

# Hosemann announces bid for Lt. Governor



**Hosemann**

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Long-time conservative businessman and Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann made official his bid for lieutenant governor.

Hosemann kicked off a ten-stop, statewide announcement tour at KLLM Transport, a Rankin County business which has grown from a small entity to employing thousands in a matter of decades.

“I want to be a part of leaving a better educated, healthier and more prosperous Mississippi to our children and grandchildren,”

Hosemann said. “The next lieutenant governor will have a significant impact on your future and our future.”

Refocusing on small Mississippi businesses and helping them thrive will be a cornerstone of Hosemann’s campaign, along with education, healthcare and infrastructure.

“Businesses have told us their biggest need is an educated workforce,” Hosemann said. “We need to start training our

**Hosemann**  
*Continued on page 3*

# African-American chefs break the glass ceiling in the culinary world



**By Stacy M. Brown**  
*NNPA Newswire Contributor*

The culinary business world is as cut throat as any other. It’s also known as an industry that hasn’t always allowed for much diversity in management and ownership at its higher echelon.

However, it appears that African Americans are finally breaking barriers, starring in many kitchens around the nation and serving up fine delicacies and treats that have those of all races and backgrounds coming back for second-helpings.

“Memphis is a foodie town with a minority-majority make-up... thoughtful discussions about equity in the food industry are at the forefront here and folks care about presentation, which is at the heart of the issue,” said Cynthia Daniels, the founder of Memphis Black Restaurant Week.

“I’ve also seen the difficulty that black-owned restaurants experience with not having big marketing budgets to advertise for new business,” Daniels

**New you**  
*Continued on page 3*

# California Congresswoman Maxine Waters makes history: *first black, first woman to chair House Financial Services Committee*

**By Charlene Crowell**  
*Triceedneywire.com*

As 2019 begins, there is also a new Congress with leadership in the House of Representatives that makes history for people of color and women alike.

Long-time California Representative Nancy Pelosi returns as Speaker of the House – the first time in 50 years that a Member of Congress has achieved this feat. On a gender note, Pelosi becomes the most powerful woman on Capitol Hill and the only female in the nation’s history to do so.

There’s also another key woman and legislator that is making history. Congresswoman Maxine Waters is now the first black and the first woman to chair the powerful House Financial Services Committee. Having served on this committee since 1995, and its Ranking Member in the previous Congress, Waters will set the committee’s agenda in key areas affecting the economy, banking, housing, insurance and securities.

The House Financial Services Committee oversees the activities and responsibilities for major financial regulators, agencies and the nation’s central bank, the Federal Reserve. These agencies include but are not limited to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



**Waters**

– that insures monies in depository institutions, as well as the Securities and Exchange Commission that is charged with maintaining fair and efficient investment markets.

In other words, the fiery and bold black lawmaker, who earned a reputation for challenging Wall Street and major lenders during the housing crisis, will now set the direction for a range of financial players,

**Waters**  
*Continued on page 3*

# Tougaloo College congratulates Congressman Bennie G. Thompson on his designation as chair of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 116th Congress

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Caucus has elected Congressman Bennie G. Thompson to chair the Committee on Homeland Security for the 116th Congress.

The Committee on Homeland Security was created by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002 in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. The Committee was first formed as a select, non-permanent committee to provide congressional oversight over the development of the Department of Homeland Security. The committee was made permanent when it was designated as a Standing Committee of the House January 4, 2005, the first day of the 109th Congress. As a Standing Committee, the committee on Homeland Security has broad oversight jurisdiction on all matters related to domestic security.

Thompson is a 1968 graduate of Tougaloo College. He is the longest serving African-American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation.

*For more information about the committee, visit our website <https://homeland.house.gov> or find the Committee on Twitter @HomelandDems.*



Thompson





## Timothy Lewis announces candidacy for the 2019 Hinds County Tax Collector



*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Timothy Lewis proudly announces his candidacy for the 2019 election for Hinds County Tax Collector.

Lewis has a passion and desire to serve all citizens of Hinds County. He has saved citizens over \$4.8 million, allocating raises for 800 plus county employees.

Lewis understands the primary responsibility of the tax collector's office, but wants to do more than collect taxes, issue tax bills and process tax payments.

He believes taxpayers need real accountability of government funds, cash management oversight, innovative customer service programs that will not create a hardship on taxpayers and an aggressive system for collecting delinquent taxes.

Qualifying signing was January 4, 2019 at the Hinds County Court House in the Circuit Clerk's office located at 407 East Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39201.

Primary election day is Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

The Hinds County elections will be held concurrently with the statewide direct primary election.

Learn more about Tim Lewis and his campaign by visiting [www.lewisfortaxcollector.com](http://www.lewisfortaxcollector.com)

*New Leadership. New Vision.  
“It’s Time for A Change”*

## Shirley Thompson Day at The Stew Pot 2018

*A Blue and White Family Day of Service*



*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

On Monday, December 31, 2018, the last day of this calendar year, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated - Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter (Jackson, MS) continued to honor the legacy of service exemplified by the late Shirley Bracey Thompson by planning, preparing and serving food at the Stew Pot Community Center.

Initiating the upcoming year of the Blue and White Family (2019), the chapter service project included members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated from around the Jackson Metro area, Brookhaven, MS, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, Jackson Amicae, Archonettes, Amicettes, Pearlettes, undergraduate members and the Zeta Male Network. Centennial Sisterhood Circles joined together as well to complete the circle of service.

Shayla Edwards (president of Gamma Beta Zeta, Brookhaven-MS and Zeta legacy of the late Shirley Thompson) shared commemorative reflections of her aunt and what the day meant to her family.

For more than 26 years on December 31st, Thompson purchased and

prepared food as well as organized volunteers to serve the homeless at the Stew Pot Community Center. She was committed to the spirit of our National Initiative- Z-HOPE, Zetas helping other people excel. She was a community conscious member with the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter located in Jackson, Mississippi.

Her siblings, Cora Edwards (sister), Gamma Beta Zeta and Larry Joe Bracey (brother) and other family members were present to assist with the annual service project.

Since her passing in 2014, the members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter have continued to honor her legacy of service every year on December 3, which has become known as “Shirley Thompson Day” at the Stew Pot Community Center.

The late Shirley Bracey Thompson was born September 16, 1941 in Canton, Mississippi. She had the distinct title of Diamond Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She became a member in 1961 with the Lambda Beta Chapter at Jackson State University and was active for over 50 years, which earned her the title of “Zeta Dove.”

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## Hosemann

Continued from page 1



workforce of tomorrow today, and we need to recognize and value the leaders in this effort – our teachers in our classrooms.”

In three short terms as secretary of state, Hosemann successfully delivered on all his promises to voters. Mississippi’s voter ID law, effective in 2014, is now supported by 81 percent of Mississippians and remains among one of the few in the nation which has never been challenged in court. Hosemann automated the formation of and filing requirements for businesses, and has helped raise \$1 billion for public schools through 16th Section leases during his tenure.

“When we make promises, we keep them, and we intend to bring the same sense of commitment and follow through to the lieutenant governor’s office,” Hosemann said. “We’re asking for your support to be

hired for the job.”

Raised in Warren County, Mississippi, Hosemann spent the majority of his professional life as a businessman.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in business from Notre Dame, a law degree from Ole Miss, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. He is a former partner of Jackson-based law firm Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Hosemann also served his country in the United States Army Reserves.

Hosemann is married to the former Lynn Lagen. Delbert and Lynn Hosemann have three children, Kristen, Chad and Mark; and seven grandchildren, Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, Charlie, Manse, Charlotte and Howard Delbert (the newest – at four days old).

*For more information, visit [www.delberthosemann.com](http://www.delberthosemann.com).*

## New you

Continued from page 1

said. That’s why she founded Memphis Black Restaurant Week and have advised other cities to do the same.

“It’s a celebration that advocates for black chefs, brings more awareness around their food and beverage traditions, generates new income, and moves the needle in terms of inclusivity in the culinary world,” Daniels said.

That inclusion and enthusiasm appears to have caught on.

“I am truly optimistic for the future with the culinary industry because while there are still a lot of areas in which to grow, we are slowly chipping away the stereotype of what African-American chefs have to offer,” said award-winning executive chef and QVC Food Stylist Kristol Bryant.

“We are diversified in our skills, talents and cuisines. African-American chefs are no longer just soul-food or southern cuisine chefs, we are so much more,” Bryant said.

“Through education and exploration, we can finally break into areas that we never knew were there. Being seen on television is great for us but being a legitimate authority in culinary in the corporate, private and entertainment sectors is the next step.”

An article in the culinary-centric publication, FSR Magazine, noted that when its reporters wrote about the rise of African-American chefs in the U.S. three years ago, several themes prevailed, including that a wide range of talented African American chefs had emerged, like Executive Chef Edouardo Jordan in Seattle, Marcus Samuelsson in New York and Mashama Bailey in Savannah, Ga.

Often, African-American chefs are stuck in the kitchen as sous chefs or line chefs and routinely failing to be given an opportunity to become head chefs, according to FSR. And, African-American chefs, on the whole, have encountered tougher obstacles raising funds to open their own establishments.

However, the industry now has several African-American chefs serving as role models and paving the way for more minority chefs to make their mark in the U.S.

Examples include Chef Dieuveil Malonga, a 26-year old Forbes 30 under 30 Congolese Chef and a finalist for the Basque Culinary World Prize. Malonga works closely with luxury and fashion brands such as Rick Owens to bring awareness about the African continent through exclusive culinary experiences around the world.

With private clients like ASAP Rocky, Mos Def and others, Malonga has been featured by **The**

**New York Times, Vogue, BBC.** He’s also spoken at The United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Chef Ronnie Rainwater of Delmonico Steakhouses also serves as another example of African Americans breaking the proverbial glass ceiling in the culinary world.

“He grew up in the kitchen, shadowing his southern grandmother at the stove; anxious to taste anything he could get his hands on,” said Sade Mills of One 7 Communications.

Rainwater attended Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Oregon and obtained a Culinary Arts Degree in 1999. One of his early jobs in the industry was an internship in the kitchen at The Playboy Mansion in Beverly Hills, where he helped prepare dinners and private events for guests.

In June 1999, Ronnie was offered a position as a cook at Emeril Lagasse’s Delmonico Steakhouse at The Venetian and moved to Las Vegas.

In 2007, he was promoted to executive sous chef at the restaurant.

In January 2011, after working with Emeril for over 11 years at his restaurants in Las Vegas and on the East coast, he was tapped to become the next chef de cuisine of Delmonico Steakhouse.

“Today, he leads the kitchen at Delmonico and oversees all facets of its culinary operations, from sourcing products, to managing the restaurant’s in-house dry-aging program for prime U.S.D.A. beef, to crafting ambitious nightly tasting menus for guests at his kitchen table,” Mills said.

“His love of simple fresh ingredients has helped him cultivate close relationships with local farmers who supply the restaurant with their best products including beets, heirloom tomatoes, squash blossoms and seasonal herbs,” she said, noting that a local orchard provides him with fresh apples and cider, along with the apple wood used to brine and smoke the restaurant’s house cured bacon.

The rise of the African-American chef also was seen at the 2018 James Beard Awards, where four African-American and Caribbean American chefs were honored at the ceremony.

“There is a black hand in many pots and today, talented chefs are using their culinary skill-set as platforms to create, motivate and inspire,” said Charla Draper, a former food editor at Ebony and Southern Living magazines, who now serves as a consultant providing marketing services for food and food-related business.

“Chefs are using their talents traditionally and non-traditionally to mentor and open doors for others,” she said.

## Waters

Continued from page 1

regulators, and institutions. From monetary policy to the production and distribution of currency, and expanding financial access to affordable housing options, a progressive and principled committee chair is running the show. She is also expected to set standards of performance that level the financial playing field and hold lenders accountable when they take advantage of consumers or discriminate in their lending.

