are awarded to full-time students who enroll in a minimum of 15 credit hours. Minimum grade point average varies per foundation scholarship; however all applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above. Students wishing to be

considered for scholarships on the basis of financial need should have the results of their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) sent to Hinds CC prior to the Feb. 15 deadline.

Foundation scholarship candidates must submit all required documentation to the Office of Enrollment Services, P.O. Box 1100, Raymond, MS 39154 for consideration. Scholarship decisions are generally made in early April and are awarded for the fall semester.

For questions, please call 601.857.3744 or email scholarships@hindscc.edu.

[ships@hindscc.edu](mailto:scholarships@hindscc.edu).

Persons interested in providing scholarships may contact Robyn Burchfield, foundation specialist, at 601.857.3800.

Another scholarship opportunity for high school seniors is the ACT scholarship. ACT scholarships range from \$1,000-\$3,000 per semester. Students who attend Hinds as their first college after high school graduation will automatically receive an ACT scholarship if they have a 21 or above on the ACT. Eligible recipients must also be a Mississippi resident.



Welch

Alcorn alumna, Kanika Welch makes a difference abroad

By Justus Reed
The Mississippi Link Newswire

An Alcorn State University alumna recently returned to the United States after completing international service work in Africa.

Kanika Welch, a Jackson, Mississippi native who earned a bachelor’s degree from Alcorn in 2008 recently completed a two-year Peace Corps Service as a teacher trainer in the West African country of Gambia.

Welch’s work included an intensive 10-week pre-service training encompassing over 160 hours of formal language instruction, almost 150 hours of common areas such as the introduction of development, safety and security, health training and cross-

cultural skills. Welch built the instructional and administrative capacity of nine teachers and one administrator. She conducted numerous workshops to train teachers as well.

Welch enjoyed her experience and looks forward to helping others in the future.

“I am passionate about helping others reach their next level, and I believe that there are limitless pathways to success and opportunities for learning all around us,” stated Welch.

Upon completion, Welch was congratulated by the U.S. Ambassador for her work.

Welch credits this experience for giving her an unquenchable desire to use her skills and creative gifts to better the quality of life for others.

MDE announces meeting dates to gather public input for statewide career and technical education plan

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education announced recently a schedule of public meetings for the Mississippi Succeeds Career and Technical Education Listening Tour to gather public feedback for Mississippi’s plan to meet the requirements of the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act. The law reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins CTE Act of 2006 and is referred to as Perkins V.

Perkins V aims to increase access to high-quality CTE programs that meet the changing needs of students and employers. The MDE and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB), with assistance from the Mississippi State University Research and Curriculum Unit, will develop the plan to implement the law.

“This listening tour is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on the state’s plan to prepare students for success in their chosen careers while meeting the needs of Mississippi employers,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “We want to hear from a diverse range of stakeholders, including educators, parents, students and business and industry representatives.”

The statewide tour will allow stakeholders and planners to discuss key tenants of the new law, including:

Requiring extensive collaboration among state- and local-secondary, postsecondary and business and industry partners to develop and implement high-quality CTE programs;

Introducing a needs assessment to align CTE programs to locally identified, in-demand, high-growth, and high-wage career fields;

Strengthening CTE teacher and faculty pipelines, especially in hard-to-fill program areas like Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM);

Promoting innovative practices to reshape where, how, and to whom CTE is delivered;

Expanding the reach and scope of career guidance and academic counseling; and

Shifting responsibility to states to evaluate program quality and optimize student outcomes.

States are expected to see more autonomy and flexibility when administering their CTE programs under the new law, which goes into effect July 1, 2019. The law is also expected to help students more efficiently advance through CTE curriculum, create opportunities and access for historically underserved students in rural and low-income areas, and streamline efficiency and funding.

The schedule of statewide meetings is as follows:

Date	Location	Time
December 6, 2018	Hattiesburg High School Multipurpose Room 301 Hutchinson Avenue Hattiesburg, MS	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
December 10, 2018	Blount High School Library 1845 Tribe Drive Blount, MS 39532	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
December 11, 2018	Tupelo High School Media Center 4125 Golden Wave Drive Tupelo, MS 38801	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
December 13, 2018	DeSoto County School District – Board Room 5 East South Street Hernando, MS 38632	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
January 8, 2019	Hinds CC Muse Center 515 Country Place Parkway Pearl, MS 39208	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
January 10, 2019	Greenwood School District Career and Technical Center 616 Sycamore Avenue Greenwood, MS 38939	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
January 17, 2019	McComb High School Cafeteria 310 7th Street McComb, MS 39648	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Updates about the Mississippi Succeeds Career and Technical Education Plan will be posted on the MDE website: <https://www.mdek12.org/SSE/PerkinsV>

About MDE

The MDE seeks to create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and in the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens. To make this vision a reality, all students must be given multiple pathways to success, and teachers

and administrators must continue to meet the challenges of this ever-changing landscape of public education.

About MCCB

The MCCB shall foster an environment of excellence to promote world-class education and job training for a more prosperous Mississippi. The mission of the agency is to advance the community college system through coordination, support, leadership, leadership, and advocacy. For additional information, please visit www.mccb.edu.



Rural Mississippians deserve internet service the same as anyone else

By Brandon Presley
Public Service Commissioner

Ask any elected official in Mississippi if people living in rural areas deserve the same quality of life as people living in cities and you will probably get a quick “yes” but, that isn’t what current state policy says. Internet service has become a necessity for modern life, but far too many Mississippians live in the “digital dark,” lacking access to affordable, reliable internet service. Because they lack internet service, many of our people cannot compete for jobs, take online courses, access telehealth services or even simply browse the internet.

Mississippi has lost population over the past several years and we have learned recently that millennials are leaving Mississippi at a faster pace than any other state. Young people will not stay in a place where they are unplugged from the rest of the world because they lack internet service. If you doubt this is an issue, drive by your local fast food restaurant and take a look at people sitting in their cars doing homework using wireless internet provided by the business. The lack of affordable, reliable and adequate internet service in Mississippi is a crisis and is one that we had better fix, if we want our children and grandchildren to stay here.

In the 1930s, electricity was to rural people what high-speed internet service is today. Back then, electricity was changing lives and opening opportunities for those who had it and rapidly closing the door on those did not. At that time, rural Mississippi was literally in the dark. Rural people had no electricity, cooked on wood stoves, washed clothes on scrub boards, hand-pumped water from wells and studied by candlelight.

Out of pure determination, Mississippi created the model that electrified America.

In 1934, a group of citizens gathered in McPeters Furniture Store in Corinth and decided to do whatever it took to “bring the lights” to rural Alcorn County. They formed Alcorn Electric Power Association, the very first electric cooperative in the country. The idea quickly spread and the people of Pontotoc, Lee and Prentiss Counties came together to fix the lack of electricity in their communities and soon the rest of America followed.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt modeled parts of the New Deal on what was called “The Corinth Experiment.” Rural America got electricity thanks to Mississippi. Fixing our own problems is in the DNA of Mississippians. In 2018, we should use the same Mississippi spirit that brought electricity to rural households to bring high-speed internet



Presley

service to rural people.

In every state bordering Mississippi, and across the nation, electric cooperatives owned by the people, are bringing affordable, high-speed internet service to their members. Fiber-to-the-home internet service through rural electric cooperatives is happening in almost every state, but Mississippi. Currently, several electric cooperatives in our state want to provide internet service to their people and many more have conducted studies to look into the idea. Sadly, a 1942 state law is handcuffing them from providing internet service. This summer, the statewide association of electric cooperatives voted unanimously to ask legislators to change that law. This is a simple fix that could save our rural communities, keep our children and grandchildren home and change the future of our state.

Earlier in November, the association of electric cooperatives presented the “Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act” to legislators. This proposed change in state law does not take one penny from the state treasury and doesn’t prohibit any other telecommunications company from providing internet service anywhere. The proposed law gives rural Mississippi a chance to get the internet service they desperately need and it un-cuffs the hands of the electric cooperatives to improve the quality of life of their people. It is no mandate and asks for no money. It is an example of free market competition.

Rural Mississippians deserve the same quality of life as anyone else. I hope passing the “Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act” will be a top priority for the Legislature in 2019. Improving the quality of life in our rural areas should be a top priority for Democrats, Republicans and everyone in between. It is time to bring high-speed internet service to every dirt and dusty road in Mississippi. It is time to bring rural Mississippi out of the “digital dark.”

Brandon Presley is the chairman of the Public Service Commission and represents the state’s northern 33 counties.

Secretary of State’s office serves as resource for charity information

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippians donating to those in need this holiday season can research critical financial and other information about charities on the Secretary of State’s website.

“Our citizens are the most giving in the nation, and many choose to donate this time of year,” Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann said. “We want to be a resource to make sure those generous donations reach those who need them and are not subject to fraud.”

Consumer organizations recommend at least 65 percent of a charity’s

total expenses be spent on program activities directly related to the charity’s purpose.

