



Rep. Jay Hughes qualifies to run for Lt. Governor

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Wednesday, January 2, State Representative Jay Hughes qualified to run for the office of Lieutenant Governor. After announcing his decision to run last May, Hughes has been travelling the state on his campaign bus speaking with Mississippians about issues that are important to their local communities.

“It has been my great pleasure traveling our state these last eight months and hearing first-hand about the issues that matter to Mississippians,” Hughes said. “I spoke with mothers working two jobs that can barely support their families. I’ve been talking to educators struggling to find the resources to educate children. I’ve met Main Street business owners, who have been left behind by big corporations and need our help.”

“I visited with seniors, who are making life and death decisions about health-care, who have worked hard

Hughes
Continued on page 3



Williams



No More New Year’s — New You

You don’t need a New Year to get to a New You

By Morgan A. Owens
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Let’s be really honest, how often do we neglect our New Year’s resolutions after January? Many times, we set resolutions but don’t know where to start. We get stuck and revert to old habits that aren’t helping us bloom into the best we can be.

Often, we are our own worst enemy, second guessing, self-doubt and self-sabotage can get in the way of our success. We can try to blame others for our failures but sometimes we need to take a good look in the mirror and realize it may be ourselves.

Here are some of my tips on how to get to a better New You, right now.

Break the Rules

How many times have we looked at job descriptions for jobs we really wanted, seen one qualification that we weren’t well-versed at, and told ourselves, “why even bother applying? I won’t get an interview.”

How many times have we worked with a co-worker or manager and asked ourselves, “How did they get this job? They aren’t qualified at all.”

Many of our counterparts go after

COMMENTARY

these positions without hesitation – maybe it’s a result of their sense of privilege, but it’s also fearlessness.

Go for it. Make a list of everything that you haven’t accomplished because you felt you weren’t qualified, or that it wasn’t the right time to pursue it. Once you see an actual written listing of the missed opportunities and chances you passed up, it really puts things in perspective. Use the same list and pick something on it to go after, right now.

Self-Worth is Key

When you really think about it, why do we give OTHERS control or authority over our self-worth? It’s ours. Being fully transparent, you won’t find your self-worth in a day, a week or even a year. The journey can be long and is often emotionally painful, but it is necessary! I didn’t get the opportunities I wanted until I became a person that is ready to receive them.

While we are building our careers, taking care of our families, let’s remember our why and our worth.

New you
Continued on page 3

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher



I am so incredibly excited that 2019 is here and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year in hopes this year will be one of the best ever.

As far as *The Mississippi Link* is concerned, we will stay the course as we move forward to increased growth while meeting challenges head on. We know that everyone has challenges in life and we are happy to be in that number, because when we cease to have challenges, we cease to grow.

Whether our challenges are personal, business, family, or health related, God gives us mechanisms to remain diligent and steadfast in spite of what we face.

When I think of the various challenges that people have had to endure in 2018, I cannot help but think of someone that I consider part of *The Mississippi Link* family. Kam Williams has been a reliable columnist for *The Mississippi Link* for over seven years. We count on him each week and he has never let us down. He is consistent and persistent. He is well known by newspaper publishers all over the world and takes his work serious. Kam does film reviews, book reviews, and conducts interviews with well known celebrities. He appears regularly in our print edition and on our web site.

While submitting a film review titled “*If Beale Street Could Talk*” for the newspaper’s final 2018 edition, Kam was at home quarantined and radioactive, unable to be around other people. Very few people at *The Mississippi Link* knew that Kam had been battling cancer for several years.

He recently received an aggressive medical treatment, unfamiliar to many (including physicians), called “Smart” Bomb Against Prostate Cancer, Lutetium-177. Just a little background regarding this treatment, in 1991, Operation Desert Storm brought the first large scale use of missile-type bombs that carried precision guidance systems, or “smart” bombs. These bombs could hit targets with great accuracy while collateral damage to civilians was greatly reduced. Now there is a new approach using smart bomb principles to treating metastatic prostate cancer that no longer responds to hormones or chemotherapy. Kam is grateful to have been able to receive



Williams

this limited experimental treatment that is still in clinical trial in the United States. The regular price for this type of treatment is up to \$1 million and a trip to Germany.

In a telephone conversation with him last week, I learned that Kam had almost been paralyzed, in that his cancer had moved to inside his spine. It was not easy for him to be chosen as a recipient of this treatment in which so few would receive in the U.S.; but, he gives credit to doctors at John Hopkins and to Ben Carson,

Williams
Continued on page 3



PHOTO OF THE WEEK RUN EDDIE RUN

Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair made it official Wednesday, January 2 that he plans to seek a fifth term. Well-wishers and supporters looked on as Fair qualified at the Hinds County Circuit Clerk’s Office to run again for a seat he has held for 15 years.

First elected in 2003, Fair became the first elected African American to serve as Hinds County Tax Collector. Born in Ruleville, Mississippi, Fair is a graduate of Jackson State University.





Dear Friend,

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and that you are looking forward to a great new year in 2019! I have spent the time since the November 6th election resting, reuniting with family and friends, and attempting (unsuccessfully) to disengage from politics. Over that time I have been blessed to hear from many of you and to receive your congratulations on the race we ran for the U.S. Senate. I am truly thankful for all that everyone did to help my campaign. Now, it is time to turn my attention to my duties as House Minority Leader.

Legislators return to the Capitol on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 to begin the 2019 Legislative Session. As 2019 is an election year, we should not see too much controversy. However, we can expect the usual push to further ensure that gun rights are not curtailed in any manner whatsoever and to criminalize abortion. These two statutory topics have become the Mississippi Republicans' *raison d'être* and despite Mississippi having the strongest laws in the country on these issues, there are inevitably bills filed that are deemed necessary to protect the realm.