With the right kind of regulation and committee oversight, the nation may be able to change financial trends that have worsened both racial and gender wealth gaps.

For example, a December 2018 report by the Asset Funder’s Network analyzed racial and gender disparities in wealth and found that Black and Latina women have “lost substantial amounts of wealth in the last two decades.”

From 2007 to 2016, black women ages 45-65 had a 74 percent drop in median wealth, compared to that of white women who experienced a 28 percent drop. Further, the Asset Funders Network concluded the median “quasi-liquid” savings for single black and Latina women aged 45-50 was \$0.

Earlier in 2017 the Federal Reserve found that nearly 1 in 5

black families have zero or negative net worth – twice the rate of white families. Additionally the median net worth of black families was one-tenth of that held by white families.

These wealth disparities continue to plague communities of color in large part because of disparities in home ownership that enable consumers to build wealth. Year after year, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) report has consistently found that consumers of color are denied access to mortgages, especially private conventional loans that remain the most sustainable and affordable loans.

Last year, the Center for Investigative Reporting published its analysis of the most recent HMDA report. “It found a pattern of troubling denials for people of color across the country, including in major metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Detroit, Philadelphia, St. Louis and San Antonio,” states the report. “African Americans faced the most resistance in Southern cities – Mobile, Alabama; Greenville, North Carolina; and Gainesville, Florida – and Latinos in Iowa City, Iowa.”

A second but equally harmful trend is predatory lending that targets these same consumers with

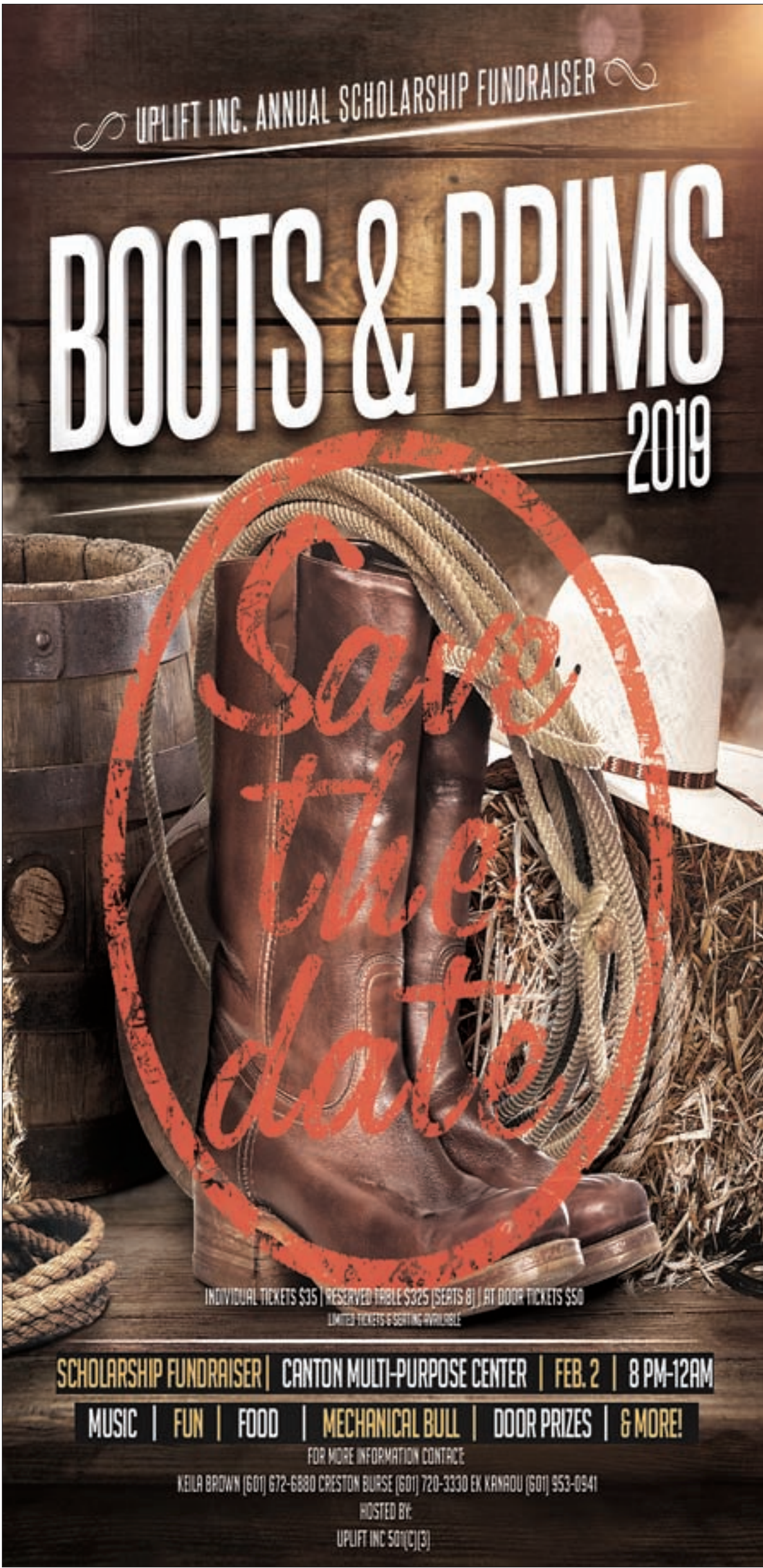
high-cost credit that creates debt traps. When consumers find themselves short of cash before payday, overdraft fees, payday and car title loans are among the most predatory due to their extremely high interest rates and failure to consider whether borrowers have the financial capacity to repay the loans without taking on additional debt.

For all of black America, as well as consumer advocates and others who believe financial fairness should be the nation’s watchword, an expectation of a new era of accountability, access and transparency is hoped to soon unfold.

“She is a tough and savvy defender of consumer protection and holds the feet of the banks and the Trump administration regulators to the fire,” said Mike Calhoun, president of the Center for Responsible Lending in a recent interview.

Should anyone doubt the resolve of Waters, consider her reaction last fall when she and other prominent progressives faced a series of bomb threats and other violence.

“We have to keep doing what we’re doing in order to make this country right,” Waters told the *Washington Post*. “That’s what I intend to do. And as the young people say, ‘I ain’t scared.’”







# Jackie Mason

*June 25, 1948 - December 26, 2018*

Jacqueline Williams entered this world June 25, 1948 in Farmhaven, MS, the second of six children born to Minnie and Walter Williams. She left this world December 26, 2018, preceded in death by her father, brothers Freddy and Walter Jr., first husband Dennis Carl Mason, and second husband John Grimes.

Jackie confessed her love in Christ at an early age, and was a faithful servant until her death.

At a young age, Jackie moved

from Mississippi to St. Louis, MO where she received her education in the Saint Louis public schools, graduating from Beaumont High School.

Jackie united in holy matrimony to Dennis Mason and unto that union her only child was born (son Romel). She later married "Papa John" Grimes.

In addition to her roles as a loving Mom and homemaker, Jackie discovered her abilities in sales and merchandising while manag-

ing a popular record retail store after high school. Later she went on to use these talents in the hospitality, fashion, retail and medical industries in St. Louis and Los Angeles, CA.

Jackie lived her life full of love, joy and true happiness, which she shared with all she met. Jackie was known for her beauty and style, sharp wit and humor, boundless energy, wise advice, caring heart and ferocious love for her family and friends.

She truly never met a stranger.

Jackie leaves behind many loved ones: Mother Minnie Williams; son Romel Mason (Erica); three grandchildren: Tawnie, Malik and Ava; and two great-grandchildren Marlie and Mason; three sisters: Germa Dean, Harweada and Sammie; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Jackie was memorialized at the Austin Lyne Funeral Home on Natural Bridge in St. Louis January 3, 2019.



Pictured above are loved ones who traveled to St. Louis to say goodbye to Jackie including cousins from Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and Indiana. So many heartwarming, sometimes comical, tributes were delivered by family until the officiating Pastor R. Andre Epps said there was nothing left for him to do except pronounce the benediction.

## Joyce Woodruff Proctor

*August 12, 1949 - January 1, 2019*



Joyce Woodruff Proctor was born August 12, 1949, in Jackson, Mississippi to Lena Mae Sharp and Sam Woodruff, also of Jackson, Mississippi. She departed this earthly life January 1, 2019.

Joyce was educated in the Rankin County School System and attended Carter High School in Brandon, MS.

At age 17, Joyce married Kenneth Proctor June 13, 1970. They remained together for approximately five years.

Joyce raised five exceptional children on Farish Street in Jackson, Mississippi. She grounded them in the principles of faith in God and good citizenship and worked tirelessly to meet their growing needs.

Joyce worked for over 10 years at Lo Price Sak fish house located in the Farish Street Historic District. Her cooking skills extended to her own kitchen where she prepared meals for her family, friends and even those she met for the first time.

It has been said of Joyce that she never met a stranger. She was kind to everyone she met and offered assistance to them when and where she could. No questions asked, no judgment given. Her door was always open.

Those who remain to continue Joyce's legacy are her five children: Mark, Michelle, Andre (Laramie), Steven (Tammy) and Roderick (Melissa); 15 grandchildren: Mario (Tinisha), Tomeka, Terry, Antoine, Ashley, Damion, Andre, Clarissa, Miguel, Chantel, Theorsio, Tyreese, Kaila, Hayden and Josiah; 8 great grandchildren: Miya, Makailah, Mariya, Tamaron, Eriyelle, Damon, Star and Aaden; three brothers: Johnny, Randy and Maurice (Crystal); two sisters: Maria (Rodney) and Maureen (Cornelius); several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., January 10, 2019 at Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson, MS.



**Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start**  
**is currently accepting applications**  
**for the 2018-2019 school year.**



Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)

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**\*\*Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)**

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**To Apply, You Must Present the Following:**

- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W-2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-5935.

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# *Swearing in Ceremony for County-Elected Officials*

**Hinds Co. Courthouse • Jan. 2, 2019 • Jackson, MS**

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY





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- Ability to promote effective communication and interpersonal relations among students, parents, teachers and administrators  
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# Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 10

*Mississippi Link Newswire*  
Mason Manning of Murrah High School is the Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 10. Manning is a 6-0 freshman guard for the Murrah Mustangs. He had 26 points, 4 rebounds and made 3 assists in a win over Lanier High School. Circle B will donate \$120 in Manning'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.



Manning

# Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 17

*Mississippi Link Newswire*  
Keondre Montgomery of Forest Hill High School is the Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 17. Montgomery is a 6-7 junior forward for the Forest Hill Patriots. He scored 27 points in a game against Vicksburg and 24 points against Callaway. Circle B will donate \$120 in Montgomery'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.



Montgomery

# Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 24

*Mississippi Link Newswire*  
Geonna Marshall of Forest Hill High School is the Hardwood Hero of the Week for December 24. Marshall is a 6-0 senior forward for the Lady Patriots. She scored 21 points and made 3 rebounds in a game against Murrah and 18 points and 7 rebounds in a game against Jim Hill. Circle B will donate \$120 in Marshall'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.



Marshall

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## School of Dentistry to offer free week of care during Dental Mission Week

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Nathaniel Williams of Jackson will be returning to this year's Dental Mission Week at the University of Mississippi Medical Center after receiving what he referred to as "tremendous" care last year.

Williams, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, is one of 265 veterans who do not qualify for dental benefits from the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center who received free treatment during the event last year.

When he saw that the School of Dentistry was planning the event, he jumped at the opportunity.

"I never knew what a real cleaning felt like. And then they pulled a tooth ... I didn't even know it was out," he recalled. "Everybody was friendly and focused on those teams. I was impressed."

Dental Mission Week is a joint effort involving volunteers from the Schools of Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Related Professions and Medicine at UMMC along with dentists and staff from local practices. The goal is to provide much-needed dental care to underserved and uninsured adults and children.