Charities soliciting funds in Mississippi must be registered with the Secretary of State’s Office. Each year, the agency publishes a Report on Charitable Organizations in Mississippi. The report outlines the financial information of charities registered in the state, including the percentage of charitable funds actually spent by a charity for its charitable purpose.

For more information, call the Charities Division at (601) 359-1599 or visit www.sos.ms.gov/charities.

STATE

Horseshoe Tunica is giving away a 2019 Audi A5 Cabriolet and has a jackpot of other promotions

Mississippi Link Newswire

Horseshoe Tunica announces a December to celebrate as they give away a 2019 Audi A5 Cabriolet. Other promotions include Saturday Hot Seats, Mystery Reward Credit Multiplier, Vision VR Headset Giveaway, and a world-class lineup of entertainment featuring Tower of Power, Steve Earle & The Dukes, Ally presents JEWEL’S Holiday Handmade Tour and The Four Tops.

Horseshoe Tunica will host the New Year, New Car Giveaway. Guests will earn one (1) entry for every twenty-five (25) Tier Credits earned from 4:00 a.m. Saturday, December 1 through 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 1. All guests can earn ten times (10X) bonus entries Fridays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2018. Guests can also earn twenty times (20X) entries Monday, December 31. Guests may activate all entries and receive one (1) free from 4:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, January 1, 2019. Ten (10) winners will be chosen at 7 p.m. where nine (9) guests will Free Slot Play and one (1) winner will win a 2019 Audi A5 Cabriolet.

Saturday Hot Seats

Horseshoe Tunica will host the chance to win a share of Free Slot Play & Mystery Gifts each Saturday in December during our Saturday Hot Seat Drawings Saturdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018. Guests who are actively playing from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018 will be eligible to win.

Every thirty minutes guests who are actively playing on the randomly selected bank of machines will win a Free Slot Play or Mystery Gift prize. All guests can win multiple times. Drawing times will be at: 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 9:30 p.m. & 10 p.m. All Hot Seat Winners will also receive one hundred (100) bonus entries into the New Year, New Car Giveaway that will be held Tuesday, January 1 at 7 p.m.

Mystery reward credit multiplier

Horseshoe Tunica will host the Mystery Reward Credit Multiplier Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays in December. Dates are: December 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27. To be eligible guests must activate their Total Rewards Card by swiping at the promotional kiosks. Possible multiplier includes three (3) times, five (5) times and one hundred (100) times. All Video Poker play will receive a three (3) times multiplier.

Vision VR Headset Giveaway

Horseshoe Tunica will host a gift giveaway where guests can receive a Vision VR Headset. Guests who earn two-hundred (200) Tier Credits from 4 a.m. Friday, December 21 until 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 22 will be eligible to receive a Vision VR Headset. Gifts can be picked up at the promotions counter from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. either Friday, December 21 or Saturday, December 22. One per guest, while supplies last.

\$5,000 Drawing

All Total Rewards members can participate in this event. Guests will receive one (1) entry into the drawing for every one-hundred (100) Tier Credits earned between play at Horseshoe Tunica and Tunica Roadhouse from Saturday, December 1 until Monday, December 31, 2018. Guests can earn their entries during the entire month of December. At the end of the month five guests will each win \$1,000 in Free Slot Play. Guests will need to activate all entries from Monday, December 24 at 4:00 a.m. and Monday, December 31 at noon to be eligible. Winners will be chosen Monday, December 31 and be notified via email. Winners do not need to be present to win.

December Entertainment At Bluesville Showcase Nightclub features Tower of Power’s 50th Anniversary Tour.

American R&B Band Tower of Power performs live Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$22 plus taxes and fees and are available at Ticketmaster.com through this



NEW YEAR. NEW CAR.

AUDI A5 CABRIOLET

DECEMBER 1 – JANUARY 1, 2019

EARNING

Receive one entry for every 25 Tier Credits earned
4am, December 1 - 6:45pm, January 1

10X EARNED ENTRIES

Fridays in December 7, 14, 21 & 28

20X EARNED ENTRIES

Monday, December 31

BONUS ENTRIES

Receive 50 bonus entries when you visit us and accept the offer through the play by Total Rewards app.

SATURDAYS

HOT SEATS | Every 30 Minutes | 6pm - 10pm
You could win a share of \$5,000 in holiday gifts and Free Slot Play.
Plus, each winner will receive 100 bonus entries into the Finale Car Drawing.

FINALE CAR DRAWING

Tuesday, January 1
Activation | 4pm - 6:45pm | Promotional Kiosks
Drawing | 7pm | Main Casino Entrance



Vehicle shown is for advertising purposes only and may not be actual vehicle won. Official rules available at Casino Services. Must be 21 years or older to gamble or attend Casino. Know When To Stop Before You Start! Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4673. ©2018, Horseshoe Gaming Company, LLC. All rights reserved.

link: <http://bit.ly/towerofpowertickets>. Guests 18 and older are admitted if accompanied by an adult 21 years-of-age or older.

Information from www.towerofpower.com:

“Tower of Power – the most dynamic and distinctive band of survivors in soul music – is roaring into its unprecedented 50th anniversary with a dynamic album of all new material.

A labor of love, definitively titled Soul Side of Town, this package is charged with 14 filler-free songs. As always, the songs on Tower of Power’s Soul Side of Town were primarily composed by the hit-making team of founding members Emilio Castillo and Stephen “Doc” Kupka who also hold down the world famous 5-man Tower of Power Horns.”

Steve Earle & The Dukes Copperhead Road 30th Anniversary

Country artist Steve Earle and his long-time band, The Dukes, perform live Friday, December 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$33.50 plus taxes and fees and are available at Ticketmaster.com through this link: <http://bit.ly/steveearleandthedukestickets>. Guests 18 and older are admitted if accompanied by an adult 21 years-of-age or older.

Information from www.steveearle.com:

“Steve Earle has turned many musical corners during his illustrious career. He has been equally acclaimed as a folk troubadour, a rockabilly raver, a contemplative bluesman, a honky-tonk rounder, a snarling rocker and even a bluegrass practitioner. This definitive Americana artist has won three Grammy Awards, for 2005’s The Revolution Starts Now, 2008’s Washington Square Serenade and 2010’s Townes.

Earle has collaborated on recordings with such superb talents as Sheryl Crow, The Indigo Girls, The Pogues, Lucinda Williams Shawn Colvin, Patti Smith, Chris Hillman, The Fairfield

Four and The Del McCoury Band. His songs have been used in more than fifty films and have been recorded by such legends as Johnny Cash, Emmylou Harris, Joan Baez, Carl Perkins, Vince Gill and Waylon Jennings (who recorded Earle’s “The Devil’s Right Hand” twice).

Earle is backed on the new album by his long time band The Dukes (guitarist Chris Masterson, fiddle player Eleanor Whitmore, bassist Kelly Looney, and new members drummer Brad Pemberton and pedal steel player Ricky Ray Jackson).”

Ally presents JEWEL’S Holiday Handmade Tour

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter JEWEL’S fan favorite Ally present JEWEL’S Holiday Handmade Tour returns Friday, December 21 at 8 p.m. for a one of a kind tour, performing holiday classics, holiday originals and classic Jewel songs alongside special guests and family members Atz, Atz Lee and Nikos Kilcher (Alaska: The Last Frontier). Tickets start at \$47 plus taxes and fees and are available at Ticketmaster.com through this link: <http://bit.ly/jewelshandmadetourtickets>. Guests 18 and older are admitted if accompanied by an adult 21 years-of-age or older.

The Four Tops

R&B Band The Four Tops hit the stage Saturday, December 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$24.50 plus taxes and fees and are available at Ticketmaster.com through this link: <http://bit.ly/TheFourTopsTickets>. Guests 18 and older are admitted if accompanied by an adult 21 years-of-age or older.

Information from www.rockhall.com:

“United by their friendship and a love of music, the Four Tops stuck together for forty years. Mix their classy, polished vocals with the brilliant songwriting of Holland-Dozier-Holland at Motown Records and you have an unstoppable hit machine.”

Give us all of the Bush record

By Richard Prince
TriceEdneyWire.com

The death of almost any president is an occasion for glowing tributes, the challenge being to tell the truth without offending sensibilities. And including the sensibilities of readers and viewers of color, whose recollections might not match those of the “mainstream.”

The passing of George H.W. Bush, 41st president, provides another test.

While Bush, who died Nov. 30, is rightly being praised for his demeanor and character (especially in comparison to the 45th president) and such accomplishments as passage of the Americans for Disabilities Act, he is also the president who gave us Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; promoted Lee Atwater, who gave the nation the Willie Horton bogeyman; and had subordinates lure an African-American teenager to the park across from the White House to buy crack.

One-dimensional portraits do not serve the quest for truth very well; we all have our pluses and minuses. Understanding them adds to our appreciation of the human condition.

The lured teenager was Keith Jackson, who told the agents who enticed him that he didn’t even know where the White House was.

“He was the 18-year-old who was charged with (but acquitted of) selling the bag of crack that President Bush held up during a nationally televised speech on the nation’s drug problems in September 1989,” Jefferson Morley wrote in 1993 for *The Washington Post*.