Revenue collections seem to have trended upward over the last few months, which is good news for the 2019-2020 budget, but we will still struggle to fund education and basic services as the enormous corporate tax cuts passed in 2016 begin to suck cash out of the system. Nevertheless, look for a unified push to provide a pay raise for teachers and other state employees in this year's budget. These raises seem to be gaining bipartisan support at the Capitol as in an election year everybody wants to mollify the state's largest employee group and gain their votes in November.

Infrastructure continues to be a problem in our state. Maintaining the roads and bridges (not including building new ones) costs around \$400 million per year. While the legislature put a band aid on the problem in the 2018 Special Session, much more is needed to be done. Keep in mind also that "infrastructure" includes much more than just roads and bridges. Mississippi's cities and counties have miles of crumbling water, sewer, and gas lines and broadband internet hasn't yet reached much of rural Mississippi. This session may see a move to address some of these issues, but candidly the money won't be available to create new revenue.

There has been some recent talk around the Capitol that the Governor may be reconsidering his opposition to expanding Medicaid. Medicaid expansion in Mississippi would mean that the state's "working poor" would be provided no-cost healthcare under the state's Medicaid program. This would include approximately 300,000 people who work, but do not receive healthcare through their employers and are not currently insured. The state would receive \$9.00 from the federal treasury for every \$1.00 we put up. In addition to being a great deal and the right thing to do for our citizens, expanding Medicaid would stem the bleeding experienced by our rural hospitals—many of which are closing due to budget problems.

In addition to the topics above, legislative Democrats will push for election, economic justice and criminal justice reforms in the 2019 Session. Legislation has already been drafted to make it easier for citizens to exercise their right to vote, to ensure workers are paid a living wage, and to decrease prison populations and curb abuses in the criminal justice system. We hope to gain the support of our Republican colleagues in an effort to improve the lives of all Mississippians and take steps to reverse the ongoing "Brain Drain" that is robbing our state of its best and brightest young adults as they choose to leave for greener pastures.

For my part, I will continue to work to ensure that our homeowners insurance policies actually cover our losses, to repeal the tax on hybrid and electric vehicles, to improve access to healthcare in our state, to support our public schools, including re-directing lottery proceeds to education rather than roads, and to adopt a state flag that makes ALL Mississippians proud.

Thank you for continuing to stick by me as together we work to Make Mississippi Better!

—

Sincerely,

David Baria



Baria

LIVE HEALTHY BLUE

BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi

It's good to be Blue.

www.bcbsms.com

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
® Registered Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

New you

Continued from page 1

Self-care is Not Selfish.

Learn to say “no.” As women, we tend to think we have to do it all but really, we don’t. We tend to take on other’s responsibilities and use them as the reason why we can’t pursue our own passions.

When I learned to start saying “no,” my life began to flourish.

You can’t build a career or business from an empty tank. You just can’t. Learn to balance your career duties and your personal time. Easier said than done, right?

If you don’t have a schedule or a daily plan, create one now. Career without self-care is a recipe for disaster.

How can you expect to be your best if your mind, body and soul aren’t in alignment?

You’re Your Biggest Investment

We’re quick to invest in material things that won’t help our personal growth, but not in the personal and/or professional development tools that will. Investments can take the form of both time and money.

When I started my weight loss journey I had to invest my time into getting healthy by working out. Carving out time in my week to dedicate to my personal fitness goals and health. That sometimes meant saying no to other things such as hanging out with friends.

Try investing in a course to further your career, a workshop to help build your business or even time devoted to accomplishing a major goal. Your investment will pay off and more!

Let Your Haters Fuel Your Success

There will always be someone who has something negative to say about every goal or move we make to better ourselves. That can be a huge deterrent on why we don’t pursue something. Often, that person isn’t ready to grow themselves, so they are afraid of you growing. Sometimes, it comes from those closest to us. That can be very instrumental in making us give up on our dreams.

You have to stay committed and believe in your vision even when others can’t fully see it yet. Use that energy to prove them wrong.

Don’t wait until 2019 to be a better you. Start now. You’ll be glad you did.

To further connect with me visit www.morganaowens.com or follow me on IG at [miss_morgan86](https://www.instagram.com/miss_morgan86)

sules.” He never used his illness as an excuse for being late or not submitting his work. He has had treatments that worked for a while and some that seemed not to work at all. But today he is hopeful, he has faith, and his work as a journalist continues. He looks forward to the day when he will be restored to good health.

With Kam in mind, we look forward to serving this community

and this state with more vigor than ever before. And to Kam Williams and others that are working through life’s challenges, let us be ever-mindful of the words of the late minister, Rev. Robert H. Schuller, “Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do.” We wish our readers, subscribers, and advertisers a blessed and prosperous 2019!

Williams

Continued from page 1

former neurosurgeon and current United States Secretary of HUD, whom he had interviewed several times, for helping to pave the way for him to receive this form of treatment.

Yes, Kam has been battling this cancer for several years now but he continued his work with The Mississippi Link submitting his columns, interviews and other content referred to as “Kam’s Kap-

Hughes

Continued from page 1

their whole lives and just want to retire with dignity,” Hughes stated. “And most importantly, I’ve heard from kids, from grade school to college, that just want a fair shake and the ability to get a good education so they can one day provide for their own families. We need to provide our children with better opportunities so that they don’t have to move away and never come back. Every person I have met across our great

state has inspired me to help us build a better life for our citizens. I will fight to make Mississippi better for ALL Mississippians.”