"There's a lot of people, a lot of hustle and bustle and activity, but they get the job done," Williams said of the volunteers.

From Feb. 4 through Feb. 8, Mississippians will get the opportunity again at the third installment of the event, held each year since 2017.

"Dental Mission Week was born out of our students' desire to serve the community. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the School of Dentistry and our partners to give back in the form of high quality, free dental care for those who might not be able to afford it otherwise," Dr. David Felton, dean of the school and professor of care planning and restorative dentistry sciences, said. "Each year we have treated more patients than before, and I hope we will do the same in 2019 and for many years to follow."

Kicking off Dental Mission Week each year is Give Kids a Smile Day, where hundreds of elementary-aged children from select Jackson Public Schools visit the dental school to get a free teeth cleaning and oral evaluation to take home. If necessary, a note requesting a follow-up visit is sent home with the child.

For many Johnson Elementary students last year, receiving dental care at GKAS was the first time they had their teeth cleaned.

More than 500 students from Johnson, two other local elementary schools and the Stewpot After-School Program received free dental care valued at over \$100,000 during the 2018 event. During the rest of the week, 1,348 adults from across the state received 6,460 dental procedures worth about \$1.05 million in uncompensated care.

The event is much needed in Mississippi, where more than half of residents who have not seen a dentist in the last 12 months gave cost as the main reason for the lapse, according to a survey from the American Dental Association.

Mississippi also has the second lowest patient-to-dentist ratio in the United States, according to the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute, making access to dental care a problem for some. There are 2,120 residents for every active, licensed dentist in the state, and in rural areas that number is even higher, according to the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners and U.S. Census data.

This year, the School of Dentistry at UMMC will host its 15th annual Give Kids a Smile Day Monday, Feb. 4, with the rest of Dental Mission Week continuing through that week. Feb. 7 will be Veterans Day.



Donna Edwards, dental assistant, and Curtis Porter, U.S. Army veteran, are all smiles after his dental visit at the 2018 Dental Mission Week hosted by the School of Dentistry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



U.S. Air Force veteran Nathaniel Williams of Jackson receives a blood test from nursing student Annie Sinclair during 2018 Dental Mission Week.



Dr. Anna Nix, left, a pediatric dentistry resident, and second-year dental student Burke Ellzey treat Johnson Elementary student Jamarion Ricks during the 2018 Give Kids a Smile Day.

## MSU Provost/ EVP Judith L. "Judy" Bonner to retire June 30

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi State University Provost and Executive Vice President Judith L. "Judy" Bonner has informed the university of her intention to retire at the end of the current fiscal year June 30, MSU President Mark E. Keenum announced Jan. 7.

The second-ranking university administrator reporting to the president, Bonner is responsible for all academic policies, integrity of the academic mission, and academic operations of the university. She provides direct oversight for eight academic colleges and two campuses, as well as many academic and non-academic support units.

Bonner also works with senior administrators to develop budgetary recommendations that affect the teaching, research and service missions of the institution.

Keenum said work already has begun on formulating an exhaustive national search like the one that produced Bonner's appointment in 2016 after then-MSU Provost Jerry Gilbert was named



Bonner PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

president of Marshall University.

"In this vital and challenging leadership role, Dr. Bonner served MSU with tremendous distinction and her accomplishments here have elevated this university to new academic heights," said Keenum. "While I am saddened over her decision to retire, I respect Dr. Bonner's impeccable vision and judgment that the time is right for her to bring to a close what can only be described as a legendary career in higher education."

Keenum said he was likewise "extremely grateful for the time Dr. Bonner's announcement afforded MSU to conduct a far-reaching national search for her successor."

She joined MSU's leadership team after a distinguished career as a longtime senior administrator and former president of the University of Alabama.

"Working with President Keenum and the incredible faculty, staff, and administrators at Mississippi State has been icing on the cake for me both professionally and personally," Bonner said. "When I retired from Alabama, I wasn't planning on another position but Mississippi State was a perfect fit. This university is an academic leader in the state of Mississippi and a change-agent for cutting-edge academic and research programs that are recognized throughout the nation and around the world. I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped make my time at MSU so incredibly rewarding, and I will always ring true with my Bulldog family."

Bonner served as UA's 28th president from 2012 to 2015, having previously served as provost and executive vice president for almost a decade. Bonner's UA career also included positions as professor, department chair, assistant academic vice president, special assistant to the president, dean and interim president. Prior to this, she held faculty appointments in the University of Alabama-Birmingham department of pediatrics and in Ohio State University's medical dietetics department.

She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from UA. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Ohio State. Her degrees are in human nutrition, and her research focused on nutritional needs of chronically ill children and eating disorders.

After completing her service as the UA president in 2015, the UA Board of Trustees created a \$1 million endowment to annually bestow the Judy Bonner Presidential Prize on an individual making a significant difference in the undergraduate experience. Also, the UA National Alumni Association in 2016 presented her its highest honor, the Distinguished Alumna Award.

She is a two-time recipient of the Amanda Grace Taylor Watson Distinctive Image Award for 2007 and 2015 from the Capstone Men and Women, and Omicron Delta Kappa national honor society presented her with the 2015 Living Legend Award.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu)

## Rho Lambda Omega Chapter 111th Founders' Day Celebration

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Rho Lambda Omega Chapter, in conjunction with the Lambda Iota Chapter at Millsaps College, will host a public celebration of the sorority's 111th Founders' Day.

Rho Lambda Omega celebrated 30 years as a chapter on October 23, 2018. Rho Lambda Omega president, Kimberly Smith Russ says, "the excitement continues as the chapter begins a new year focused, energized and ready to implement the targets of the new

international administration."

This dynamic event will feature guest speaker Charletta Wilson Jacks, former International Secretary of Alpha Kappa Alpha. There will also be music by the Cotton Blossom Singers of Piney Woods Country Life School. The

theme for this year's Founders' Day celebration is "Celebrating the Legacy of Excellence Through Sisterhood and Service." It will commemorate the glorious passageway charted by decades of Alpha Kappa Alpha women.

In keeping with the mission of chapters worldwide to provide service to their local communities, Rho Lambda Omega will also honor individuals who continue to render outstanding and valuable service to all mankind. The public is invited to join us

Saturday, January 12, 2019, at 1 p.m. at historic Woodworth Chapel on the campus of Tougaloo College.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Smith Russ at (601) 918-5605 or by email: [kymberlis@yahoo.com](mailto:kymberlis@yahoo.com).



# MVSU Mock Trial team lays down the law during exhibition

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Practice makes perfect, and the Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team recently put that theory into practice during an intra-squad scrimmage.

During the event, hosted in the Carver A. Randle Auditorium of the W.A. Butts Social Science Building, the team split to oppose one another in a full trial as they prepare for upcoming competitions.

Leflore County Justice Court Judge Carlos Palmer, an MVSU alumnus, presided over the fictitious trial.

A large audience, comprised of Greenwood Middle school students as well as Leflore County community members, came out to witness the event.

“Two of the middle school students were so impressed with the exhibition that they vowed to attend Valley and pursue a legal career,” said Kambreka Mitchell of Greenwood, captain of the Mock Trial team.

At the event’s conclusion,



Palmer, an MVSU alumnus, indicated that the team has a bright future.

“I am very impressed with Valley’s Mock Trial Team and

predict they will do very well in future competitions,” he said.

Students performing included Mitchell, Mychal Barnum

of Memphis, Jada Brinson of Miami, Nadia Crawford of Atlanta, Alexxus Ervins of Laurel, Jasmine Murphy of Itta Bena, Rodarius Turner of In-

dianola, Chelsea Washington of Yazoo City and Jesiah Williams of Batesville.

Also, mock trial team alumnus, Kenya Jones, stepped in to

perform in the absence of co-captain, Donovan Brownlee of Columbus, Ohio. Delores Davis served as timekeeper.

The coach for the Mock Trial Team is Neysha Sanders, Esq., assistant professor of legal studies. She is the coordinator of the pre-law legal studies program, serves as university pre-law advisor, and is also a member of Sanders and Sanders Law Firm.

The volunteer coach for the team is Larry W. Chappell, a retired professor of political science at MVSU.

The program is sponsored by the MVSU Department of Social Sciences, The Office of Academic Affairs, The Office of University Advancement, The Office of Sponsored Programs and The Office of the President; and the Leflore County Board of Supervisors.

The team will be back in action during the 8th Annual Argo Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, slated for Jan. 19-20 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

## Elizabeth Myles graduates from Leadership Mississippi program

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

An Alcorn State University employee made strides toward a successful career in leadership.

Elizabeth Myles, a marketing specialist for the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, recently graduated from the Leadership Mississippi program.

Leadership Mississippi is the second oldest statewide leadership program in the nation and is conducted by the M.B. Swayze Foundation. Since its inception in 1974, Leadership Mississippi has graduated more than 1,500 alumni active in Mississippi business and politics.

Myles is proud of completing what she considers one of the state’s most competitive programs.

“Leadership Mississippi is a very competitive statewide program, and there were over 150 applications,” said Myles. “I was one of the 54 that were accepted. To be accepted and then complete the requirements gives me a feeling of accomplishment.”

Participating in the program has provided Myles with more business connections and enhanced leadership skills.

“Leadership Mississippi has given me the opportunity to expand my network and partnership with businesses and community leaders throughout the entire state. I have developed skills and techniques to be an effective and accountable leader.”

Now that Myles has attained new knowledge, she plans to use it to better Alcorn.

“The program has prepared me to effectively and efficiently lead various programs and equip students for success at Alcorn State University by being a catalyst for change.”

In the future, Myles hopes to enhance her community, Alcorn and the state with quality leadership.



Myles

## Renowned diversity expert Damon A. Williams to speak at MSU’s 2019 Diversity Conference

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

One of the world’s foremost authorities on diversity, equity and inclusion is the featured speaker for Mississippi State University’s 2019 Diversity Conference Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at The Mill at MSU in Starkville.

Damon A. Williams, one of the nation’s recognized experts in strategic diversity leadership, youth development, corporate responsibility, educational achievement, social impact and organizational change, is this year’s keynote speaker.

Conference registration is \$25 for students, \$99 for faculty and staff, and can be completed online at [www.voices.msstate.edu](http://www.voices.msstate.edu). Registration is open to all, and campus departments are encouraged to sponsor attendance for faculty, staff and students. The conference is organized by the MSU President’s Commission on the Status of Minorities.

With the theme “Our Voices – When Diversity Matters,” the event will address ways to use one’s voice to create an environment of inclusiveness in higher education. Strategies for building inclusive communities, engaging the campus and larger community in diversity, advocacy and recruiting, and retaining a diverse faculty and staff are among topics of discussion.

Williams has worked with more than 700 colleges and universities, Fortune 100 companies, foundations and government agencies. He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and black world studies and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Miami University. He also received a doctorate from the University of Michigan’s Center for the Study of Higher and Post-Secondary Education, where he specialized in the area of organizational behavior and management.

In 2013, Williams received the coveted Inclusive Excellence Award of Leadership from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, as well as a leadership commendation from the 13 research universities comprising the Committee



Williams

on Institutional Cooperation for his landmark contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion strategy on a global level.

For four years, Williams served as senior vice president and chief education officer at the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, where he led the program strategy for one of the most ambitious social impact plans in the history of the nonprofit world, the Great Futures Campaign for Impact.

A best-selling author, Williams was a founding member of the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education. His most recent work is “Voice, Choice, Access and Passion: Preparing the Centennial Generation for Leadership,” one of the first publications on the centennial generation that discusses key strategies required to prepare youth born after 1997 for leadership in a diverse, global and interconnected world. He also is launching a new research and learning venture, The Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership and Social Impact.

For more, see [www.drda-monawilliams.com](http://www.drda-monawilliams.com).