“The idea of holding up a bag of crack had been dreamed up in the summer of 1989 by a clever speechwriter from Yale. Bush liked the idea. Phone calls went from the White House to the attorney general’s office to the Drug Enforcement Administration to the local police. The request-cum-order: Lure somebody – anybody – to Lafayette Park and buy crack cocaine from him.

“Keith Jackson, at the time, was a suspected entry-level dealer who was just starting his senior year at Spingarn High School. He lived with his mother, younger brother and grandfather on M Street NE. His friends described him as loyal, easy-going and popular with girls.

“His teachers found him pleasant and consistently gave him D’s. Keith said he wanted to be a barber. He had also sold cocaine on four occasions to undercover government agents. All the president’s men set him up as their sucker.

“Agents had been cultivating him in the hope that he could lead them to bigger players in the distribution network of Rayful Edmonds, one of the biggest drug dealers in Washington. They didn’t arrest him after the undercover buy because they really wanted a bigger dealer.

“After Bush’s speech, the agents had to abandon that plan. They feared that Jackson or somebody close to him might have seen the president talking about crack purchased in Lafayette Park and realize



Clarence Thomas and George H.W. Bush

COMMENTARY

he had been set up. Jackson was arrested.

“Shortly thereafter, *The Washington Post* revealed how the crack sale had been arranged. When reporters badgered Bush about the propriety of the set-up, the president responded angrily, ‘You don’t have any sympathy for this drug guy, do you?’

“Not really. When Keith Jackson went on trial in December 1989 on five counts of selling drugs, there was not much media attention. The jury could not reach a verdict, and a mistrial was declared. He was retried in January 1990 and convicted for two of the cocaine sales to the undercover agents.

“Under the provisions of a tougher anti-drug law passed (with the vocal support of George Bush) in 1987, Judge Stanley Sporkin had no choice but to sentence Jackson to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. Jackson is now serving his time in a federal prison in Petersburg, Va. . . .”

Thomas was chosen for the high court after Bush, a moderate-turned-conservative, was faced with a vacancy after the venerated Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court justice and a civil rights hero, decided for health reasons that he could no longer hold on to his seat.

“Now his worst fear was that a Republican White House, in a political move designed to disarm its liberal opponents, would replace him with a black nominee who shunned the very civil rights agenda for which Marshall had spent his life fighting,” Jane Mayer and Jill Abramson write in their 1994 book, “Strange Justice: The Selling of Clarence Thomas.”

“Marshall had often ridiculed Clarence Thomas and his fellow conservatives as ‘the goddamn black sellouts’ who directly benefited from legal remedies such as affirmative action and then denounced them.

“‘Marshall would shake his head in wonderment that a black man who grew up in Jim Crow Georgia, and who had benefited from a thousand affirmative actions by nuns and others, and who had attended Yale Law School on a racial quota, could suddenly find affirmative action so destructive of the character of black

people,’” observed Carl Rowan, one of the few journalists to whom Marshall granted interviews.

The nomination divided African Americans, many of whose leaders opposed Thomas but heard many in their rank-and-file urging, “give him a chance.”

Kevin Merida and Michael A. Fletcher added in their “Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas,” published in 2007, that Republicans saw what seemed like a contradiction. “On the one hand, Bush was adamantly opposed to racial preferences.

“On the other hand, he was seeking to replace a legendary black Supreme Court justice with another African-American judge who seemed relatively junior for the job. Thomas had been on the appeals court bench, his only judicial appointment, for just fifteen months.”

Bush insisted, “The fact that he is black and a minority had nothing to do with this in the sense that he is the best qualified at this time.”

Thomas’ nomination is best known for the contentious hearings after Anita Hill’s sexual harassment allegations against Thomas and his responses that he was being subjected to “a high-tech lynching.” The White House worked to discredit Hill. He was confirmed.

In a 1992 editorial, the *New York Times* called Thomas the “youngest, cruelest justice.”

Lee Atwater, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, was a major architect of Bush’s presidential election victory in 1988. He died at 40 in 1991, losing a battle with a brain tumor. He was only 37 when Bush named him chairman of the Republican National Committee as a reward for managing the 1988 campaign.

In an obituary credited to “Michael Oreskes and special to the *New York Times*,” the *Times* wrote:

“Friends said Mr. Atwater spent his final months searching for spiritual peace. The man renowned for the politics of attack turned to apologies, including one to Michael S. Dukakis, the Massachusetts governor who was the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee.

“Mr. Dukakis was the target of a campaign advertisement about Willie Horton, a black convicted mur-

derer who escaped from the Massachusetts prison system while on a weekend furlough and raped a white woman and stabbed her husband. The advertisement became a central focus of the 1988 campaign.

“‘In 1988, fighting Dukakis, I said that I “would strip the bark off the little bastard” and “make Willie Horton his running mate,” Atwater said in the Life article.

“‘I am sorry for both statements: the first for its naked cruelty, the second because it makes me sound racist, which I am not.’

“Asked today about Mr. Atwater’s apology, Mr. Bush replied: ‘I found that very interesting and very enlarging. I think as he took stock of his life, he wanted to make things right and heal some wounds, and that was a very noble thing.’

Some are starting to call out the effusive coverage. “In this historian’s reckoning, self-interest prevailed too often over principle,” David Greenberg, a professor of history and journalism and media studies at Rutgers University, wrote in an assessment Saturday for *Politico Magazine*.

Others will have noticed a little-publicized report from MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow that Bush was asked to and did intercede in an attempt to shut down a federal investigation into Vice President Spiro Agnew in the Baltimore US Attorney’s office.

To others, Bush’s 1988 comment about the “little brown ones,” referring to three children of Bush’s son, Jeb, and his Mexican-born wife, Columbia, resonates.

Still others recall that Condoleezza Rice, later Secretary of State, arguably first became nationally known under Bush 41, when she was Soviet and Eastern Europe affairs adviser on the National Security Council. Or they recall the 1989 invasion of Panama.

Being selective in our memory is only human. As Greenberg wrote, “The urge to prettify a politician’s legacy upon his demise is understandable and in some ways reflects our finer selves. Bush’s family, friends and admirers deserve comfort in their grief.”

However, he added, “But when it comes to presidents and historical actors of consequence, we also need critical dissent.

Two armed black men, protecting others, shot and killed by police



Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford, 21, of Hoover, Ala. was shot while shielding people from a fight during which a man had been shot.



Jemel Roberson, 26, a Chicago security guard, was killed by police as he captured and subdued an active shooter.

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com

Police in Alabama shot to death a black man with a gun, making it the second time this month that police have shot and killed a black man with a gun. In each case, police later admitted that they killed the wrong black man. Also, they killed men who were risking their lives to save others.

Police in Alabama and Illinois, where the deadly shootings occurred, have apologized to the victims’ families. And in what appears to be a growing trend, they refused to identify the officers involved except to say they were white.

COMMENTARY

The most-recent shooting occurred in Hoover, Alabama, a Birmingham suburb, November 22 when two men got into a fight. One of the men pulled a gun and shot the other twice.

Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr., a 21-year old U.S. Army veteran armed with a pistol, was attempting to keep innocent bystanders away from the fight when a police officer seeing his gun, shot and killed him.

A day later, police admitted they shot and killed the wrong person and that the actual gunman got away.

On November 11 in Midlothian, Illinois, police shot to death Jemel Roberson, a security guard at a Robbins, Illinois, tavern, who had subdued a gunman firing indiscriminately at bar patrons only to be killed by a policeman called to help.

Bradford’s family hired Benjamin Crump, a Florida attorney, who appeared on MSNBC to take questions concerning the deadly shooting. Crump linked the two shootings.

When police see a black man with a gun, they shoot first and ask questions later, Crump said.

The explanations by both police departments are eerily similar. They claim that when they saw the guns, they feared for their lives, but it’s Roberson and Bradford who are dead.

GM will close 5 North American plants next year

TriceEdneyWire.com

General Motors has announced that it is closing a total of eight plants, five in North America and three elsewhere, eliminating 14,400 hourly and salaried jobs to prepare for the driverless and electric cars of the future. The manufacturer employs 202,000 workers worldwide. It is not known how many African-American workers GM employs.

The job reductions will cost GM \$2 billion in cash, but it will save the manufacturer \$6 billion by the end of 2020.

General Motors announced it is shutting down assembly plants in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, the Hamtramck Assembly plant in Detroit and the Lord-



Bara

stown Assembly plant in Warren, Ohio. The plants manufacture the Chevrolet Volt, Cruze, the Impala, the Buick Lacrosse and the Cadillac CT6. The Impala made its debut in 1958 and at one time it was General Mo-

tors’ best-selling car now it’s one of the worse selling.

The manufacturer is also closing Baltimore Operations in White Marsh, Maryland and Warren Transmission Operations in Warren, Michigan. Both are propulsion plants. These closings will affect 6,300 workers.

In addition, General Motors will close an assembly plant in Gunsan, Korea, and two other unnamed plants outside of North America.