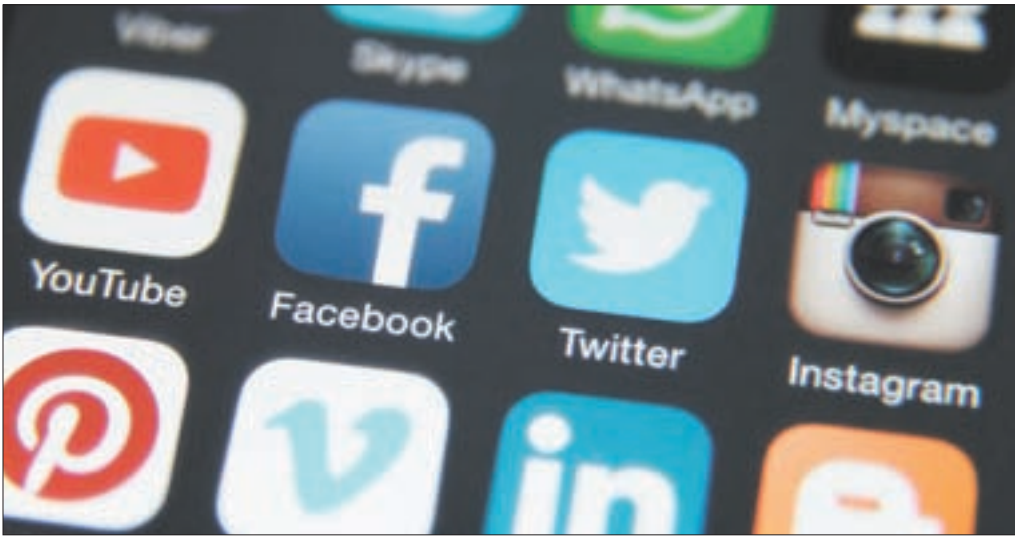
Hughes, an Army veteran, attorney, developer and business owner, volunteers as a substitute teacher and has donated his legislative salary to public education since he was first elected as an alderman in 2013.

Hughes has been a lifelong advocate for public education, im-

proving our state’s infrastructure, and increasing access to affordable health care options, including those needing assistance with mental health and addiction issues. He vows to eliminate crony contacts, government waste and unfunded mandates.

A Christian, father, and husband, Hughes is a lifelong gun owner and resides in Oxford with his wife, Chris, and daughter, Patricia.

LOOKING BACK: In 2018, “Living While Black” Stories Exploded on Social and Mainstream Media



By **Lauren Victoria Burke**
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Whether it was sitting at a Starbucks in Philadelphia, sleeping at college or simply walking to one’s apartment in one’s own building, a major social media trend emerged in 2018. That trend was: Documenting bias and micro-aggressions that would later be featured in mainstream media.

Much of what was documented was recording by the object so many have with them 24/7: Their cell phone. The wave of incidents documented was not new — but the media attention on such stories along with the responses that have followed signals a cultural shift that’s likely to last for years to come.

There were multiple incidents. Below are six that made headlines and garnered widespread media attention:

In April in Oakland, California, Michelle Snider posted a YouTube video of Jennifer Schulte calling the police on her and her husband Kenzie Smith. Schulte dialed 911 because she was upset they were BBQ’ing in a public park. The story quickly went viral and Schulte was tagged as “BBQ Betty.”

In May in Connecticut,

Sarah Braasch called the police on Yale graduate student Lolade Siyonbola. The problem? after she fell asleep in a common room in her dorm. When police arrived, Siyonbola ran the conversation live on her Facebook Live.

In May in Philadelphia, two men, Donte Robinson and Rashon Nelson, were arrested at a Starbucks after an employee called the cops on them as they waited for a business meeting to begin. The multi-billion-dollar coffee chain would later close all of its stores to conduct training for all their employees regarding racial bias.

In August in Madison, Wisconsin, Shelia Stubbs, who is the only African-American on the 37-member Dane County Board of Supervisors, was campaigning in her district when someone called the police.

In December in New Jersey, Andrew Johnson, a Black high school wrestler, was compelled to have an impromptu pre-match haircut after a referee with a racist incident in his past decided Johnson’s hair violated the rules. The referee, Alan Maloney, was later fired.

In late December, a security guard at a DoubleTree Hotel called the police on

Jermaine Massey as he used a phone in a lobby. Two employees were fired because of the incident.

It was likely not coincidental that such incidents have spiked on social media and in mainstream news during the presidency of Donald Trump.

The national political environment has become contentious with President Trump’s relentless focus on vilifying and stereotyping minorities, particularly Mexican immigrants, while at the same time failing to quickly and affirmatively denounce racism and xenophobia.

Hate crimes along with a resurgence of white supremacist groups have been recorded by the Southern Poverty Law Center and other hate watchdog organizations. The incidents have highlighted the power of social media a few years after the birth of Black Lives Matter which also featured the power of social media content.

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

WANT A JOB IN SALES???

Barksdale Cadillac may be the place for you.

We are currently hiring sales personnel. No experience necessary.
We will pay you while you train.

Please contact us at
601-948-5183 for more details.



Hinds County Tax Officials Annual Gala

Clinton Event Center • December 2, 2018 • Clinton, MS

PHOTOS BY JERRY KOMIA DOMATOB



**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)

To Qualify:

- * Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- * Family must reside in Hinds County
- * Must be a low-income family (based on the federal poverty level)

"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."

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

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

- * Preschool Education
- * Medical
- * Dental
- * Nutrition
- * Mental Health
- * Disability
- * Literacy
- * Leadership Development
- * Limited Transportation

...ALL AT NO COST TO PARENTS!

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.