Additional conference details can be obtained by contacting MSU’s Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at 662-325-2493 or [voices@msstate.edu](mailto:voices@msstate.edu).

Learn more about MSU’s Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at [www.oidi.msstate.edu](http://www.oidi.msstate.edu) and the President’s Commission on the Status of Minorities at [www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsm](http://www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsm).

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# Reeves enters Governor's race

*Conservative leadership is growing Mississippi's economy, Lt. Gov. Reeves says*

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves has formally entered the 2019 gubernatorial race, committing to be a governor dedicated to growing the careers of the future while guarding the Mississippi values that never change.

"I believe in the great potential of our state and of our people," said Reeves, who was joined by his wife Elee and their three daughters at state Republican Party headquarters. "We are growing a strong economy that will provide good-paying careers for the next generation. Mississippi needs conservative leaders who will stand with President Trump and work to strengthen our state."

Reeves plans to kickoff a border-to-border retail campaign across the state after the legislative session ends in the spring. "I am going to finish the job voters elected me to do as lieutenant governor – guarding the taxpayers' dollars and implementing strong conservative policy," Reeves said.

As lieutenant governor, Reeves pushed for a smart balanced budget, lower taxes and better educational options for all. He has been the strongest voice in the capitol against unnecessary spending and debt and for education reform. He is committed to making Mississippi the safest place for unborn children and



Reeves

protecting Mississippians' Second Amendment Rights.

"I am proud of my record as a conservative fighter," Reeves said. "I pushed successfully for economic policies that encourage job creation and get more investment in classrooms and I have protected the Constitutional freedoms that are important to all Mississippians."

"Our way of life is second to none. We have to defend it against liberals in Washington and Hollywood and we have to create the business climate and skilled workforce that will enable our kids and their kids to stay here and make Mississippi's future even brighter."

# Civil Rights academicians tour makes trek to Marks, Mississippi

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Ira & Mary Zepp Center for Nonviolence & Peace Education, Westminster, MD and Antioch University, Seattle, WA., visited Marks, Miss.

On January 4, 2019, faculty and students of these north-east and west academic institutions visited Marks, Miss. studying the Civil Rights movement led by Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. The group of 51 participants traveled by bus from Atlanta, GA and

visit historical sites in Tuskegee, AL, Montgomery, AL, Ruleville, MS and Birmingham, AL.

The Ira & Mary Zepp Center co-founders Charles Collyer and Pamela Zappidino have been sponsoring this historical and educational tour since January, 1997.

The group is studying the "Poor People's Campaign," led by Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

The educators and college students

talked to residents who actively took part or witnessed the historic civil rights activities in Marks.

The tour consisted of visiting the Mule Train Civil Rights Freedom Trail Marker and the eleven historic sites that mark the 1968 Mule Train Trail.

The tour was followed by a panel discussion featuring participants sharing stories of their journey from Marks to Washington, D.C.

# For-profit education company to forgo collecting loans from 1,858 Mississippians

Mississippi Link Newswire

For-profit education company Career Education Corp. (CEC) has agreed to reform its recruiting and enrollment practices and forgo collecting approximately \$3,087,519 in debts owed by 1,858 Mississippi students as part of a settlement, Attorney General Jim Hood announced.

CEC is based in Schaumburg, Ill., and currently offers primarily online courses through American InterContinental University (AIU) and Colorado Technical University (CTU). Hood and attorneys general from 47 states and the District of Columbia join this settlement which results from an investigation into CEC launched in January 2014 after states received several complaints from students and a critical report on for-profit education by the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. That investigation revealed evidence demonstrating that:

CEC used emotionally charged language to pressure them into enrolling in CEC's schools;

CEC deceived students about the total costs of enrollment by instructing its admissions representatives to inform prospective students only about the cost per credit hour without disclosing the total number of required credit hours;

CEC misled students about the transferability of credits into CEC from other institutions and out of CEC to other institutions by promising on some occasions that credits would transfer;

CEC misrepresented the potential for students to obtain employment in the field by failing to adequately disclose the fact that certain programs lacked the necessary programmatic accreditation; and,

CEC deceived prospective students about the rate that graduates of CEC programs got a job in their field of study, thereby giving prospective students a distorted and inaccurate impression of CEC graduates' employment outcomes. For instance, CEC inaccurately claimed that its graduates were "placed" who worked only temporarily or who were working in unrelated jobs.

As a result of the unfair and deceptive practices described above, students enrolled in CEC who would not have otherwise enrolled, could not obtain professional licensure, and were saddled with substantial debts that they could not repay nor discharge. CEC denied the allegations of the attorneys general but agreed to resolve the claims through this multistate settlement.

Overall, CEC will relieve more than \$493.7 million in debts owed by 179,529 students nationally, after settling with the participating states. Nationally, the average individual debt relief will be \$2,750. CEC has agreed to forgo collection of debts owed to it by students residing in the participating states who either attended a CEC institution that closed before Jan. 1, 2019, or whose final day of attendance at AIU or CTU occurred on or before Dec. 31, 2013.

"Furthering one's education is a

noble effort, and it's a shame that those doing so are being taken advantage of financially by these companies that are in it to make money rather than educate our citizens," Hood said. "I'm proud of our office's Consumer Protection Division for making sure Mississippians who unfortunately fell victim to this school receive the proper debt relief."

CEC has also agreed to pay \$5 million to the states. Mississippi's share will be \$50,000.

CEC has closed or phased out many of its schools over the past 10 years. Its brands have included Briarcliffe College, Brooks Institute, Brown College, Harrington College of Design, International Academy of Design & Technology, Le Cordon Bleu, Missouri College and Sanford-Brown.

CEC denied the allegations of the attorneys general but agreed to resolve the claims through this multi-state settlement.

Under the agreement, CEC must:

- Make no misrepresentations concerning accreditation, selectivity, graduation rates, placement rates, transferability of credit, financial aid, veterans' benefits, or licensure requirements;

- Not enroll students in programs that do not lead to state licensure when required for employment, or that due to their lack of accreditation, will not prepare graduates for jobs in their field. For certain programs that will prepare graduates for some but not all jobs, CEC will be required to disclose such to incoming students;

- Provide a single-page disclosure to each student that includes: a) anticipated total direct cost; b) median debt for completers; c) programmatic cohort default rate; d) program completion rate; e) notice concerning transferability of credits; f) median earnings for completers; and g) the job placement rate;

- Require students before enrolling to complete an Electronic Financial Impact Platform Disclosure, which provides specific information about debt burden and expected post-graduation income. CEC is working with the states to develop this platform;

- Not engage in deceptive or abusive recruiting practices and record online chats and telephone calls with prospective students. CEC shall analyze these recordings to ensure compliance. CEC shall not contact students who indicate that they no longer wish to be contacted;

- Require incoming undergraduate students with fewer than 24 credits to complete an orientation program before their first class that covers study skills, organization, literacy, financial skills, and computer competency. During the orientation period, students may withdraw at no cost;

- Establish a risk-free trial period. All undergraduates who enter an online CEC program with fewer than 24 online credits shall be permitted to withdraw within 21 days of the beginning of the term without incurring any cost. All undergraduates who enter an on-ground CEC program shall be permitted to withdraw within seven days of the first day of class without incurring any cost.

Former students with debt relief eligibility questions can contact the CEC at 847-783-8629 or by calling toll free at 844-783-8629. The CEC email is CECquestions@careered.com.

The CEC investigation was led by Iowa, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. The agreement also covers the District of Columbia and the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.



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# 55-member Congressional Black Caucus vows ‘Course Correction’ for the nation

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

The Congressional Black Caucus of the 116th Congress, the largest ever in its 48-year history with 55 members, is billing itself as a powerful “course corrector” that will consistently fight for justice and against wrongs of the Trump Administration.

“Today is a glorious day for our country. Today marks the beginning of a course correction. Correcting the trauma we have all experienced on a daily basis for the last two years,” the new Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.), said during the annual CBC swearing in service on Capitol Hill Jan. 3. “We will have tremendous power and influence. At this moment in history we are equipped to lead like never before. We are equipped to govern. And we are equipped to resist when and where it’s needed. We are equipped to lead with a vision for our country that not only lifts up our community, but lifts up the nation as a whole.”

Bass assumed the gavel from former CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) before a standing-room-only audience of hundreds who not only celebrated the historic growth of the CBC with nine freshman members, but many of whom also celebrated the new Democratic majority, now 235-199.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who referred to the CBC by its nickname, the “con-



Most of the new 55-member Congressional Black Caucus. Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) is on the first row, far left.

science of the Congress,” listed several legislative issues that the Democratic-led Congress will bring to the forefront.

Those legislations include a strengthened Voting Rights Act (VRA). Since the U. S. Supreme Court gutted the VRA’s preclearance Clause June 25, 2013, Democrats have longed to strengthen voting laws to provide greater oversight in states. The preclearance clause required voting changes in states and territories with histories of voting discrimination to be pre-cleared by the U. S. Department of Justice.

“We have important work to do in this Congress: We have to address the disparity of income in our country, we have to ad-

dress climate crisis in terms of what that means to environmental justice in our country. We have to recognize that one in five children lives in poverty and that’s intolerable to us,” Pelosi told the audience. “The Congressional Black Caucus challenges us as the ‘conscience of the Congress.’ We look to them for guidance. We congratulate them on this special swearing in...each and every one of you for the intellectual resource, the political astuteness, the generosity of candor that you’re all willing to share with us that make our work more focused and more effective.”

Though House Democrats are currently boasting their new power, most legislation must

also win approval by the U. S. Senate which has a Republican majority 52-47. Plus, the senate has only two CBC members, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Sen. Corey Booker (D-N.J.). African-American Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), is the only black Republican in the senate. He is not a member of the CBC.

The new Democratic majority House has also produced a wealth of CBC members in Democratic leadership and chairmanships of House committees. The CBC members who are Democratic leaders are: Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), majority whip; Rep. Hakim Jeffries (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Democratic Caucus; and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), co-chair

of Steering and Policy.

House Committee chairs are: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), Science and Technology; Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), Government Reform and Oversight; Rep. Maxine waters (D-Calif.), Financial Services; Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Education and Labor; and Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), Homeland Security. In addition, 28 members of the CBC will chair subcommittees.

Bass is also supported by new CBC executive committee. They are First Vice Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio); Second Vice Chair Brenda Lawrence (D-Mich.); Secretary Hank Johnson (D-Ga.); CBC Whip A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.); Par-

liamentarian Steven Hartford (D-Calif.) and members at large, Dwight Evans (D-Pa.) and Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.).

Majority Whip Clyburn told the audience that the new power of the CBC and the Democrats have been mandated by a nation of voters who have grown weary of injustice.

“Recent legislative actions, judicial decisions, and everyday experiences of the American people have exposed some significant faults in our system that need to be repaired,” Clyburn said. “And the voters responded last November by installing a Democratic majority in the United States House of Representatives. And we are a significant part of that majority.”

Clyburn listed the denials of health care to people with pre-existing conditions, safe drinking water to communities, clean air to citizens, affordable college tuitions, quality housing, due process to asylum seeking children and parents as faults that must be repaired. He added that “allowing catastrophic climate change to harm our environment are significant faults that we must repair.”

Pelosi concluded, “We will watch them bring the CBC tradition; the conscience of the Congress, into each of their committees...I just want everyone to remember this moment a few months from now. I want you to just watch and see what happens when the gavels are placed in these hands.”

# African leaders confront a ‘Blue Wave’ demanding change

TriceEdneyWire.com

When Democrats captured one House seat after another in the midterm elections, observers brushed it off as a “blue trickle.” Later they had to admit: it was a giant blue wave.

Africans are also yearning for change and their frustration is erupting across the continent with a new crop of activists challenging the old order.