All of the plants are scheduled to close in 2019.

In addition, GM will reduce the number of salaried and salaried contract employees by 15 percent and executives by 25 percent, which will streamline

decision making. These cuts will affect 8,100 jobs.

“The actions we are taking today continue our transformation to be highly agile, resilient and profitable, while giving us the flexibility to invest in the future,” GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra said in a statement.

The United Auto Workers said in a statement that the closings, which will affect thousands of workers, will not go unchallenged.

The UAW and our members will confront this decision by GM through every legal, contractual and collective bargaining avenue open to our membership [concerning closing the North American plants], the UAW said in a statement.

“This callous decision by GM to reduce and cease operations in American plants, while opening or increasing production in Mexico and China plants for sales to American consumers is profoundly damaging to our American workforce,” said Terry Dittes, UAW vice president, and director of the GM Department.

The UAW noted that GM recently announced that the new Chevy Blazer will be assembled in Mexico and exported to the United States for sales.

While the news of GM’s plant closings angered the UAW, Wall Street counted its money as the automaker’s stock rose. The company’s stock rose to \$37.65 per share Monday, up

\$1.72.

GM said it will double its resources over the next two years for the manufacture of electric and autonomous vehicles.

GM made its announcement the same day that the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, reported that 27 percent of African-American workers are at high risk of having their jobs automated.

President Barack Obama saved General Motors. When he took office after being elected in 2008, GM was teetering on bankruptcy. Obama put together a financial plan to fund the company to keep it operating. He received both praise and criticism for his actions.

Giving the Lord the best

PART 2

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



Many people do a lot of works, but Jesus said in Matthew 7:23, “And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.’”

Many people do works today, but they are doing them in the flesh. The works of the flesh may seem to have a good purpose, but God is not in them. If God is not in them, then those works are of no value. There are many things that we are able to do. One of the easiest things that each of us can do is pray. God has given us all the ability to pray. Even if you cannot speak aloud, you can pray. Did you know that you can pray without audible words coming from your mouth? Prayer is communicating with God.

How could you make your church services better? One

way is to walk around and greet one another and encourage one another. This is a great work and it is something that you can do. God expects you to do what you can. When David collected all the materials to build the temple, the people were willing to work with all their hearts. First Chronicles 29:1 says, “Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.” Verses 3-4 read: “Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: three thousand talents of gold.” These are things that David himself did.

Though David was the king and he had the authority to

say, “All right, give this in the name of the king,” he also had his own personal wealth, and he wanted to make sure that he gave a sacrifice to God; therefore, he gave of his own. Verse 9 continues, “Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly: and King David also rejoiced greatly.”

When you do something with all your heart for God, you will have great joy. Not only will you have joy in your own soul for doing it, but you will bring great joy to others.

Sometimes people feel that the things they do are their duties. We have to get past duty and do what we do because we want to do it for the Lord. You should do what you do for the Lord willingly. If you pray only because you feel that you have to, there is no blessing in it.

When you pray because you want to talk to God, then it is a blessing. When you pray before a meal and recognize that God has blessed you with food and that He is

worthy of your thanks for it, there is a blessing in it. You need to get beyond doing it as a form and do it because you are truly thankful.

The Bible teaches that we should adorn the doctrine, even concerning our dress standard. If you only do it because you feel you have to, it will not be a blessing to you and no one else will see any joy in it. However, if you do the things you do because the Bible says so and you want to please God and show God how much you love Him, there is a blessing in it. It works that way every time. You ought to do what you can, not because you feel you have to, but you should do it willingly.

Next week – “Giving the Lord the best” – Part 3

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

PRESERVED

Our needs and God’s timing

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“I got hungry... you think I may have overdid it?” was the caption of a photo a friend texted me back in August.

In the picture there were 6 pans overflowing with barbecued ribs, grilled salmon, smoked sausage, grilled pork chops and grilled Cornish hen. Even though I’m not a big meat eater, I couldn’t pass up the chance to eat some fresh barbecue. So, I gladly accepted his offer to come and get as much meat as I wanted. I was so thankful that I could enjoy some great barbecue and I didn’t have to worry about cooking meat for a few days. I ate as much as I could for a few days and then put the leftovers in my freezer. As I added more food to my freezer, I soon forgot that they were there.

Fast forward a few months later in October when I had a taste for grilled salmon but didn’t feel like cooking. Just by chance, I started digging in the freezer and what did I find? One perfectly frozen grilled lemon pepper salmon steak. How awesome for me. I had salmon for my dinner and I didn’t have to cook. After I finished eating, I also thought about how God had, even in what could be considered a small thing, showed me, once again, that he was able to meet my needs not just in the present but also in the future. God knew that I would want salmon in October and he’d provided for it back in August.

It was just a small piece of


salmon but a big reminder that God provides for my needs even before I realize that I have them. Honestly, I sometimes struggle with feeling like God has forgotten about me and some of my prayer requests. I didn’t know that I’d need lemon pepper salmon steak in October but God, not being bound by time, knew and had already provided for that need.

That is one of the awesome things I love about God: He is still the God of Isaiah 46:10 that says “Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.” Whether its food, healing for our bodies, or financial needs, God has already taken care of the need.

With such an emphasis on “where has the time gone?” at this time of the year, we Christians have to continue to trust God’s timing.

At this point in the year, so many of my friends are reflecting back on what kind of year 2018 was. For some, it was the year of loss as friends and loved ones passed away. For others, it was the year of victory as answers to long awaited prayers arrived. For me, it has been the year of timing as I’m learning how, with examples like the lemon pepper salmon steak, to better accept and understand the timing as well as the movement of God.

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



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The devastation of voter suppression

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



As we’ve looked at the races for U.S. Senate and Governors of States, many of us are absolutely certain the wrong person was credited with the victory. Looking at all the voter suppression that so brazenly took place in the last presidential race and the races mentioned in the most recent election, I am absolutely certain that these races don’t represent the majority of the people who voted.

No matter who was wrongfully given credit for the victories, we know the victories belonged to Stacy Abrams, Andrew Gillum, Beto O’Rourke and Mike Espy. There’s nothing else they could’ve done to get credit for being victorious. We believe there’re bigger and better things just waiting for them. They were skillful, brilliant, positive and made us proud with the races they ran. Having been through a Congressional race that was stolen from my campaign for Congress years ago, I can relate to how they feel knowing they were the best candidates in their races, but were not given proper credit for the races they ran.

Let us wrap our arms around them long past election day. They’re our heroes/sheroes. Why? Even though the word winner does not stand by their names, they remain in our hearts for their effort. I can tell you those few weeks following an election experience like theirs, knowing that against the greatest of odds, you’ve done everything you should’ve done even though you weren’t allowed to step across the winner’s line, there’s a lot of pain. It takes time to re-group and figure out what you’ll do next. All the people who were by your side every day, are no longer there. After the race, you often have campaign debts to pay, and no longer are campaign donations coming in as they did during the campaign. You have the work of closing out your campaign office, settling the bills, filing the required reports and it’s not easy.

If you supported those candidates mentioned, continue to support them; but remember the less well known, too. Many of them still have campaign debts – so they continue to need your financial support. They also need your emotional support. Call them. Send them notes. Encourage them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts, their time spent, personal funds and effort they’ve put into working to make their campaigns succeed.

To the candidates who didn’t quite make it across the finish line this time, I would just say, “I, as well as many others, appreciate your valiant effort. Don’t give up. If you want to run for public office again, many of us would still support your efforts. On the other hand, running for office can be a major sacrifice, so don’t just run again because others want you to run. You must be the judge of whether you want to or not. There is normal life after any campaign. Yes, it takes awhile to realize that. What I found helpful after a devastating loss of less than 1 percent was to set a time limit of no more than six weeks to move on to the next phase of my life.”

Many of the people who were impacted by voter suppression, need our support most. It’s a characteristic of the so-called American democratic system to accept the results of whatever happened, and do nothing in between elections to deal with the problem. Let’s commit to change that and put voter suppression on our **must resolve** list. I’m sure Congresswoman Marcia Fudge will be looking for ways to resolve this problem, so offer her your best thinking.

E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women. www.nationalcongressbw.org. She is also host of WPFW-FM 89.3’s “Wake Up and Stay Woke.”

Rev. Barbara Skinner and intergenerational leadership

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Barbara Williams Skinner, at 75, looks at least two decades younger than her birth certificate suggests. Much of her youthful energy is due to her discipline, which includes a mindful prayer practice, a vegetarian diet and a focused mind. But as much of her youthfulness, I think, can be attributed to her engagement with emerging leaders, the younger people who are poised to lead and learn. On November 29, she celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Skinner Leadership Institute (www.skinnerleadership.org), the organization she founded to offer leadership lessons to both emerging and established leaders.

While well-known in Washington political circles, as the founder (with her now-deceased husband Tom Skinner) of the Prayer Breakfast at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, Skinner is not the household word that she should be. She has been a spiritual advisor to many members of Congress and to President Barack Obama, and she has done the “bridge building” work of bringing together African-American leaders who have sometimes had contentious relationships.