**SPACE IS LIMITED!
APPLY EARLY!**



Helping Families,
Strengthening Communities

Judges Wise and Singletary Retirement Party

Civil Rights Museum • December 19, 2018 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG



Gov. Phil Bryant appoints Mark Henry to Workers’ Compensation Commission

Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant has appointed Mark Henry to a six-year term on the Mississippi Workers’ Compensation Commission. He will replace Thomas A. Webb on the Commission, whose term expires Dec. 31, 2018. Currently, Henry serves as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES).

The Commission reviews decisions made by administrative law judges, decides certain medical fee disputes, and regulates individual and group self-insurers.

“I am pleased to appoint Mark to the Workers’ Compensation Commission,” Gov. Bryant said. “His experience at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, coupled with his acute understanding of the Commission from his time as an administrative judge there, make him well suited to ensure both workers and employers are treated fairly.”

Henry was appointed as Executive Director of MDES in 2012 by Gov. Bryant. He is also presently the Chairman of the State Workforce



Henry

Investment Board and the Chairman of the State Longitudinal Data System.

“I have appreciated serving at the Department of Employment Security when, with Governor Phil Bryant’s leadership, more Mississippians have had jobs than any other time in history,” said Henry. “I am

grateful to Governor Bryant for appointing me to the Workers’ Compensation Commission where I look forward to helping injured Mississippians return to work.”

Previously, Henry served as former Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant’s Chief of Staff from 2008-2012.

In 2000, former Gov. Kirk Fordice appointed Henry as an Administrative Judge at the Workers’ Compensation Commission where he served until 2008.

Prior to the appointment, Henry worked on Fordice’s staff as Chief Legal Counsel and later as Chief of Staff.

He is also a past President of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

Henry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Mississippi State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Brandon, Miss., and attend First Baptist Church of Jackson.

Henry’s appointment is contingent upon confirmation by the Mississippi Senate.

Evans named PERS Employee of the Quarter

Mississippi Link Newswire

David Evans has been named Employee of the Quarter for the Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) by the Board of Trustees for the third quarter of fiscal year 2019, which runs January through March.

An employee of PERS since May 2013, Evans, of Jackson, works as an account specialist in the Employer Reporting Division. He was recognized for how he handles each task in a timely and professional manner with both accuracy and excellence. He treats each and every individual – both coworker and customer – with the utmost respect and is both dependable and consistent in everything he does.

Evans earned a bachelor’s of arts in sociology from Tougaloo College



Evans

and a master’s of public administration degree with a concentration in international development from Kentucky State University. He graduated with honors from both Tougaloo College and Kentucky State.

Mississippi Highway Patrol New Year’s Holiday Enforcement Period

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Highway Patrol concluded its New Year’s holiday enforcement period which began Monday, December 31, at 12:01 a.m. and ended Tuesday, January 1 at midnight. MHP issued 2466 citations with 48 DUI arrests. During the deadly two day period, MHP investigated 92 motor vehicle crashes that included 27 injuries and 5 fatalities on state, federal highways, and interstates systems.

Below you will find information regarding the fatality crashes.

Monday, December 31, 2018 at approximately 01:00 a.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash in Rankin County. A vehicle that appeared to be a Honda Civic was traveling eastbound on US-80 when the vehicle left the roadway, collided with a tree and burst into flames. The driver was pronounced dead on scene due to injuries sustained in the crash. The driver’s name is currently being withheld pending next of kin notification.

Monday, December 31, 2018 at

approximately 7:00 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal crash in Jackson County. A 2017 Dodge Ram, driven by Michael C. Bowie, 33, of Pensacola, FL was traveling westbound on Interstate 10 when he lost control, overturned, and entered the eastbound lanes. The Dodge crashed into the driver’s side of an eastbound Ford F-150. The driver’s side of the Dodge then crashed into the front of an eastbound 2017 Ford Escape. The driver of the Dodge, Michael C. Bowie, was pronounced dead on scene from injuries sustained in the crash. The driver of the Ford Escape was transported to Ocean Springs Hospital with moderate injuries. The driver of the Ford F-150 was not injured in the crash.

Monday, December 31, 2018 at approximately 11:26 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash in Leflore County. A 2004 Toyota passenger vehicle driven by David W. Simmons, 30, of Greenwood, MS was traveling westbound on US-82 when the vehicle left the roadway and collided with a

utility pole. David W. Simmons was pronounced dead on scene due to injuries sustained in the crash.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at approximately 12:05 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash in Pike County. A 2000 Ford Focus driven by Peggy A. Goodwin, 49, of Magnolia, MS was traveling southbound on US-51 when the vehicle left the roadway and collided with a utility pole. Peggy A. Goodwin was pronounced dead on scene due to injuries sustained in the crash.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at approximately 01:07 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash in Holmes County. A 2005 GMC Envoy driven by Robert L. Ousby, 68, of Pickens, MS was traveling southbound on MS-17 when the vehicle left the roadway and overturned several times. Robert L. Ousby was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced dead on scene due to injuries sustained in the crash.

All crashes remain under investigation by MHP.

New SOS Survey: Most businesses have not connected with K-12, Community College Career and Technical Education Resources

Mississippi Link Newswire

Most Mississippi businesses have not connected with career and technical education (CTE) resources at the K-12 or community college levels, according to a new survey of almost 100,000 domestic corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), and limited partnerships (LPs).

Another 10 percent are not aware of CTE, or rigorous skills training in an academic setting aimed at preparing students for jobs after graduation day.

“When we hand students a diploma, it’s too late to ask them what they want to do with the rest of their lives. We have to connect our schools and businesses today so we can better prepare our workforce of tomorrow,” Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann said. “We hope the results from this and other surveys can help move Mississippi toward this goal.”