In Ethiopia, reforms are already underway since the installation last year of 42 year old Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Women have been named to some of the government’s key positions – president, chief justice and half of all ministers. Thousands of political prisoners and journalists have been freed while senior officials accused of human rights abuses and corruption no longer enjoys immunity.

Ahmed overturned bans on opposition groups. His overture to Eritrea led to the end of a long-running conflict of neighbors.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres called it “a wind of hope blowing in the Horn of Africa.”

Since the unpopular Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos was coaxed from power in 2017, a liberation fighter and former defense minister, Joao Lourenco, next in succession, stepped into the job. Today, even the toughest critics of the government say that in just more than a year,



Protesting Sudanese women in the U.S.

Lourenco has accomplished more to stop corruption than any previous administration.

In Sudan, President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir is facing a determined movement of opposition on the heels of his third decade in power enabled by disputed elections. His late-arriving “reforms” fell flat as prices for bread and fuel were jacked up as per the advice of the IMF. Spontaneous, leaderless crowds are turning out in the thousands – not just in the capital, Khartoum, but countrywide.

“It’s like someone who has found himself on the back of a lion,” said one observer. “He can’t get off without the lion

devouring him.”

Democratic reforms are also high on the wish list of people in Togo, who are fighting for term limits that would effectively end President Faure Gnassingbé’s nearly two decades in power. In Gabon, President Ali Bongo who remains in Morocco since suffering a stroke in October while traveling abroad, barely managed to survive a coup this week by a handful of young officers. Nigeria meanwhile goes to the polls on Feb. 16.

Finally, 46 million Congolese cast ballots on Dec. 30 only to learn that the electoral commission has counted less than half the votes and a win-

ner will not be announced until a week or two or three, if ever.

So which way for the blue wave in the Congo? Stay tuned.

Global Information Network creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to introduce important new voices on topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.

# Dream Hampton talks “Surviving R. Kelly”

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

For Dream Hampton, who served as executive producer of the much-talked about “Surviving R. Kelly” documentary, the explosive revelations in the film were just the tip of the iceberg.

Hampton said there were many things she couldn’t talk about and will never discuss because it’s “so dark and sad and traumatic.”

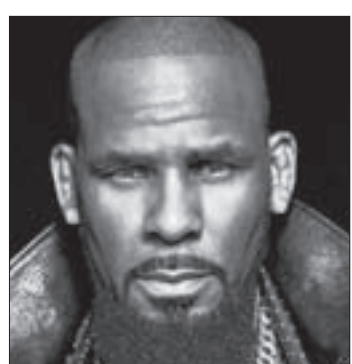
That’s saying quite a bit as the three-part Lifetime Television series not only has social media and the general public aghast but has celebrities like John Legend and Chance the Rapper expressing remorse for ever working with Kelly.

“Maybe he could’ve gotten help when he was 30, or you know, 29, when the Aaliyah stuff broke,” Hampton said in an extensive interview on The Karen Hunter Show on Sirius XM Radio.

Aaliyah was largely left out of the documentary, but Hampton said she didn’t want to devote an entire episode on the late songstress.

“For me, she’s actually his type,” Hampton told Hunter. “You know, what he targets are very regular, and you know, your audience understands this, like brown-skin black girls. You know, like he, we can talk about publicly, oh, that he targets black girls who aren’t famous. No, he has a very specific type, you know.”

Surviving R. Kelly – which aired on Lifetime from Thursday, Jan. 3 to Saturday, Jan. 5 – featured wide-ranging interviews with Kelly’s family members, former friends and colleagues, but most notably, women who claim that for decades, the hit-making singer and producer used his power and influence to sexually and physically abuse women and young girls.



R Kelly

PEOPLE Magazine editors said they reached out to Kelly’s representatives who offered a “no comment” about the series.

In 2002, Kelly, a Chicago native, was indicted after a video surfaced allegedly showing a man engaged in sex acts with a woman who some witnesses testified was 14 at the time of the recording. Both Kelly and the woman denied that the video was of them, and Kelly was never charged with assault. In 2008, Kelly was found not guilty on 21 counts of child pornography.

Several published reports said Kelly intends to counteract the documentary with lawsuits and the creation of a Facebook page to “expose the lies.”

“When I went into this project, I was clear that he was a predator and that he targeted young and vulnerable girls. I don’t think I knew he was an abuser, and I don’t mean to sound naive, but I just didn’t think physical abuse was a part of his repertoire,” Hampton said.

“I certainly didn’t know I would have to listen to a woman after woman talking about being denied food and movement. I mean, we about to get into a couple of episodes where you’re going to hear testimony of girls talking about having, you know, they couldn’t leave the room unless he told them to and all of them didn’t have bathrooms in the room. So, they used slop buckets.”



# Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant

PART 2

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



Many times we will be presented with choices. We can go the way of the world or we can go God's way, follow Him and take up our crosses.

How many times have we failed the test because we wanted to hang on to that one thing that we put first in our lives? Are we allowing something to take first place rather than God? Again, this young man was sincere. The heavenly treasure was assured if he would have followed Christ, laid aside the earthly treasures that he had and given his money to the poor. Self must yield. This young man's will, just like ours, must be given to Christ's control.

Sometimes God will send things our way to break our will. God corrects every child of His because He loves and cares for us. He wants to see us do well, just as godly parents want to see their children do well. The rich young man had a strong will and all he had to do was to give it over to Christ.

As a Christian, we have to give our will over to Christ if we are going to be successful in our Christian walk. In many cases, we have yielded everything but self. Many times self stands in the way of having victory over things in our lives.

Christ longed to see the young man have a humble and contrite heart, a conscious of God's supreme love that is given to God in the perfection of Christ. Christ saw in this young man someone who could have been a great worker for God if only he had let go of that one thing. Today, many of us cling to the one thing that hinders us in the work of God and in living for God.

Christ saw potential in this young man. All he had to do was place himself under Christ's guidance, and he would have been a power for good. He possessed qualifications that, if united with the Savior, would have enabled him to become a divine force among men. Christ loved him, and the love for Christ was awakened in this young ruler's heart.

Love begets love. Jesus longed to see him as a co-worker with Him. He longed to make him like Himself, just as He

wants to do with us. He wants to mold us into His image, just as He wanted to do with this young ruler. He wanted to develop the excellence of his character and sanctify it to the Master's use. If he had made the choice to give up self, how different his future would have been.

Christ read the young man's heart, just as He reads our hearts. The young man lacked only one thing, but that was a vital principle. He needed the love of God in his soul. If we do not make the right choices and do not go the way Christ would have us go, it will prove eternally fatal for us.

We read in Luke 18:18-23; "And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor,

and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich."

In order for us to receive the love of God, our supreme love of self must be surrendered. We have to let go of self. Our hearts have to become His throne, and He has to reign in our lives in order for us to be what God wants us to be.

In the biblical accounts of the young ruler, we find that he loved his great possessions more than he loved his soul. What is it that we love more than our souls? Everyone is called to choose between influences that help or hinder full commitment to God.

One day I want to hear God say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21). Is that what you want to hear?

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

PRESERVED

# Surviving "Surviving R. Kelly"

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Like some of you, I spent the first few days of 2019 watching the Lifetime Network limited documentary "Surviving R. Kelly" with mixed emotions. At first, I said I wasn't going to watch it because I wasn't that big a fan of his and I'd stopped listening to his music a long time ago. However, after watching the trailer, I changed my mind and had to admit that I was intrigued by the stories of the women who were involved with him as well as the employees and enablers who worked with him over the years.

What impacted me the most was the courage that the women and former employees had to finally tell the truth. They exemplified the truth behind the well-known phrase, "We cannot heal from what we refuse to acknowledge."

The series was beyond heart-breaking as numbers of young female victims of Kelly recounted in excruciating detail how they became emotionally and sexually involved with the R&B superstar. As a study in human behavior, it was fascinating to hear the same pattern repeated: promises of stardom and help with music careers, emotionally inappropriate intimate friendships with much younger women and increasingly controlling and abusive behavior.

The provocative series seems to be a catalyst for bringing greater awareness of the dangers of the over-sexualization of African-American girls and teenagers, the apathetic response to African-American girls and their claims of sexual abuse and the problematic silence that follows the well-documented claims of sexual abuse of

Kelly.


Just as there are some who are horrified by R. Kelly's behavior, others are harshly critical of the women making these claims against him. Some on social media accuse the young women and the parents of the girls of being part of a larger conspiracy to destroy African-American superstars in general and Kelly specifically.

One hope is that "airing the dirty laundry" of Kelly will open up healing conversations about larger issues in the African-American community regarding the value of African-American girls. The spiritual take away is not as simple as saying that Kelly is a tortured demonic man (though many believe that he is).

Jesus said in Matthew 8:32 that "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." From the first one to the ending episode, the transformation in the women that came from speaking the truth became obvious. Despite criticisms by some who believed they should not have spoken out, these women who were featured in the series boldly confronted the cycle of humiliation, shame and guilt that may have led to their many years of silence. They also model for those of us who are dealing with our own cycles of humiliation, shame and guilt that the key to breaking the cycle is speaking the truth, no matter how difficult it is.

Even more so, speaking the truth will not only set you free, but will also set others free who may be in similar emotional chains.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends." Email [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.




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# A more diverse Congress, a more perfect union?

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The 116th Congress, sworn in January 3, is the most diverse our nation has ever seen. There are more women – 102 – than ever before. More members of the Congressional Black Caucus – 55 – than ever before. Indeed, a former Congressional Black Caucus intern, Lauren Underwood (D-IL) is part of the incoming first-year class. At 32, she is the youngest black woman to serve.

This Congress includes the first Native American woman, two Muslim women, openly gay representatives, and others. Much of this diversity was displayed at the ceremonial swearing-in of the Congressional Black Caucus, an inspirational event that preceded the official swearing-in on Capitol Hill. There, as I listened to speeches by the top Congressional Democrats – incoming speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA), incoming majority leader Steny Hoyer (MD), and incoming whip James Clyburn (SC), I was awash in hope and optimism. These leaders, along with outgoing Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond (LA) and incoming Chair Karen Bass (CA) spoke of challenge, struggle, and optimism and focused on possibilities.

As I listened to them I could not help but think of the poet Langston Hughes, and his poem Let America Be America Again. Written in 1935, the poem was first published in Esquire Magazine in 1936. Though Hughes did not consider it one of his favorites, it captures the duality of our nation, the marked difference between our nation’s soaring establishing rhetoric and the stark reality that many experience. In the words of Malcolm X, it is the difference between the American dream and the American nightmare. Here is what Langston Hughes writes in his poem:

*“Let America be America again. Let it be the dream it used to be. Let it be the pioneer on the plain Seeking a home where he himself is free. (America never was America to me.) Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed – Let it be that great strong land of love Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme That any man be crushed by one above. (It never was America to me.) O, let my land be a land where Liberty Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath, But opportunity is real, and life is free, Equality is in the air we breathe.”*

*(There’s never been equality for me, Nor freedom in this “homeland of the free.”)*

No freedom in this homeland of the free, but this Congress offers freedom possibilities. It offers the possibility of fixing the Voting Rights Act, even as the Supreme Court has attempted to erode voting rights, even as at least two elections were stolen in 2018, those of Stacey Abrams in Georgia and Andrew Gillum in Florida. This Congress offers freedom possibilities in resisting the insanity of a “wall” that the Great Negotiator (and purported author of The Art of the Deal) swore that Mexico was paying for. Not. This Congress offers freedom possibilities in its efforts to preserve the Affordable Health Care Act and to move us to Medicare for all. This colorful Congress offers a sharp contrast to the dismal set of Republicans, overwhelmingly white and male, and overwhelmingly staid.