For more than a decade, she pulled corporate, political and community people together for a retreat that involved both learning time and bonding time. Coretta Scott King, Betty Shabazz, Maya Angelou and Dick Gregory were among those who attended the retreat.

Skinner was the first executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Although she was raised by a hard-



Skinner

working, God-fearing mother, Skinner spent much of her young adult life mad at God. She writes movingly of her journey in her new book, “I Prayed, Now What: My Journey from No Faith to Deep Faith” (Fortune Publishing Group: 2018).

Skinner writes about her struggle to embrace God, her relationship and marriage to Tom, who had been a spiritual advisor to, among others, the Washington Redskins, and about ways to pray for political enemies.

She spoke of these things, and many more, at the celebration of the Skinner Leadership Institute, an event that not only celebrated Skinner and her leadership, but also lifted up some of the women around her. The intergenerational group included Melanie Campbell, of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation and Chanelle Hardy, who holds a leadership role at Google and is an alumna of the Skinner Leadership Master Series for Distinguished Leaders.

Other women included elders like Johnnetta Betsch Cole (former president of both Bennett and Spellman Colleges); the Honorable Constance Berry Newman (perhaps the only black woman to have served under 7 presidents, with 5 Senate confirma-

tions); the Honorable Alexis Herman, 23rd Secretary of Labor; former Essence editor in chief and founder of National Cares Mentoring Inc. Susan Taylor; and former D.C. First Lady Cora Masters Barry. It was characteristic of Skinner to share her celebration with women who have made a difference in her life and in the lives of others.

Skinner has always embraced emerging leadership and provided a bridge for younger leaders to connect with seasoned one. I’ve had the pleasure of mentoring young women through her Master Series for Distinguished Leadership for more than a decade, and have enjoyed the energy and ideas that these young sisters have brought into my life.

But with Congresswoman Barbara Lee “in the house” after her stinging defeat to be Democratic Caucus chair, there were angry whispers among some of us gathered about the meaning of intergenerational leadership. Was New York Congressman Hakeem Jefferies disrespectful and opportunistic (yes) in going after a position that Lee had been campaigning for more than eight months (full disclosure – I helped)? What does it mean that there is no black woman in the formal leadership of the House of Representatives, even though black women are the backbone of the Democratic Party?

Does intergenerational leadership mean that seasoned leaders have to step aside, or does it suggest that emerging leaders need to pull a chair (not a treacherous knife) up to the table? Even as we enjoyed a loving tribute to someone who has been a bridge (a word used frequently, and a word that Skinner’s pastor, David Anderson, used to describe her), there was appreciation of Lee and anger about Jefferies.

African-American millennials may be justifiably impatient when Baby Boomers and those even older dominate African-American leadership. With the top three Congressional Democrats, Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, James Clyburn and Lee, all over 70, there is a compelling case to be made for the younger Jefferies, under 50, to be included in Congressional leadership.

At the same time, there is something to be said for seasoned leadership, and for the inclusion of the exceptional and courageous Lee, in leadership. There were undoubtedly other issues, including those geographic and philosophical (Jefferies is more moderate than Lee, and Lee’s chairmanship would have put two Californians in the top four leaders), but true intergenerational cooperation would require something more than the gangsta move Jefferies pulled to eke out his win (by 10 votes).

After the midterm elections, the Congressional Black Caucus has emerged as a powerful bloc among Democrats, with a massive 53 members, nearly a quarter of the 235 Democrats who will be seated in Congress in January. The group’s power is weakened, however, when there are intergenerational conflicts and fissures among the membership. The Jefferies victory over Lee represents such a fissure. It will take the faith, fortitude and focus of prayer warrior Rev. Barbara Williams Skinner to help the Caucus embrace its highest and best purpose. If you don’t know Dr. Skinner, Google her.

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

Early voting and expanded absentee voting are key to fair elections

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



“Georgia elections officials deployed a known strategy of voter suppression: closing and relocating polling places. Despite projections

of record turnout, elections officials closed or moved approximately 305 locations, many in neighborhoods with numerous voters of color. Fewer polling places meant that the remaining locations strained to accommodate an influx of voters. Yet elections officials failed to supply sufficient, functioning voting machines and enough provisional ballots.

Depriving polling places of basic tools needed for voting meant that voters who arrived at polling places anxious and excited to express their patriotism through the basic, fundamental act of voting were met with hours-long lines. Some lines were four hours long. Georgians who could not wait – because of disability, health or work or family obligations – effectively lost the right to vote.”

Fair Fight Action and Care in Action, plaintiffs are in a federal lawsuit against Georgia election officials.

Voter turnout in the 2018 midterms hit a 50-year high, with more than 47 percent of the voting-eligible population casting a ballot. Across multiple media platforms, images of voters standing in long lines were used to illustrate voter enthusiasm.

While voter enthusiasm is great news, long lines at the polls are not. They are a sign of voter suppression, and immediate action must be taken at the state and federal level to expand early voting, voting my mail and other measures to reduce voter wait times and end voter suppression.

Georgia was among the most egregious examples. In suburban Gwinnett County, voters waited four hours when officials opened the polls to discover that their voting machines were not working. In downtown Atlanta, just three voting machines were provided for more than 3,000 registered voters, leading to wait times of three hours.

In many cases, long wait times at the polls are not the result of innocent mistakes, but part of a deliber-

ate campaign to discourage voting, particularly in communities of color. According to a University of Pennsylvania study, minority voters are six times as likely as whites to wait longer than an hour to vote, even within the same town or county.

The study found that at least 200,000 people didn’t vote in 2014 because of the lines they encountered in 2012.

In crafting North Carolina’s notoriously racist “monster” voter suppression law, lawmakers researched which of the 17 days of early voting black voters were most likely to use, then eliminated those particular seven days.

Fortunately, North Carolina’s law was overturned. But 13 states – even supposedly progressive states like Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York – have no form of early voting at all. In fact, New York is widely considered to have some of the worst voting laws in the country, holding its federal and state primaries on different days and establishing arbitrary deadlines for registration and party-switching.

After Florida’s chaotic 2000 presi-

dential recount, a wave of states adopted early voting in order to relieve pressure on election officials on election day.

It worked. According to Demos in 2013, “Early voting has recently surged among traditionally under-represented voters. The 2008 election marked a dramatic increase in early in-person voting among African-American and Latino voters. And in Florida, where approximately 50 percent of ballots were cast early in 2012, African-American usage of early in-person voting has exceeded white usage in four of the five most recent federal elections.”

It’s easy to see why early voting became a prime target for legislators determined to suppress the black vote.

There’s simply no excuse for any state not to allow early voting. Control of the New York State Senate changes parties with the January session. There is no better way for the Empire State to demonstrate its commitment to its motto, “Excelsior,” or “Ever upward,” than to establish early voting and set an example for the remaining states.

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Forrest General Hospital becomes the first in Mississippi to use the Eluvia™ Drug- Eluting Vascular Stent System

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General Hospital became the first hospital in Mississippi to use the Eluvia Drug-Eluting Vascular Stent System, which is specifically designed to treat peripheral artery disease (PAD). The procedure was performed by Robert Wilkins, M.D., FACC, a cardiologist at Forrest General Hospital.

“The Eluvia is a special type of stent that releases medication, specifically the drug paclitaxel, for up to one year after surgery. This allows the stented artery to heal without the risk of tissue growth that could re-block the artery. I hope this advanced treatment option will be revolutionary for the millions of people in the U.S. who are affected by peripheral artery disease (PAD), and I’m happy to have played a part in bringing this option to my community,” said Wilkins.

PAD occurs when fatty or calcified atherosclerotic material, called plaque, builds up on the walls of the arteries of the legs, restricting blood flow and causing pain, swelling and a diminished quality of life. If blood flow is not restored and maintained, severe cases of PAD can lead to pain, ulcers and even amputation of the affected limb.

Risk factors for vascular disease include a family history of vascular disease, age, gender,



Left to right: Natalie Brown, RAD Tech; Garrett Whiddon, RN; Robert Wilkins, MD, FACC; David Prine, RN; Jimmy James, RN; and Tyler Taormina, RAD Tech

race and several risk factors that can be controlled, including high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol, obesity, lack

of exercise and diabetes.

Forrest General and Hattiesburg Clinic Vascular Surgeons offer a free comprehensive

cardiovascular disease and early detection program called Dare to C.A.R.E. The program is available at certain times

throughout the year to qualifying men and women in the Pine Belt.

For more information about

Forrest General and its Heart and Vascular Services or the Dare to C.A.R.E. program, visit forrestgeneral.com.

Entergy’s \$500K donation helps power Children’s Campaign

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Entergy Mississippi is investing in the families they serve through a \$500,000 donation to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi.

The donation from the company, celebrating 95 years of doing business in Mississippi, was announced recently in a news conference on the UMMC campus.

“Children’s health care is important to any company,” said Haley Fisackerly, president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi, “and we are proud to partner with Children’s of Mississippi and serve this new facility.”