More than 5,600 business entities provided feedback for this most recent Secretary of State survey, the fourth installment of a se-

ries of questionnaires sent to Mississippi businesses over the past two years related to workforce needs.

Among other responses, the survey shows:

- Almost 50 percent of businesses said the average age of their employees is 45 or older;
- More than 70 percent of businesses believe interpersonal skills are the greatest indicator of whether an employee will be successful;
- About 65 percent of businesses said they would consider hiring a trained applicant convicted of a nonviolent felony;
- About 45 percent of businesses do not provide incentives to employees; and
- About 35 percent of businesses said they find new employees through social networking.

Respondents also provided ideas on how the State Legislature can help small businesses prosper ranging from continuing to improve infrastructure to reducing burdensome regulations. The full survey and past results are available here: http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices/Documents/Yall_Business/Y%27all%20Business%20Surveys%20for%20web.pdf.

The Secretary of State’s Office is responsible for managing the corporate documents of about 175,000 LLCs, LPs, and corporations. Domestic businesses are surveyed on a variety of topics intermittently throughout the year. Results are used to address business needs and improve economic development tools like Y’all Business (www.yallbusiness.sos.ms.gov), a website developed by the Secretary of State’s Office which offers free consumer and demographic information to burgeoning businesses. Results are shared with educational entities, business leaders, and economic development and state government stakeholders.

For more information about the Secretary of State’s Business Services Division, visit www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices or call (601) 359-1633.

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213

601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

CHECK ONE

☐ 1 year

☐ 2 year

☐ 3 year

\$32

1 year

subscription

\$64

2 year

subscription

\$96

3 year

subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 25 • Number 11

January 3 - 9, 2019

© copyright 2018. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Editor.....Othor Cain

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson

Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent

Ayesha K. Mustafa

Member:

SAAPA

MISSISSIPPI PRESS

NPA

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Hinds CC fall graduates plan unique career fields



Still

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Going off the beaten path when choosing a career came easy for several Hinds Community College students graduating this semester.

Bryce Still, of Brandon, knew the importance of a college degree but needed some time to see where his passion could do the most good.

“I was unsure what I wanted to do coming out of high school,” said Still, among 885 students who will earn credentials from Hinds Community College during fall graduation ceremonies Thursday.

Still, 23, earned an associate degree from Hinds in general studies right out of high school but returned to the college to enter the Early Childhood Education Technology program on the Rankin Campus. He took lessons in firm but patient manner when dealing with young children from his mother, who has run Miss Mandy’s Christian Daycare &



Woodard

Kindergarten in Brandon for about 25 years. An older sister, Candice, also earned a degree in early childhood education and works for their mother.

“I’ve seen how you can set an example for a positive life for kids at such a young age,” he said, adding he plans to build his own after-school daycare business. “Some kids come from a rough household. Many don’t have fathers at home, too. But when they’re with you for about eight hours a day, you can change their lives in a positive way and allow them to interact with other young children.

Janie Woodard, of Raymond, began college studying nursing, then decided the business world might be more her speed.

“I kept going back and forth on whether to just go for business, because I love numbers and have always wanted to run my own business,” Woodard said.

“I’ve made Deans’ List and President’s List



Thompson

since I’ve been in the program. I hope to have my own clothing and jewelry boutique.”

Brock Thompson, of Flora, plans to run a different route than ones drawn up in the locker room during his time as a tight end on the Eagle football team. His next game plan in life is a career in healthcare.

“My aunt, who is a lab nurse, has had a big influence on me with it,” Thompson said. “I imagine I’ll specialize in critical care nursing or try an orthopedic field.”

The college conferred 1,275 credentials to the 885 students in three ceremonies inside the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus. All nursing and allied health graduates received their degrees at 9 a.m., with commencement for academic and career-tech graduates that followed in separate ceremonies at noon and 3 p.m.

Dan Fuller, an English instructor at the Utica Campus, was the speaker for all three ceremonies.

Woodrow Price uses social media campaign to collect gifts for students at Warren Central Intermediate



Price

By Justus Reed
Contributing Writer

Warren Central Intermediate in Vicksburg, Mississippi has 489 students. Thanks to one Alcorn State University alumnus, all of them will get a Christmas gift.

Woodrow Price, a teacher at the school who graduated from Alcorn in 2007, received toy donations via a social media campaign for his fourth annual holiday initiative, Operation Give. The gifts will be given to the students Thursday, Dec. 20.

The holiday event was born back in 2015 when Price, who was a second-grade teacher at Sherman Avenue Elementary in Vicksburg, took an interest in the students’ Christmas letters to Santa. The majority of the students requested bikes for Christmas, so Price was moved to supply a bike for the 30 student class.

He upped the ante in 2016 when his initiative enabled him

to give scooters and helmets to all first-grade students at Sherman Avenue. Then in 2017, Price was able to provide every student in the school a gift.

Because of his strong religious beliefs, Price was faithful that his plans would come to fruition.

“As a faith walker, I never doubted being able to get the gifts,” said Price. “I was excited to know that God has made provision for the vision he gave me.”

It is a satisfying feeling for Price to know that he contributed to his community in such a significant way.

“I understand the struggle many parents go through. On Christmas morning, I can wake up knowing that every child at Warren Central Intermediate would have received something. If I never receive another gift or accolade, I know that I have done something from the heart to reach children.”

Persevering through dark days, Hinds CC nursing student graduates

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For a while, Melonie Townes of Brandon was living out the prediction of a high school biology teacher who told her she’d be the first in the class to get pregnant, work at a hamburger joint and not make anything of herself.

The only thing the teacher got wrong was that Townes worked at Sonic instead of McDonald’s. But now at age 23, Townes is proof that not all predictions come true.