It’s not about MAGA (Make America Great Again), it’s about MAF, or Make America Fair. This is what Congressman James Clyburn shared when he spoke at the ceremonial swearing-in. He opened with the words of French historian Alexis Tocqueville, who observed when visiting this country: “the greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.” Clyburn went on to list the many ways our nation has attempted to self-correct, from the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation to the Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision declaring “separate but equal” to be “inherently unequal.” Clyburn talked about the Great Society legislation, another of our nation’s attempts at self-repair, and he concluded by saying that, “America does not need to be made great again, she is already great. Our challenge is to make that greatness apply fairly and equitably to all of our citizens.”

Can this diverse new Congress make our nation fair for many who have never experienced our nation in the way it is supposed to be? In the words of Langston Hughes, “It never was America to me.” We’ve come a long way since he wrote his 1935 poem, but we still have so much to do. After these last two dystopian years under the leadership of President Genital Grabber (let’s just call him GG), this new Congress offers us many possibilities. May they manifest!

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](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)

# A message to presidential candidates: A winning strategy includes a plan for black America

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



*“You want our vote, come get our vote.” – Angela Lang, executive director, Black Leaders Organizing for Communities*

The nation recently experienced a midterm election of historic dimensions: more than 47 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot in November – the highest percentage since 1966. Black voter participation was a significant force in driving that turnout, and in electing the most diverse Congress in history.

But, as the presidential primary cycle begins, candidates cannot expect to see an equal level of enthusiasm unless issues of racial and economic justice are addressed.

In fact, black voter turnout fell seven percentage points in the

last Presidential election, falling from a high of 66.6 percent in 2012 to 59.6 percent in 2016. National Democratic Committee Chair Tom Perez blamed the drop, in part, on candidates’ failure to engage the black community: “African-Americans – our most loyal constituency – we all too frequently took for granted. That is a shame on us, folks, and for that, I apologize. And for that I say, it will never happen again.”

The upcoming Congressional session will demonstrate whether incumbent lawmakers – most of whom will be running for reelection in 2020 – truly are making an effort to engage the black community. Following an intensive campaign by the National Urban League to urge diversity in Senate hiring, only two Senators have hired black chiefs of staff – Doug Jones, who credited black voters for his surprise victory in 2017 – and Elizabeth Warren, who has just declared her intention to run

for president.

Research has shown that, more than ever, black voters are basing their decisions at the polls on issues of racial justice and economic opportunity. A poll conducted by a coalition of civil right groups just after the midterm elections found that “to have similar or greater wins in 2020, candidates must invest in and engage communities of color and the issues that matter most to these constituents.”

Yet, only 57 percent of black voters were contacted from a campaign, political party or community organization about voting in the months prior to Election Day.

The poll further found that that black voters support policies that unite and strengthen the nation:

- Equal pay for men and women (88 percent)
- Congress should pass the Dream Act (81 percent)
- Strengthening the Affordable Care Act (79 percent)
- Sexual harassment is a major

problem (84 percent)

- Congress should enact strict gun laws (81 percent).

Candidates across the political spectrum who are searching for a blueprint for a platform that will address the concerns of black voters can find it in the National Urban League’s Main Street Marshall Plan.

The National Urban League and the Urban League Movement take seriously our responsibility to challenge candidates for the highest office and remind them. Over the course of the 2016 election season, we invited all declared candidates to participate in a Civil Rights Briefing. We also hosted a number of presidential candidates, Republicans and Democrats, at our conference. We are prepared to do the same, and we will expect every candidate to explain his or her plan to address racial justice and economic opportunity and face questions about the above issues and more.

# He’s scary and scared

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



It’s not unusual to have a person who is scary, but scary and scared in the same person is unusual. Even while #45 was campaign-

ing for president, we understood he was scary. We looked at his record in business and knew we wouldn’t choose to be his business partner. We listened to his thoughts about women, African Americans, Hispanics, people of the Islamic faith and so much more. Black Americans immediately saw that he was too scary to think about getting our vote, so we didn’t vote for him despite his asking us what did we have to lose.

We understood how scary he is. He shows us day after day with his behavior behind every podium, with his hostile remarks on the White House lawn as he walks to his transportation and by the messages he

tweets without restraint. We see his scary part as he says one thing one minute then contradicts himself the next. We knew how scary he was long before the media began advertising that #45 has told the American people on record over 6,000 lies – without any indication the number will slow down.

We, in the black community, never saw him as the “Master of the Business World.” We believed his life’s record, and we believed his son-in-law’s record on poor and minority people when it comes to housing. For the few black people who didn’t see him as scary began to understand when he started choosing staff and bragging about who his supporters and friends were. Many of the supporters and staff have left him now upon finally learning how scary he is. Almost no one wants to work for him. Poor Donald.

Some of his friends have also backed away from him. Among people I know, nobody wants to visit him in the White House. (I don’t

know Darrell Scott or Kanye West.)

I admit it took us some time before we learned he was also scared. The media had begun to talk about his never visiting places perceived to be dangerous, not even places to visit our military personnel who live in scary places every day of their tour. In order to try to convince the American people he wasn’t scared, in the dark of night, he sneaked out of the White House without announcing he would be going to Iraq or Afghanistan.

When he made an effort to convince us he wasn’t scared to go abroad to visit our troops, he couldn’t contain his fear as he tried to explain he wasn’t scared. When asked about whether he had any concerns about the visit, his face showed his fear clearly, and he blurted out that he was just concerned. He said: “I had concerns for the institution of the presidency (Wonder who he thought the president is.) He went on to say, “Not for myself, personally. I had concerns for the First Lady I’ll tell

you.” (Like he cared about how she felt when he totally disrespects her.)

He nervously rambled on with this, “But if you would have seen what we had to go through, with the darkened plane, with all windows closed, with no lights on whatsoever, anywhere – pitch black. I’ve never seen it. I’ve been in many airplanes – all types and shapes and sizes. I’ve never seen anything like it.” He misses the lights at Mar-a-Lago!

It took this man two years to visit troops in a combat zone, and he’s scared. Does he even care about the conditions the soldiers live through daily? I wish I could help Robert Mueller finish his investigation so we can move closer to getting a president who is neither scary nor scared.

E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women. [www.nationalcongressbw.org](http://www.nationalcongressbw.org). She is also host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM 89.3.

# Trump administration is intent on weakening Civil Rights enforcement

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



When new U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was asked on “60 Minutes” whether she thinks President Donald Trump is a

racist, she responded with the candor that makes her a compelling force in Washington: “Yeah, yeah, no question.”

This, of course, lit up the social media, with Trump supporters denouncing Ocasio-Cortez and progressives praising her. One would think after his dog-whistle, race-bait politics – from slurring immigrants to slandering a Hispanic judge to embracing the racist marchers in Charlottesville, Va., to denigrating Haiti and African nations as “s-hole countries” – that the question had been answered long ago.

What is clear is that, whatever the president’s personal views, the Trump administration is intent on weakening enforcement of civil rights laws across the board. The same week that Ocasio-Cortez spoke, two widely respected report-

ers from the Washington Post, Laura Meckler and Devlin Barrett, reported that the Trump administration is taking the first steps toward rolling back a centerpiece of civil rights enforcement: the doctrine that starkly disparate impact can provide evidence of discrimination even without proof of intent.

If a government contractor announces that it won’t hire anyone who is living with someone of the same sex, the victims may not be able to provide direct evidence that the employer intended to discriminate, but the disparate impact of the announcement would provide the basis for finding discrimination. Disparate impact isn’t dispositive. Those accused can demonstrate that they have a rational reason for the regulation or action and that there are no less discriminatory alternatives.

In some areas, like election law, disparate impact is written in the legislation itself. In most areas, however, it derives from regulations on enforcing the 1964 Civil Rights Act, particularly Title VI which bars discrimination based on race, color or national origin by entities, including

schools that receive federal funding.

In 2014, as Meckler and Devlin report, the Obama administration formally put public school systems on notice that they could be found guilty of racial discrimination if students of color were punished at dramatically higher rates than white students. Trump’s Education Department issued a report criticizing the regulation and has begun discussions about rescinding it.

This assault on a centerpiece of civil rights enforcement comes on top of Trump’s stunning reversal of civil rights enforcement across the government. Under Jeff Sessions, the Trump Justice Department essentially abandoned the Obama effort to work with police departments to address systemic racially discriminatory police practices.

Sessions directed the Justice Department to stop defending affirmative action programs and start enforcement actions against them. The administration rolled back protections for transgender students, while banning transgender people from the military.

The Justice Department chose to defend a discriminatory Texas voter

ID law, which a district court later ruled was passed with discriminatory intent. In department after department, the administration has sought to weaken civil rights divisions and cut their budgets.

As head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Trump’s acting chief of staff Mike Mulvaney gutted the unit responsible for enforcing anti-discriminatory lending laws. This list can go on. Is Donald Trump personally a racist? Whatever your conclusion, Trump surely campaigned by trying to stoke racial fears and divisions.

And this administration is the most hostile to civil rights and to equal justice under the law than any since the passage of the Civil Rights laws. Trump’s defenders insist that the president objects to being called a racist, that he signed the recent legislation rolling back some of the discriminatory sentencing practices, and that he happily has his picture taken with African-American children. But the record of his administration is clear, and the disparate impact of the measures it has taken provides compelling evidence of its intent.



## Running a marathon can increase cardiac strain in amateur runners



**American Heart Association®**

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Full marathons may significantly raise concentrations of several biomarkers of strain on the heart, according to new research in *Circulation*, Journal of the American Heart Association.

Investigators in Spain compared levels of cardiac biomarkers, including – troponin I and troponin T – in 21 groups of 3 runners each after each individually ran an endurance race of three different lengths – a full marathon, a half marathon and a 10K race. All of the 63 subjects were amateur runners. They also measured levels of biomarkers for cardiac tissue stress.

Although there was little difference in 10-year risk for cardiovascular events between the runners (average about 3 percent), the strain on the heart muscle, as measured by the biomarker levels, was much greater after a full marathon.

The incidence of cardiac arrests in marathoners is only about 1 in 50,000 runners who compete in races, but a high proportion of all exercise-induced cardiac events occur during marathons, especially in men 35 years of age and older.

The number of subjects in the study was not large enough to accurately assess differences in 10-year cardiovascular risk, but the researchers are planning to examine this in a larger group of runners, said lead investigator Juan Del Coso, Ph.D., director of the exercise physiology laboratory at Camilo José Cela University, in Madrid, Spain.

“We typically assume that marathon runners are healthy individuals, without risk factors that might predispose them to a cardiac event during or after a race. But with the growing popularity of long-endurance races, the exponential increase in the number of participants, and the lack of appropriate training in some cohorts of amateur runners, our findings suggest that running shorter endurance races might reduce the strain imposed on the myocardium during running competition,” Del Coso said.

*Co-authors are Beatriz Lara, Ph.D.; Juan José Salinero Ph.D.; César Gallo-Salazar Ph.D.; Francisco Areces Ph.D.; Diana Ruiz-Vicente Ph.D.; and Manuel Martínez, M.Sc. Author disclosures are on the manuscript.*

*The Vice-Rectorate of Innovation of Camilo José Cela University (HEART project) supported the study.*

*For more information on heart failure, visit RiseAboveHF.org. Follow AHA/ASA news on Twitter @HeartNews*

# The best things in life – liver transplants included – are worth the wait

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

You could say 2018 was a year of medical firsts for Kimberly Cooley: Her first set of stitches. Her first trip to an emergency room. Her first ambulance ride. Her first overnight in a hospital. “I’m usually a one-time-a-year sinus infection girl,” she explains.

Oh, and her first organ transplant, a liver to replace her scarred, diseased one, allowing her to hold fast to her nieces, nephews and other family who live within a 12-mile radius of her Duck Hill home.

“I want to embrace life. There’s a story to tell,” said Cooley, 37, an independent public relations advisor with clients in New York and Connecticut. “All of this amazing care happened in Mississippi.”