The campaign, a \$100 million effort to help fund UMMC’s pediatric expansion now under construction, has raised more than \$67 million since 2016.

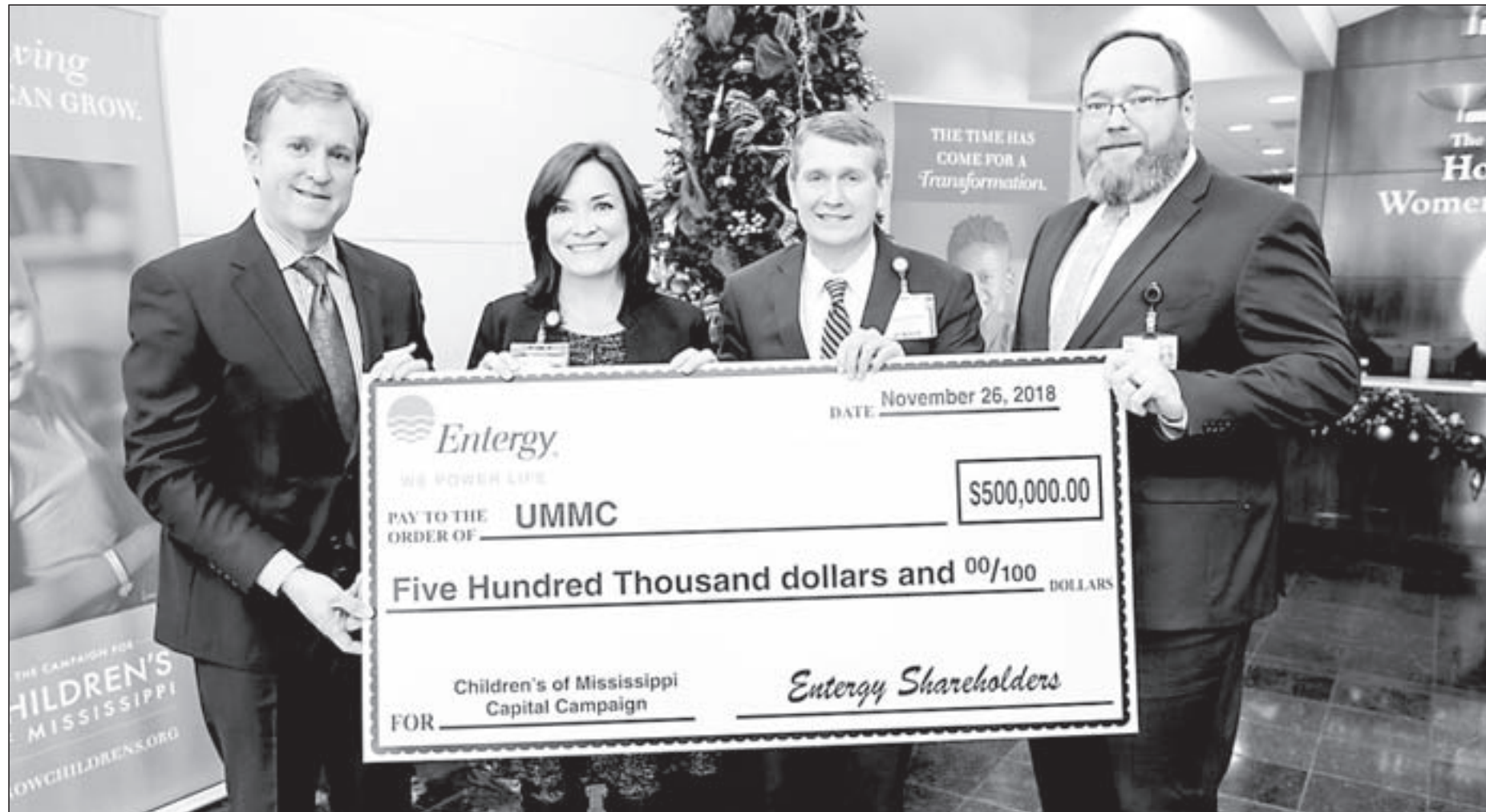
“Entergy Mississippi generates the electricity that allows the medical center to provide world-class health care, and Entergy is helping fuel a pediatric expansion at UMMC that is truly transformational,” said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “We thank Entergy for being our partner in health care and for making this key investment in the health of our children.”

Entergy Mississippi serves about 449,000 customers in 45 of Mississippi’s 82 counties. Entergy companies employ some 2,200 Mississippians, and more than 1,200 Entergy retirees live in the state.

The energy provider’s philanthropic focus is to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves through investing in education, improving the environment and finding solutions to poverty. Entergy Mississippi contributed more than \$2 million to over 400 nonprofit organizations in the state in 2017.

“Entergy strives to contribute to a society that is healthy, educated, environmentally safe and productive,” said Fisackerly. “Having the care that’s needed right here in Mississippi is important to parents, and it is important to Entergy.”

The pediatric expansion adja-



Holding a ceremonial \$500,000 donation check to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi are, from left, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO Haley Fisackerly; Dr. Mary Taylor, chair of Pediatrics; Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children’s of Mississippi; and Jonathan Wilson, UMMC chief administrative officer.

cent to the state’s only children’s hospital, Batson, includes 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms. The current neonatal intensive care unit at UMMC was built for about 30 babies but routinely offers care to three times that number.

Also included is additional space for pediatric intensive care and for surgery, a department that is quickly outgrowing its current location.

“We are caring for the state’s smallest and most medically fragile newborns and are seeing outcomes similar to the nation’s top children’s hospitals,” said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames chair, professor and chair of pediatrics, “but we are achieving these results in a hospital that we’ve outgrown. This expansion will provide us with a state-of-the-art facility that will match the skills of our expert caregivers.”

When Batson Children’s Hospital patients need imaging such as CT scans and MRIs, they

travel inside the hospital about a quarter of a mile to an imaging center designed for adults. In this new construction, a pediatric imaging center will be inside the children’s hospital and will be kid-friendly.

An outpatient specialty clinic will be close by, putting experts in pediatric disciplines including cardiology, neurology, urology, endocrinology, gastroenterology and orthopaedics in one location on the UMMC campus.

“Children’s of Mississippi works to touch the lives of all of the children in this state and help them reach their full potential,” said Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children’s, an organization that includes Batson as well as clinics around the state. “Entergy’s gift will help us provide Mississippi’s children the best of care close to home.”

For more information or to give to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi, visit grow-childrens.org.

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Week of December 02, 2018

Supt. Henderson's first 100 days

Mississippi Link Newswire

It has been four months since James L. Henderson, Ed.D. hit the ground sprinting as the superintendent of schools for the newly-operational Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) in Lexington, Miss.

Appointed by the district's new Board of Trustees, the Holmes County native and his administration have instituted a myriad of positive changes with a thematic focus of Connecting for the Success of Children: Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day. "I am a student-centered administrator," Henderson stressed in one of his first community meetings. "For me, it is all about what is in the best interest of the children. I am as deeply invested in the success of Holmes County because I, too, am a product of Holmes County."

The journalist-turned-educator said he is humbled, grateful and fired up over the opportunity to give back to his home community. The 1985 Jackson State University mass communications graduate said focusing on the children has been at the forefront of his entire career in education.

His career portfolio is packed with a wealth of knowledge, skills and a vast background in education from teaching to administration leadership. Henderson is described in his biography as "a creative, energetic visionary, a strategic and effective leader who has been dedicated to leveling the playing field for all children, teachers, parents and communities for 25 years" 17 of which he served at the senior cabinet level.

He earned a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Prairie View A&M University of Texas and a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision from St. John's University in Queens, New York. Henderson has been recognized as Teacher-of-the-Year for the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators, Houston Independent School District (HISD)'s Hamilton Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year, HISD's Teacher of-the-Year Finalist, and the Texas Legislative Black Caucus Outstanding Texan Award in Education. Additionally, he was selected among hundreds of applicants for the renowned American Association of School Administrators (AASA) / Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy – a year-long superintendent preparation program.

Henderson's education career achievements and accolades did not come easily. Because he hailed from an area plagued with education obstacles, he had to study harder than most. He and fellow rural students had to rise above many of the racial barriers stemming from and prior to the Civil Rights era.

In fact, Henderson's long stay away from Holmes County was prompted by an appalling racial discrimination experience he encountered in June 1985 during a visit to his parents as a young Iowa journalist. As a journalist, he wanted to use his connections to expose it, but was parentally advised not to start any trouble. Because of hurt and angry, he declared that he would leave and never return. "I just could not believe in that day and time, people were still separated by signage on medical office doors which said: 'Whites Only' and 'Coloreds Only.'"

That was 33 years ago. Today, he will, no doubt, tell anyone to never say never. "I am back by the divine intervention of God." He said he is back because "It's That Time!" – a call to action that



Visit by U. S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to hear about the AP Physics Initiative



Matt Dolan, Henderson, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos



Henderson, Doretha Draine Wiley, Board of Education President Anthony Anderson, Vice-President Louise Winters, member Elder Dean

resonated in his spirit to rally all stakeholders toward a new era in education in Holmes County. "I seek support for the changes that we want to see for the future of our children and community."