With the help of Hinds Community College and the Student Nurses Organization Foundation Scholarship, Townes has upended that prediction and changed her life path.

Townes is graduating from the Associate Degree Nursing program on Thursday, Dec. 13 in a ceremony at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus in Pearl. Hinds has three graduation ceremonies, at 9 a.m. for nursing and allied health graduates; noon, academic and career graduates whose last names begin with A-K and 3 p.m. for graduates whose last names begin with L-Z. Townes attended classes at Hinds’ Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center.

“One important value of mine has always been perseverance – that no matter who tells you you can’t do it, no matter how many people talk down to you, whatever your circumstances may be, you can do whatever you put your mind to,” she said.

But she has lived through some dark days to get to where she is now. A few years ago, she wasn’t on speaking terms with her mother; her dad wasn’t in the picture at all.

“I didn’t have anybody to push me to go to school and be successful, or tell me the importance of graduating with a degree,” she said. “I made some bad decisions, and I ended up failing my first semester in college.

“And, then I wound up getting pregnant,” Townes said. Just when it seemed things couldn’t get much worse, she totaled her car.

“It was when I was at the lowest point in my life, I had to call my mom. She was the only person who would take me at that time because I was pregnant. And I dreaded it. We hadn’t talked in about a year,” she recalled.



Melonie Townes PHOTOS BY APRIL GARON/HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“She had to get off work to come get me. I remember her taking me to her work at a nursing home.”

That turned out to be the life-changing moment that Townes needed. She found herself impressed by what she saw at the nursing home.

“That was my first time being around nurses and seeing what kind of care they give. It was just amazing to see how the nurses took care of the residents. How they were there for them, how they supported them, how they tried to comfort them no matter what they went through,” Townes said. “And I knew at that moment that was something I wanted to do.”

She had to take two classes over the summer to complete the prerequisites to get into Hinds’ nursing program.

And, by this time, she had a newborn daughter, Chloe.

“I worked in the morning from about 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., got off, saw my baby for an hour and then went to class from about 5:15 p.m. to about 10 or 11,” she said. “And, of course, you don’t sleep when you have a newborn.



Melonie Townes spends a typical study day at her kitchen table in Brandon with her daughter Chloe, 3.

ANYTIME ONLINE

Breaking News
Streaming Videos
Interactive Blogs



Visit our newly designed website:
www.mississippilink.com

Taylor named Employee of Month at Mississippi State Hospital



Taylor

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Courtney Taylor of Madison has been named Mississippi State Hospital's December Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Taylor, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, is a recreation therapist supervisor at Oak Circle Center. She has worked at MSH for two years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contribu-

tions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

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

\$575 Million settlement reached with Wells Fargo

Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney General Jim Hood announced that Mississippi will receive more than \$2.5 million of a \$575 million multistate settlement reached with Wells Fargo to resolve claims that the bank violated state consumer protection laws by (1) opening millions of unauthorized accounts and enrolling customers into online banking services without their knowledge or consent, (2) improperly referring customers for enrollment in third-party renters and life insurance policies, (3) improperly charging auto loan customers for force-placed and unnecessary collateral protection insurance, (4) failing to ensure that customers received refunds of unearned premiums on certain optional auto finance products, and (5) incorrectly charging customers for mortgage rate lock extension fees.

The total settlement amount for Mississippi is \$2,538,491.41. Through this settlement with 50 states and the District of Columbia, Wells Fargo will also create a consumer redress review program through which consumers who have not been made whole through other restitution programs already in place can seek review of their inquiry or complaint by a bank escalation team for possible relief.

A website and contact information will be available on or before February 26, 2019, at which time Hood will provide the public with that information.

Wells Fargo has identified more than 3.5 million accounts where customer accounts were opened, funds were transferred, credit card applications were filed and debit cards were

issued without the customers' knowledge or consent.

The bank has also identified 528,000 online bill pay enrollments nationwide that may have resulted from improper sales practices at the bank. In addition, Wells Fargo improperly submitted more than 6,500 renters insurance and/or simplified term life insurance policy



Hood

applications and payments from customer accounts without the customers' knowledge or consent.

The states alleged that Wells Fargo imposed aggressive and unrealistic sales goals on bank employees and implemented an incentive compensation program where employees could qualify for credit by selling certain products to customers. The states further alleged that the bank's sales goals and the incentive compensation program created an impetus for employees to engage in improper sales practices in order to satisfy such sales goals and earn financial rewards. Those sales goals became increasingly harder to achieve over time, the states alleged, and employees who failed to meet them faced potential termination and career-hindering criticism from their supervisors.

The states also alleged that Wells Fargo improperly charged premiums, interest and fees for force-placed collateral protection insurance to more than two million auto financing customers, despite evidence that the customers' regular auto insurance policy was in effect, and despite numerous customer complaints about such unnecessary placements.

Wells Fargo has agreed to provide remediation of more than \$385 million to approximately 850,000 auto finance customers. The remediation will include payments to over 51,000 customers whose cars were repossessed.

Additionally, the states alleged that Wells Fargo failed to ensure that customers received proper refunds of unearned portions of optional Guaranteed Asset/Auto Protection (GAP) products sold as part of motor vehicle financing agreements. As a result, the bank has agreed to provide

refunds totaling more than \$37 million to certain auto finance customers.

Finally, the states alleged that Wells Fargo improperly charged residential mortgage loan consumers for rate lock extension fees even when the delay was caused by Wells Fargo, a practice contrary to the bank's policy. Wells Fargo has identified and contacted affected consumers and has refunded or agreed to refund over \$100 million of such fees.