That would be at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she received her transplant Dec. 8, and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Grenada, where Dr. Timothy Ragland was the first to pinpoint why her liver was going south.

Cooley’s first inkling was in December 2017. She had recently moved to Georgia. “I noticed I’d gained weight, but as women do, I chalked it up to bloating and too many Applebee’s nights.”

She went from handling three flights of stairs with ease to having trouble walking six feet. The morning of March 6, 2018, “I took a long stare in the mirror and noticed how extended my belly was.”

She went to a local emergency department, where she was told the bloating was the result of a severe fluid buildup in her abdomen associated with cirrhosis, a late stage of scarring of the liver that can be caused by a number of diseases and conditions.

Because her insurance hadn’t yet transferred, “I booked it to Mississippi,” Cooley said. “The timing was critical.”

Someone suggested she see Ragland, an assistant professor of radiology. “They basically saved my life,” Cooley said of Ragland and his team. “He was the first doctor to tell me anything about my condition (autoimmune hepa-



Dr. Felicitas Koller, left, and Kimberly Cooley are fast friends following Cooley’s liver transplant.

titis) with confidence.”

He sent her to Dr. Mildred Ridgway, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, to rule out ovarian cancer. They did; Ridgway connected Cooley with Dr. Mark Earl, associate professor of transplant surgery, and his abdominal team. “It was like a real-life episode of *House*,” Cooley said. “They figured it out.”

The constant buildup of fluid made her weight balloon to 340 pounds; her lanky frame normally supports about 220 pounds. Dr. Thomas Amankonah, associate professor of digestive diseases, joined her care team, and through a combination of diuretics and a sodium-free diet, she lost more than 120 pounds of fluid.

Amankonah “got her so ready” for the transplant to come, said Dr. Felicitas Koller, assistant professor of transplant surgery, who with Earl performed the procedure. “She came to surgery very well cared for. This was a team effort.”

But before her transplant, a new life-threatening condition one-upped her liver failure. “I had some bad tilapia,” Cooley

joked. She went to the emergency department at UMMC Grenada, then was transferred via ambulance to Jackson. “I was here with sepsis for a week and a half,” she remembered.

That was August; she couldn’t hope for a transplant until sepsis, an illness caused by the body’s response to an infection, had fully cleared her system. Finally, on Oct. 31, she went on the waiting list. Her transplant coordinator, registered nurse Anna McGraw, kept up with her care. “She’s my little firecracker,” Cooley said.

Cooley prepared her home: hand sanitizer dispensers everywhere. Spotless bathrooms. On Nov. 25, she got the call from her transplant team with the offer of a liver, and she headed to Jackson.

When a donor is identified for a patient waitlisted at UMMC, the hospital contacts the patient and the patient can accept or decline the organ. A surgeon from the transplant team personally removes the organ from the donor, whether they’re already at UMMC or somewhere else, and brings it to the OR.

“I was locked and loaded,” Cooley said. “But when the liver arrived, Dr. (Christopher) Anderson wanted something better.

“I wasn’t disappointed,” she said. “I was grateful for his wisdom and ability to say no. I knew a better liver would come.” Anderson is professor and chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of the Division of Abdominal and Hepatobiliary Surgery.

Even though an initial assessment of a potential donor organ might look good, “we take an aggressive stance,” Earl said. “We evaluate the donor and organ based on lab work and circumstances around the donor’s death, and based on that, we make a decision on whether the organ is likely to be suitable. Once we do that, we call the recipient into the hospital.”

But things can change. Surgeons might find that an organ that looked good on paper is not, or an organ that looked marginal on paper is actually excellent.

“If we make the determination that it’s unsuitable, we call it off. Most recipients are disappointed, because they’re excited about the opportunity to move beyond organ failure,” Earl said. “I’ve never spoken to a recipient who wasn’t thankful that we were making decisions to keep them healthy.”

Such was the case with Cooley’s second offer, made via a

phone call from Earl. “He said they had a liver that had just come in. A young person. Drug overdose,” she said. “He wanted to have that conversation.”

She declined the organ. They both felt good about the decision.

“Through all of this, I never stopped. I didn’t succumb. I knew what I had to do,” Cooley said.

When the third offer came, at 6:19 a.m. that Saturday, Cooley was on go. In fact, after she returned home following her first organ offer, “I purged a lot from my packed bag before putting it back in the car.

“My transplant coordinator said she was so sorry to wake me up again,” Cooley said. “I said, ‘Honey, I am so over that.’ I told her I was about to start my car. That’s a benefit from the trial run.”

Cooley’s niece, Seshadri Miers, is her deputized caregiver. The two are very close, and Cooley protected her when they traveled to Jackson. “It was rainy, and I drove,” she laughed.

Koller said that as they prepared for surgery, a troubling thought ran through her mind: Bad things can happen to good people. “So, I teased her before surgery. I asked her to tell me a few bad things she’d done in her life.

“She told me that in kindergarten, she had stolen a My Little Pony. I felt much better knowing she’d done that.”

Not quite four days after her transplant, Cooley and Miers headed back to Duck Hill. “She has at least tied our record there. Getting home four days after this surgery is remarkable,” said Steve Harvey, a nurse practitioner on the Jackson campus who will take the lead in making sure Cooley gets regular follow-up care.

“I tell my patients that if you do well, you might never see your surgeon again unless you want to,” Harvey said. “You’ll have a team of 20 people taking care of you. From evaluation for a transplant to pre-op to surgery to follow-up, we’re a big team.”

Cooley, who admits to working on her laptop in the throes of sepsis, vows to make them proud. “I’m thankful that the two campuses of UMMC are under the same university umbrella,” she said.

Miers “is the enforcer,” she said. “I want to learn how to listen to people, to chill out, and to sit my tail down. I want to get back to hanging out with my nieces and nephews.”

Cooley, Koller says, “is unstoppable.”

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Re-Bid 3086 Roof Replacement at Obama Magnet Elementary

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 07, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Obama Magnet Elementary School will be held at 750 North Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39202, on January 22, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.durrelldesigngroupplans.com](http://www.durrelldesigngroupplans.com). A \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, Fax: 601-488-4717, Email: [contact@durrelldesigngroup.com](mailto:contact@durrelldesigngroup.com)

1/10/2019 , 1/17/2019

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Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area

AD: Request for Proposals (RFP)

Community Advocate Consultant

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA), a Christian non-profit affordable housing ministry, is seeking proposals for a Community Advocate Consultant. The consultant will have the responsibilities and should meet the qualifications below:

Responsibilities include surveying current and future Broadmoor neighborhood residents, regarding their concerns and needs. Collaborating with existing organizations for referral services, organizing meetings & seminars, and financial training.

Qualifications: Proven experience as consultant, use of Windows 7 and above, as well as Microsoft Office, knowledge of the Jackson metropolitan area and its inner-city neighborhoods; degree in relevant field, specializations & certifications are a plus.

HFHMCA is a licensed contractor and is licensed by the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance, NMLS Number 283632.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Act prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin disability, marital/familial status and political beliefs.

Please email cover letter and resume to: Bridget Steed at [bsteed@habitatmca.org](mailto:bsteed@habitatmca.org).

1/10/2019

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/12/2019, for:

RE: GS# 350-022 Hail Damage (TRAILWAYS REPAIRS) Office of Capitol Facilities (Department of Finance and Administration) RFx Number: 3160002671

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

Professional: Shafer-Zahner-Zahner, PLLC  
Address: 510 University Drive  
Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Phone: 662-323-1628  
Email: [lsims@szzarch.com](mailto:lsims@szzarch.com)

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

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

1/3/2019 , 1/10/2019

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ON AIRPORT HOTEL DEVELOPMENT BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 7000-005-19 January 9, 2019

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Proposals ("Proposal") from experienced firms for the design, construction and operation of an on-airport hotel at the Jackson Medgar-Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN").

JMAA will receive Proposals at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 14, 2019 (the "Deadline").

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

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

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central

Standard Time on February 13, 2019, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Consultant for the Services and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference; and a detailed review of the scope of work. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.

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

JMAA has established a ACDBE participation goal of 15% for the Services solicited by this RFP.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

1/10/2019, 1/17/2019, 1/24/2019, 1/31/2019, 2/7/2019

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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RE: GS# 321-259 Water & Wastewater Improvements Mississippi State Penitentiary RFx number: 3160002690

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

Professional: Pickering Firm, Inc. (Memphis, Tennessee, through the Office listed herein)  
Address: 2001 Airport Road North, Suite 201 Flowood, Mississippi 39232-8846  
Phone: 601-956-3663  
Email: [bryant@pickeringinc.com](mailto:bryant@pickeringinc.com)

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

1/10/2019, 1/17/2019

Sudoku Solution

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

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# FILM REVIEW: WINDOWS

## THE WINDY CITY SERVES AS SETTING FOR ADAPTATION OF BRIT CRIME SERIES

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

Widows was a British TV series which enjoyed a two-year run from 1983 to 1985. Created by legendary English author Lynda La Plante (Prime Suspect), the popular crime show was nominated for a BAFTA award in the Best Television Drama category. In 2002, ABC turned Widows into a four-part miniseries starring Brooke Shields and Rosie Perez, but that substantially-revised overhaul failed to resonate with the American audience.

Now, Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen (for 12 Years a Slave) has brought a much more faithful adaptation to the screen, although the setting has been shifted from London to Chicago. The crime caper revolves around a trio of widows who opt to follow in their late husbands' felonious footsteps in the wake of a botched bank heist.

McQueen assembled an A-list ensemble featuring Oscar-win-

ners Viola Davis (for Fences) and Robert Duvall (for Tender Mercies), as well as nominees Liam Neeson (for Schindler's List), Daniel Kaluuya (for Get Out) and Jacki Weaver (for Silver Linings Playbook and Animal Kingdom). The impressive cast also includes Colin Farrell and Michelle Rodriguez.

Not long past the point of departure, veteran bank robber Harry Rawlings (Neeson) masterminds a robbery in which he and his partners perish. Trouble is, Harry died indebted to a couple of South Side mobsters (Kaluuya and Brian Tyree Henry) to the tune of \$2 million.

Given a month to come up with cash (or else), Harry's widow Veronica (Davis) hatches a plan to raise the money by burglarizing a safe in the mansion of a well-connected family headed by corrupt, Windy City Alderman Tom Mulligan (Duvall). To that end, she recruits a couple of the other grieving widows (Michelle Rodriguez and Elizabeth Debicki) and a getaway driver (Cynthia Erivo)

with promises of a multimillion-dollar payday.

The plot proceeds to thicken in convincing fashion while touching on such timely themes as politics, loyalty, race and class. Since it would be a crime in itself to spoil the ensuing developments even one iota, suffice to say McQueen slowly ratchets up the tension in a searing, multi-layered suspense thriller not to be missed.

With the help of a delicious script expertly executed by a coterie of her talented co-stars, the incomparable Davis steals the show and delivers yet another Oscar-quality performance. Vintage Viola!

Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated R for violence, sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity

In English and Spanish with subtitles

Running time: 129 minutes  
Production Studios: Regency Enterprises / Film4 / See-Saw Films / New Regency Pictures  
Studio: 20th Century Fox

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## Kam's Kapsules

### Weekly Previews That Make Choosing a Film Fun

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

For movies opening January 11, 2019

#### Wide Releases

**A Dog's Way Home** (PG for peril, mild epithets and mature themes) Adaptation of W. Bruce Cameron's best seller of the same name about a pet pooch (voiced by Bryce Dallas Howard) that embarks on a very eventful, 400-mile journey after being separated from her owner (Jonah Hauer-King). With Ashley Judd, Edward James Olmos and Alexandra Shipp.

**Replicas** (PG-13 for violence, disturbing images, mature themes, nudity and sexual references) Sci-fi thriller about a biologist (Keanu Reeves) willing to violate his scientific ethical principles to resurrect his family after a tragic car accident. Cast includes Alice Eve, Thomas Middleditch and Emjay Anthony.