"As painful and unjust as our past may have been, it helped propel me to thirst more for education," Henderson said. "No child should be at risk of facing again the racial barriers and education achievement gaps that I and others faced," he said.

During his first 100 days, Henderson and his team have accumulated a number of achievements for the children and the district. Many of them are delineated below:

1. Working in tandem with the Board of Education to improve student outcomes
2. Led and executed a seamless Holmes/Durant Consolidation for its effective date of July 1, 2018
3. Created a cost savings of \$1.5M in a reorganization of the newly developed consolidated district
4. Ignited an increased enthusiasm and morale among educators, staff and citizens with an exciting community-wide inaugural convocation opening the new school year
5. Hosted inaugural Professional Development Conference with eight nationally known educator trainers addressing literacy, childhood trauma, classroom management, differentiated instruction, restorative practice and PBIS
6. Trained educators to integrate Restorative Practice and to execute its already-instituted Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) with increased fidelity
7. Invited former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige to facilitate the professional retreat of the Board of Education and the superintendent
8. Welcomed current U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to visit the AP Physics Initiative and highlighted the distance learning partnership between HCCHS students and Yale University faculty
9. Eliminated corporal punishment from the discipline plan – a change which made national headlines
10. Acquired three-year \$700,000 21st Century Grant for after-school and summer arts integration programming
11. Established the HCCSD Early Childhood Collaborative with partners CDI Head Start, Community Students Learning Center and the Wesley Youth Foundation

12. Launched a new, user-friendly, Holmesccsd.org website providing district information and updates

13. Established direct link for parents to reach out to the Superintendent directly from the district website

14. Established social media platform accounts for the district

15. Increased cameras on the buses for more safety and to help deter bullying.

16. Successfully integrated Durant Public Schools' student information with the newly formed HCCSD

17. Successfully integrated Durant Public Schools' financial division with the newly formed HCCSD

18. Successfully integrated Durant Public Schools' employees with the newly formed HCCSD

19. Developed a Student Advisory Council of grades 9-12 to advise the superintendent on issues from the students' perspective

20. Surveyed broad spectrum of Holmes County leaders and residents for their input on the district's priorities

21. Designed Graduates Within Reach Academy, an intensive credit-recovery online-learning program for students who entered high school in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 cohorts – operational January 8, 2019.

22. Added one Pre-K classroom to William Dean Jr. Elementary

23. Created a Pre-K-12 Assessment Calendar

24. Developing a Pre-K-12 Literacy Framework

25. Standardized K-12 ELA and Math Diagnostic Assessments

26. Established Pacing Guides in all grades and subject content areas

27. Adopted new Science textbooks in grades 3-12

28. Formed a Social Studies Curriculum Team

29. Provided over 125 professional learning opportunities for teachers and leaders (formal and informal)

30. Secured free breakfast and lunch for all students

31. Elevated the grading standard: passing grade is 70% to demonstrate mastery of material and maintain eligibility for MIS-SHSAA athletics and activities

32. Opened the Doretha Draine Wiley (DDW) Fine Arts Magnet Academy at Holmes County Central High School (HCCHS) including media studies via an MOU with the Jackson State University Department of Journalism and Media Studies

33. Established semi-monthly pay schedule for non-teacher positions

34. Created Human Resources Department

35. Corrected multiple citations in 2017-2018 Mississippi Department of Education audit reports

36. Corrected multiple citations in 2017-2018 Federal Programs audit reports

37. Obtained licenses for 24 teachers

38. Leveled classrooms and equalized resources across the district

39. Created Public Relations Department and expanded district's media and community outreach

40. Superintendent's Listening Tour met with these stakeholders:

- a. Durant Town Hall
- b. Durant High School Students / Parents
- c. Educational Support Center Employees
- d. School Building Leaders
- e. School Secretaries
- f. Food Service Employees
- g. Transportation Employees
- h. Maintenance/Custodial Employees
- i. All Schools' Faculties
- j. High School Student Advisory Council
- k. Chat & Chew:

- i. Board Of Education members

- ii. Ministerial Alliance

- iii. County Board of Supervisors

- iv. State Representatives and Senators

Although the list above may not be all inclusive, it is certainly pleasing to the HCCSD Board of Trustees. "I really feel that Dr. Henderson wants everyone to come together and support education," said Board President Anthony Anderson. Anderson said he likes the fact that Henderson sees the district as having two [major] job positions: "to teach and support teaching." Anderson also pointed out that the Board appreciates Henderson's students-first leadership style.

The visionary Henderson leads by the following core beliefs:

- High expectations for all children
- Professional Learning Communities ensures academic success for students
- Parents and the entire community as partners ensure successful schools
- Non-academic needs must also be met to ensure students' academic success, and
- Education should prepare



Left to right: Board of Education vice-president Louise Winters, Board attorney Ben Piazza, former U. S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, board member April Jones, Superintendent James L. Henderson, Board president Anthony Anderson

our youth for life and if a child fails, the system fails

Henderson is known for challenging students and everyone around him to "THINK BIG, to strategize for success and to execute with excellence." He has also been widely recognized for his strong advocacy for community partnerships and collaborations for student success.

Ann Lokey, Family and Community Partnership manager for CDI Head Start serving Mid-Region, MS said, "I am inspired by Dr. Henderson's commitment and passion for Early Childhood Education in Holmes County. Research has shown, children enrolled in Head Start/Pre-K programs benefit by receiving formal education before entering kindergarten. As a lifelong Holmes county citizen, I embrace Dr. Henderson's resourcefulness and determination in educating our most vulnerable individuals."

Executive Director Beulah Greer of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of Lexington, Miss., shared a similar comment. "I look forward to working with the Holmes County Consolidated School District in providing a first-class education for all students," said Greer.

Community members and leaders are not the only ones excited about the new education era. More importantly, students are as well.

"I think the new superin-

tendent is putting forth the effort to help transform Holmes County Consolidated School District into a better district," said Steven Burns, a HCCHS senior. "One of the changes that the new superintendent, along with the board members, has made was implementing more advanced classes and programs to help with our future career success." Burns said he is also appreciative for the DDW Fine Arts Magnet Academy. "It will help students experience classes such as dance, art, drama and a variety of other activities."

Although Henderson has an open-door policy, it still might be better to call ahead of visiting because he is not one to stay behind a desk. "I, as well as my administrators, enjoy being out in the schools observing and interacting, but not to the point of interrupting instructions by any means," Henderson said.

Henderson is a life-long member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, a service organization. He appreciates his wife, Victoria, a fellow educator, and their two daughters, Jalyn and Jayme, for their support and encouragement. His daughters – the hopes of his family – remind him daily of the promise of this generation of students who will soon lead our global society.

For more information about HCCSD and/or the DDW Fine Arts Magnet Academy, call 662-834-2175 or email the superintendent of Schools at jahenderson@holmesccsd.org

FILM REVIEW: BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

RIVETING ROCKTROSPECTIVE CHRONICLES THE METEORIC RISE OF QUEEN

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Prior to seeing *Bohemian Rhapsody*, I knew precious little about the rock group Queen. Sure, I'd enjoyed lots of their pop hits like "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and "Another One Bites the Dust," but I was totally unaware of the legendary, British band's back story. It was founded in the early

Seventies by guitarist Brian May (Gwilym Lee), drummer Roger Taylor (Ben Hardy), bassist John Deacon (Joseph Mazzallo) and lead singer Farrokh Bulsara, aka Freddie Mercury (Rami Malek). The film fittingly revolves around the flamboyant front man with a four-octave vocal range who also came up with the suggestive name Queen. Born in Zanzibar and of Per-

sian descent, Freddie's family fled to England when he was 17 to escape ethnic cleansing. In London, he met Mary Austin (Lucy Boynton), the woman he would forever consider the love of his life, despite the fact that he was homosexual. For years, she would serve as the rock Freddie returned to whenever Queen came off the road, until the philandering, flirtatious cross-dresser finally

confessed to being gay. Out of the closet, he was suddenly free to engage in the sort of risky sexual behavior that could catch up with you at the inception of the AIDS epidemic. Meanwhile, Queen continued to crank out such rock-and-roll anthems as "We Will Rock You" and "We Are the Champions." Eventually, an ailing Freddie would abandon his band mates for a solo career that failed to

take off. All of the above is recounted in fascinating fashion in *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a riveting rock-trospective directed by Bryan Singer (*The Usual Suspects*). Whether recreating the group's concert performances or offering a peek at their offstage antics, it's always the irrepressible Freddie who's front and center. Rami Malek delivers an unforgettable performance in a

breakout role destined to be remembered come awards season. Excellent (4 stars) Rated PG-13 for profanity, mature themes, suggestive material and drug use Running time: 134 minutes Production Studio: GK Films / New Regency Pictures / Queen Films Ltd. / Regency Enterprises / Tribeca Productions / Studio: 20th Century Fox



Kam's Kapsules

Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams
Columnist

For movies opening December 7, 2018

Wide Releases

Mary Queen of Scots (R for violence and sexuality) Saoirse Ronan plays the title role in this costume drama based on John Guy's best-selling biography chronicling the charismatic monarch's turbulent reign. With Margot Robbie, Gemma Chan and David Tennant.