"Mississippians should not have to worry about whether their bank will take advantage of them when making big life purchases, such as buying a car or a home, or saving for retirement," Hood said. "We are glad Wells Fargo is paying back what they knowingly and wrongly took from their customers, and this should be a warning to other big banks doing business in our state. We protect Mississippians' rights to financial well-being – not corporate interests."

Wells Fargo has previously entered consent orders with federal authorities – including the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) – related to its alleged conduct. Wells Fargo has committed to or already provided restitution to consumers in excess of \$600 million through its agreements with the OCC and CFPB as well as through settlement of a related consumer class-action lawsuit and will pay over \$1 billion in civil penalties to the federal government.

Additionally, under an order from the Federal Reserve, the bank is required to strengthen its corporate governance and controls, and is currently restricted from exceeding its total asset size.

As part of its settlement with the states, Wells Fargo has agreed to implement within 60 days a program through which consumers who believe they were affected by the bank's conduct, but fell outside the prior restitution programs, can contact Wells Fargo to be reviewed for potential redress. Wells Fargo will create and maintain a website for consumers to use to access the program and will provide periodic reports to the states about ongoing restitution efforts.

Consumers who have questions about the redress program are encouraged to contact either Wells Fargo directly or the Mississippi Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1 800-281-4418 or 601 359-4230.

MOORE & MOORE Cleaning Service



Craig Moore
Owner/Operator

*All Types of Cleaning Services
Over 30 Years of Experience
Free Estimates
Licensed & Bonded*

Moore & Moore Cleaning Services
Commercial & Residential Cleaning

*We clean: Office Buildings, Schools, Daycares
Churches, Restaurants - whatever you need.*

*Floor Stripping & Waxing, Carpet Cleaning,
Restrooms & All Other Janitorial Services
with Professional Results*

601.519.0030 or 601.317.2735

Email: craig.moore78@yahoo.com

www.mooreandmoorecleaningserviceandautosalesllc

2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213

*The person that sends us the most referrals will
receive a \$200.00 referral fee.*

Calender named Employee of Month at Mississippi State Hospital

Mississippi Link Newswire

Linda Calender of Pearl has been named Mississippi State Hospital's December Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

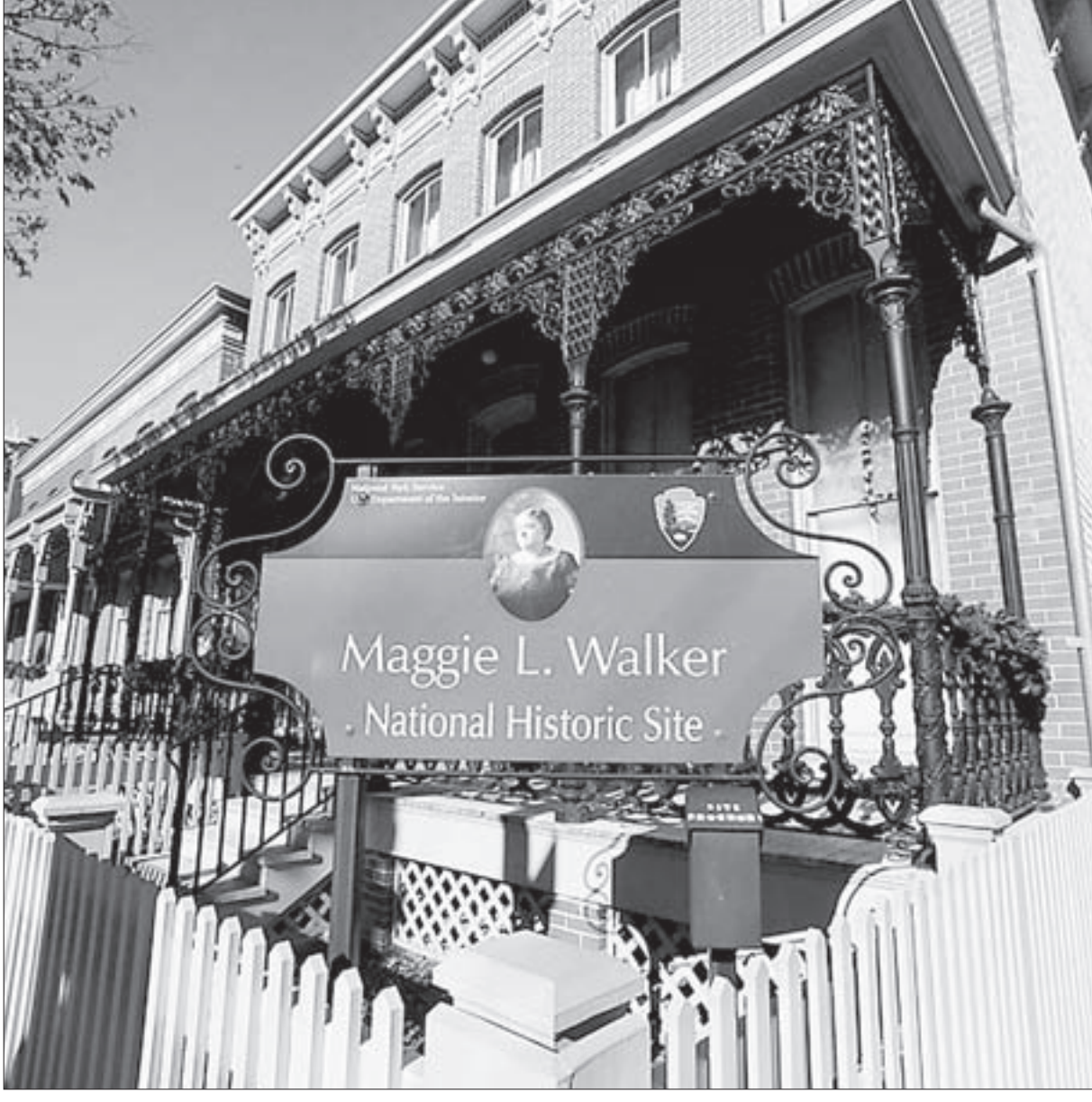
Calender, a Phillips Junior College alumna, is a direct care supervisor in Inpatient Services and has been employed at MSH for 22 years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.