**The Upside** (PG-13 for drug use and suggestive content) English language remake of The Intouchables, the 2011 French dramedy inspired by the real-life relationship of a paralyzed billionaire (Bryan Cranston) and the ex-con (Kevin Hart) he hires as a live-in caregiver. With Nicole Kidman, Julianna Mar-

gulies and Aja Naomi King.

#### Independent & Foreign Films

**Anthem of a Teenage Prophet** (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama about the fallout visited upon a clairvoyant teen (Cameron Monaghan) whose premonition about the death of his best friend (Alex MacNicoll) becomes a reality. With Juliette Lewis, Peyton List and Grayson Gabriel.

**Ashes in the Snow** (Unrated) World War II saga, set in Siberia in 1941, revolving around a 16 year-old, aspiring artist (Bel Powley) whose secret drawings document her family's ordeal in a Soviet labor camp. Cast includes Sophie Cookson, Peter Franzen and James Cosmo.

**The Aspern Papers** (R for some nudity and sexuality) Adaptation of Henry James' novella of the same name, set in Venice in 1885, about a young writer's (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers) attempt to read the collection of romantic letters sent decades earlier by a famous poet (Jon Kortajarena) to his mistress (Vanessa Redgrave). With Joely Richardson, Lois Robbins and Morgane Polanski (Roman's daughter).

**Perfect Strangers** (Unrated) Spanish language remake of the

2016 Italian comedy about seven friends who agree to read aloud all their incoming text messages during a revealing dinner party. Co-starring Belen Rueda, Eduard Fernandez, Ernesto Alterio, Juana Acosta, Eduardo Noriega, Dafne Fernandez and Pepon Nieto. (In Spanish with subtitles)

**Sgt. Will Gardner** (Unrated) Max Martini wrote, directed and stars in this poignant portrait of an Iraq War vet suffering from PTSD and a traumatic brain injury who attempts to pick up the pieces of his broken life during a cross-country motorcycle trip. Featuring Gary Sinise, Omari Hardwick, Dermot Mulroney and Robert Patrick.

**Tall Tales** (PG for mature themes) Animated comedy about a kindhearted cricket (Justin Long) framed for the kidnapping of the queen bee (Kate Mara) by her treacherous cousin (Anne Tilloy). Voice cast includes Kev Adams and Haley Chey Lynch.

**The Untold Story** (Unrated) Against the odds dramedy revolving around an aging Hollywood icon (Barry Van Dyke) inspired to mount a comeback by his new next-door neighbor (Nia Peeples). Supporting cast includes Jordan Ladd, Miko Hughes and Joe Lando.

### 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.

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

© Thomas Edrington

(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.

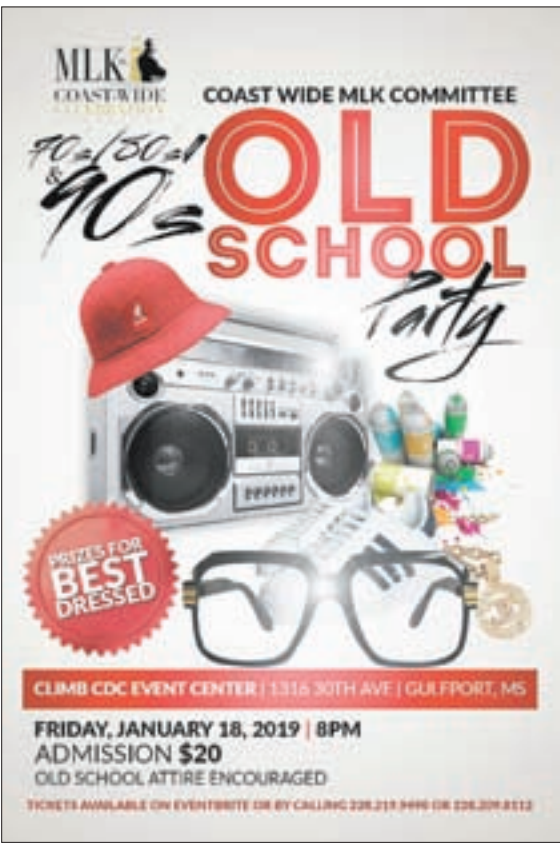
Hint: Quote by Lady Gaga

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
				L																				A	

W E E      W E  
A S L X S L G Q K A L F G Q P E O C X D C B  
E  
K F W L H Z C G P C K F W L H Z Q K F O A F R D  
E E E  
X S L D F K L Z L G D C F Q P D Q U L

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## Civil rights icon James Meredith to participate in Mlk coastwide activities

Coastwide MLK Celebration Jan. 18-21 • Theme: BE the Difference

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The 2019 Coastwide Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Celebration's multitude of educational and entertaining events will feature the appearance of one of the greatest heroes of the Civil Rights Era.

James Meredith, longtime activist and educator, will serve as the keynote speaker during the Jan. 20 Sunday Inspirational program and is scheduled to participate in the Parade and Battle of the Bands event Monday, Jan. 21.

Meredith, now 85, is internationally renowned for his courageous and successful task of becoming the first black student to enroll and be admitted into the University of Mississippi in October 1962. Meredith's heroics sparked the historic wave of the integration of public higher education institutions in the Deep South and are considered one of the hallmarks of the Civil Rights Movement.

Meredith also developed at least two deep connections with Dr. King. In his famous "Letter From a Birmingham Jail," written in April 1963, King mentioned Meredith as one of the South's "real heroes."

In June 1966, Meredith attempted to conduct a solo march from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi to protest racism and voter suppression, but was shot by a sniper midway. Dr. King, along with Stokely Carmichael and up to 15,000 other activists, was called on to finish the march, with a recovering Meredith meeting them in Jackson.

From Jan. 18-21, the Coastwide MLK Committee will hold several events to commemo-

rate the world-changing accomplishments and sacrifice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which included his leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955-56 to his famous "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" in April 1963, his electrifying "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington in August 1963 and his winning of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee April 4, 1968.

On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill that made Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a national holiday, to be set around his birthday of January 15. The holiday was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986.

The theme of the 2019 Coastwide MLK Celebration is "BE the Difference."

The list of events is as follows:

Friday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m.: MLK GOSPEL CONCERT; "Aretha Franklin Gospel Tribute." Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 1028 Denny Ave., Pascagoula. Free and open to the public.

8:00 p.m.: MLK FUNDRAISER OLD SKOOL PARTY; Climb CDC, 1316 30th Ave., Gulfport. Admission: \$20.

Saturday, Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m.: THE VILLAGE SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM, featuring When Woman Talk, Youth Summit and Man 2 Man Summit. University of South Mississippi Gulf Park Campus, Fleming Education Center, 730 East Beach Blvd., Long Beach. Free (Registration Required).

Sunday, Jan. 20, 4:00 p.m.: COUNCILMAN



FELIX GINES PRESENTS SUNDAY INSPIRATIONAL WITH JAMES MEREDITH; Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave., Biloxi. Free and open to the public.

Monday, Jan. 21, 10:00 a.m.: MLK PARADE, DOWNTOWN BILOXI.

MLK BATTLE OF THE BANDS, MGM Park, 105 Caillavette St., Biloxi. Admission: \$5

For more information or to participate, visit [www.mlkcoastwide.com](http://www.mlkcoastwide.com).



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BOOK REVIEW:

“STOP THAT YAWN!”

BY CARON LEVIS, ILLUSTRATED BY LEUYEN PHAM

C.2018, ATHENEUM BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 48 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

“I’m not tired!”

That’s what you might say when it’s time for bed. You want to stay awake for awhile. Who can shut their eyes when fun might be happening? You’re not tired, but in the new book “Stop That Yawn!” by Caron Levis, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, you might act like you are.

Gabby Wild lived with her Granny in Sleepytown. And she was tired of it!

All they ever did was sleep,

nap, snooze and lay in bed. Ugh, who needs that? Gabby begged and begged Granny to take her somewhere fun, somewhere there was action and where people actually stayed up all night. Finally, Granny agreed and they packed their toothbrushes.

When they finally reached Never Sleeping City , it was glorious. Nobody went to bed early. Nobody went to bed at all! Instead, they sung songs all night that weren’t lullabies, they enjoyed blinky lights, and they had ice cream whenever they wanted

it. There was an opera house and dancing and music!

It was so much fun! It was so exciting, until Granny looked up to the skies. The moon was quiet and peaceful. Stars were twinkling softly. And – uh oh – she yawned.

As quick as a wink, the Yawn oozed down on Never Sleeping City. On the sidewalks, circus animals yawned and nodded off. The ice cream man took a snooze. The city’s baker stretched and opened his mouth wide. Gabby started to panic.

“Quick!” she yelled. “Grit your teeth, seal your lips, we have to stop that –“

But it was too late. The Yawn spread all through the city, up and down the streets, into shops and opera houses and into Never Sleeping City ’s city hall. Gabby rang bells, she shouted, but the Yawn was everywhere. Never Sleeping City was now asleep.

There was just “one place left for her to turn.” There was only one thing Gabby could do. There was just one place left to go, and she would have to take Granny

with her.

For a book that would otherwise make an excellent bedtime story, “Stop That Yawn!” has a surprising amount of action in it.

If you’re a parent who’ll be charged with reading it aloud, take that as a warning. Author Caron Levis tells a great story, but the arrival in and the ensuing run through the fictional Never Sleeping City could serve to rouse a kid who’s a master at fighting sleep. There’s a lot to see in artwork by LeUyen Pham and while the illustrations are won-

derful, they’re busy enough to add to the battle.

And yet, if you use your bedtime voice, how could your child resist a tale that so charmingly winds down an active night? How could you bear to miss a bedplane, or a Vegas-like cartoon town, or a giraffe that’s sweetly collapsed in slumber?

You can’t, and neither could your 4-to-8-year-old, especially if (s)he can’t sleep without a story.

Read carefully, soft and quiet, and “Stop That Yawn!” is a book you’ll never get tired of.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD Board Recognizes

School Teachers of the Year



Front Row: Sarah Armstrong, RHS; Kayla Moncure, UEMS; Sherry Louisville, RES; Vija Lee, THS and Tammy Manning-Payne, BMS (not pictured). Back Row: Karen Montgomery, GRE; Katrina Glass, CMS; Shirley Daniels, Restart Center; Elicia Davis, BEEMS; and Latisha Wilbert, GRI.



Hinds County School District

Teacher Nominated for 2019

Mississippi Teacher of the Year



Kayla Moncure UEMS TOY  
and HCSD Teacher of the Year

Kayla Moncure is a 4th Grade Math and Science teacher at Utica Elementary School with 4 years of teaching experience. Moncure earned a Bachelor and Master’s Degree from Alcorn State University. She believes a teacher must be able to accommodate every type of learning. To teach in her hometown at the same school she attended, is her way of giving back to the community. Moncure wants her students to know that they can be successful, whether they are from a big city or a small town. Her students are the future and whatever they are doing now will impact their lives forever. To see the fruits of her labor, through her students, is her greatest accomplishment.

Hinds County School District

Announces its 2019

Administrator of the Year!



Ashley Green, Principal /  
Gary Road Intermediate  
School named HCSD  
Administrator of the Year

Ashley Green has 13 years’ experience in education total with 3 ½ of those years in the HCSD as a curriculum coordinator and leader of Gary Road Intermediate School. Green earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Alcorn State University, a Master of Science Degree in Counseling Psychology and a Specialist in Educational Administration from Pearl River Community College MAPQSL. Green has provided an outstanding educational foundation for the students and teachers at Gary Road Intermediate. Her dedication has caused students to excel academically and curtail behavioral issues. Green wants her students and teachers to be successful. She is very supportive, her expectations are high and she wants the best from her staff.



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