Independent & Foreign Films

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 Christmas Eve after running away from a drug treatment center. With Julia Roberts, Courtney B. Vance and Kathryn Newton.

Central Park (Unrated) Genre-bending horror flick about a half-dozen high school BFFs who end up on the run from a knife-wielding, hooded executioner when they decide to spend a night partying in the park. Ensemble cast includes Grace Van Patten, Ruby Mo-

dine, David Valcin and Nicole Balsam.

The Charmer (Unrated) Romance drama, set in Denmark, about an Iranian refugee (Ardan Esmaili) desperate to seduce a woman who can solidify his immigration status. Featuring Susan Taslimi, Lars Brygmann and Soho Rezanjad. (In English, Persian and Danish with subtitles).

Clara's Ghost (Unrated) Paula Niedert Elliott plays the title character in this dysfunctional family dramedy as a woman who finds solace in a supernatural spirit when she gets fed up with her self-absorbed relatives. With Chris Elliott, Haley Joel Osment and Bella Bracken.

Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes (Unrated) Warts-and-all biopic chronicling the rise and fall of the late, longtime chairman of Fox Television/adviser to Presidents Reagan, Bushes 41 and 43, and Donald Trump. Featuring commentary by Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly and Megyn Kelly.

Great Great Great (Unrated) Romance drama about a couple (Dan Beirne and Sarah Kolaszky) whose blissful relationship

starts to fall apart after they get engaged. Support cast includes Richard Clarkin, Lindsay Leese and Ian Fisher.

The Great Pretender (Unrated) Romantic romp, set in NYC, revolving around a French playwright (Maelle Poesy-Guichard) who falls for the star (Keith Poulson) playing her ex in her stage version of their failed relationship. With Linas Phillips, Esther Garrel and Julian Grady. (In English and French with subtitles).

Tyrel (Unrated) Jason Mitchell portrays the title character in this fish-out-of-water drama about an African American who feels uncomfortable being the only black person attending a lily-white, weekend birthday party in the Catskills. With Christopher Abbott, Trust Arancio and Max Born.

Vox Lux (R for profanity, drug use and graphic violence) Musical drama, set in 1999, chronicling the transformation of an aspiring singer (Raffey Cassidy) into a pop icon with the help of her manager (Jude Law) and songwriter sister (Stacy Martin). With Natalie Portman, Jennifer Ehle and Christopher Abbott.

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.

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Rod Stewart

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

Q K Z T S P O L M T S U G G K Z G F T L V G F
G G O P A L S T E L S O S R L W S H U H W
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Tomes & Talismans returns for one-time special airing Dec. 10-14 on MPB Television

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Fans of Tomes & Talismans – a 1980s series about Earth’s last library – can watch all 13 episodes for a one-time special airing Dec. 10-14 at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Television. Each episode is 20 minutes long.

Tomes & Talismans takes place in the distant future when all of human-kind have been evacuated from Earth. A group of returning children stumble upon the last Earth library and must rely on the Dewey Decimal system to uncover the information held there.

MPB, which was known as Mississippi ETV back in 1986 when the series was released, produced the program in Jackson in which several local residents were cast, including current Mississippi Sen. John Horhn and the late Hinds County Sheriff Malcolm McMillin. Since then, fans of Tomes & Talismans from far and near have reached out to MPB wondering if they would ever see the series again.

“It’s hard to describe Tomes & Talismans any better than it was described in *The New Yorker* by Meredith Blake in 2010,” said MPB Television Director John Gibson. She wrote, “It’s quite possibly the finest post-apocalyptic educational series about library science ever produced by Mississippi Public Television.” Well, it was actually produced by Mississippi ETV, now MPB, but the rest of that quote is accurate.

It’s a very imaginative, very strange, one-of-a-kind educational series that’s



Halbach

just a lot of fun to watch all these years later.”

Horhn, who is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and board member of New Stage Theater in Jackson, recalls being in about four or five episodes of the series.

“The show was produced long before we had Google, Siri or Alexa. It was a great instructional series about the importance of libraries, the Dewey Decimal system, and being able to access information,” Horhn said. “Our writers took advantage of the ‘Star Trek’ craze going on at the time and put together a futuristic story that featured some very memorable characters.”

Denise Halbach of Ridgeland appeared in the first episode. She brought her Hinds Community College theater



Horhn

students to a casting call for Tomes & Talismans and inadvertently ended up being cast instead of a student.

“It was a lot of fun. I loved working at Mississippi ETV,” Halbach said. Though now retired, Halbach stays connected to her profession by working at the box office of New Stage Theatre.

Tomes & Talismans has been used by teachers and librarians to help students understand the antiquated way to navigate libraries. MPB has collected several emails from those educators as well as fans and self-proclaimed nerds from across the nation who wanted to purchase the series or watch it again. This one-time rebroadcast should come at their delight this holiday season.



The late Hinds County Sheriff Malcolm McMillin



Tomes & Talismans cast

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BOOK REVIEW:
“A TUBA CHRISTMAS”
BY **HELEN L. WILBUR**,
ILLUSTRATED BY **MARY REAVES UHLES**
C.2018, SLEEPING BEAR PRESS
\$16.99 / \$21.99 CANADA • 32 PAGES

“CONSTRUCTION SITE ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT”
BY **SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER AND AG FORD**
C.2018, CHRONICLE KIDS
\$16.99 / \$22.99 CANADA • 40 PAGES

“PLUM : HOW THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY GOT HER WINGS”
BY **SEAN HAYES & SCOTT ICENOGL**, ILLUSTRATED BY **ROBIN THOMPSON**
C.2018, SLEEPING BEAR PRESS
\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 48 PAGES

By **Terri Schlichenmeyer**
Columnist

You already know the story about Santa.

You know about his reindeer and his sleigh and the toys. You know about Frosty and Rudolph and the elves. But what about fairies, tubas, or construction equipment at Christmastime? With these great picture books, you’ll learn fast...

Everyone in Ava’s family played some sort of musical instrument and so when it was time for Ava to decide what she wanted to play, she knew

immediately that she wanted a tuba because nobody else was playing one. But in “The Christmas Tuba” by Helen L. Wilbur, illustrated by Mary Reaves Uhles, Ava learns that big instruments come with big problems and she almost quits – until her music teacher, Rodney, makes a big announcement.

In a few days, it’ll be Christmas everywhere. In “Construction Site on Christmas Night” by Sherri Duskey Rinker and Ag Ford, dump trucks, mixers, bulldozers, excavators and other equipment toil on a project

that must be done by the end of the year. Each machine does its job perfectly and at the end of the night, there’s a reward: each finds a special holiday thank-you for their hard work.

Of all the kids at Mary Fitzgerald Orphanage, Plum was the smallest and the other kids never let her forget it. One night, she was sent to bed early for something she didn’t do, but Plum decided not to let her troubles spoil Christmas. After making presents for all the kids in the orphanage, she discovered a mysteriously wrapped

gift with her name on the tag. In “Plum: How the Sugar Plum Fairy Got Her Wings” by Sean Hayes & Scott Icenogle, illustrated by Robin Thompson, that led to a sweet surprise.

If read-aloud time is important in your house, wouldn’t it be great to have a holiday theme for the next few days? Of course it would, and one of these fun books might be just the thing to ho-ho-have.

With its Christmas concert theme, “A Tuba Christmas” is perfect for 4-to-7-year-olds who love music and perform-

ing. Be sure you’ve got your sound-effects voice warmed up, because this book will be doubly fun if you play along.

Because just about every 2-to-5-year-old likes big machines, “Construction Site on Christmas Night” takes the “Construction Site” books to a natural holiday level with a tale of hard work and giving. Here’s a hint: if your child is on Christmas overload and can’t sleep, this book makes a great bedtime story.

And finally, “Plum” is a just-right book for slightly older

children (5-to-7 years old) who still crave holiday tradition in a read-aloud. It’s a cute story that, from an adult’s perspective, is perhaps a bit too contrived; to kids, though, it’s as fanciful and lovable as its ballet namesake.

For the child who wants a Christmas story but the same old tales need new sparkle, grab any of these three books. With their holiday themes and cute illustrations (but not a word about The Jolly Old Elf), you absolutely know your child will love them.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District Celebrate Unity Day!

The HCSD participated in United Day in October to show support against bullying. All schools and local communities were encouraged to make ORANGE our color. On Unity Day everyone was asked to come together – in schools, communities and online – and send one large ORANGE message of support, hope and unity to show that we are together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion.



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SMOOTH 100.5 FM

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CUTIES**

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POTATOES**

8 LB. BAG

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BISCUITS**

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PIGGLY WIGGLY

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