Calendar

For some, dissatisfaction over government shutdown may be overshadowed by guarded praise for Criminal Justice Reform



A sign was posted at the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in Richmond, Va.'s Jackson Ward informing visitors that the site is closed with the partial shutdown of federal government operations. The National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is impacted by the shutdown brought on by President Trump's insistence for \$5 billion to build a border wall between the United States and Mexico. Congress has refused, offering \$1.5 billion instead for border security. Roughly 800,000 federal employees are impacted by the shutdown, which was in its fifth day on Wednesday. Of those, 420,000 employees considered "essential," including air traffic controllers, FBI agents and others, must continue to work without pay. PHOTO: Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

By Reginald Stuart
TriceEdneyWire.com

The widespread unhappiness across the nation over President Trump's partial federal government shutdown at Christmas may have all but overshadowed the guarded praise surrounding a bipartisan victory for Congress and the president.

The root of the muted celebration was congressional passage of long-delayed federal prison sentencing reform legislation that President Trump signed into law last Friday, just hours before the government shutdown and the congressional recess began. Passage of the prison reform bill came after Congress did not give President Trump the gift he vociferously demanded of \$5 billion in taxpayers money to build a wall along part of the nation's southern border between the United States and Mexico.

Amid doubts about when roughly 800,000 federal workers would get paid and considerable uncertainty about who is charting the nation's foreign policy, President Trump momentarily dropped his big picture rhetoric and attention in order to focus on giving his support to the bipartisan effort for reforming the highly controversial and increasingly unpopular federal prison minimum mandatory federal prison sentencing law.

President Trump signed the so-called "First Step" law late on Dec. 21, restoring the discretion of federal judges to adjust sentences for federal drug law offenders eligible for mandatory minimum sentences. It also expands rehabilitation programs for people convicted of federal drug offenses, particularly nonviolent, first-time offenders. It also reduces the life sentence for some drug offenders with three convictions, or "three strikes," to 25 years.

Another provision would allow about 2,600 federal prisoners sentenced for crack cocaine offenses before August 2010 the opportunity to petition for a reduced penalty. That will be a win for minorities who were caught up in a sentencing system that made crack cocaine a more serious offense than other types of cocaine, said U.S. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, a potential Democratic presidential candidate in 2020. "When you correct an injustice in a biased system, it dramatically helps the marginalized people," Sen. Booker said. "With that provision alone, 96 percent of the people who are helped by that are black or Latino."

National NAACP officials lauded the action. "The First Step Act is not the end," said Hilary O. Shelton, the national NAACP's chief Washington lobbyist. "It is just the necessary first step in a series of efforts to improve and reform the federal criminal justice system." His comments echoed those of a broad spectrum of federal prison sentence reform advocates addressing the needs of the more than 1 million people behind bars in the federal prison system, many of them serving time for drug offenses. Virginia's 3rd District Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, who began championing sentencing reform more than two decades ago as a member of the Virginia General Assembly, guardedly lauded the unexpected Trump move on sentencing reform.

He noted there are many unresolved details to be addressed. "It is clear that this bill will help some," Rep. Scott said in a statement, cautioning as to the law's full impact. It "is clear that the bill may actually make our system less just and fair for all," he said. "I decided to vote for this legislation, but I hope that in the New Year, and with a

new Congress, we can revise some of these problematic provisions," he said.

Among the advocates of the legislation was a diverse and unlikely group that included presidential adviser Jared Kushner, Kim Kardashian West, the National Urban League, Black ministers and minority lawmakers and libertarian-leaning conservatives. Some of the bill's advocates said it was a tough decision to work with a White House that is deeply unpopular with Black people. More than 8 in 10 African-Americans said they thought President Trump was racist in a February poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Because the bill only affects the federal system, anyone given harsh sentences at the state and local levels will have no recourse. Those inmates make up the bulk of people behind bars across America. African-Americans constitute 38 percent — or about 68,000 — of the more than 180,000 inmates in the federal prison population, according to the federal Bureau of Prisons. Latinos make up 32 percent — or about 58,000 — of federal prison inmates, with about 122,000 non-Hispanics in federal prison.

Some groups say the bill will open the door to increased surveillance of minority communities through electronic monitoring of released inmates. Others point out limitations in the bill on which federal prisoners will benefit from its changes. The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of more than 150 Black-led organizations, called the legislation "custom-made for rich white men." "All of the carve-outs make the vast majority of our people ineligible for the benefits of the bill," the group said.

A wire report from The Associated Press contributed to this article.

2018 was the year of black voting victories; but voting lessons are yet to be learned

African-Americans Unregistered to Vote by State (Estimated)			
Alabama	6,004	Mississippi	186,730
Alaska	170,503	Montana	1,847
Arkansas	124,494	North Carolina	171,423
Arizona	91,043	Nebraska	24,723
California	537,205	New Hampshire	6,093
Colorado	43,444	New Jersey	27,074
Connecticut	64,476	New Mexico	12,033
Delaware	12,344	Nevada	44,899
Florida	31,844	New York	433,084
Georgia	334,233	Ohio	271,421
Hawaii	348,476	Oklahoma	30,859
Idaho	4,837	Oregon	16,501
Illinois	54,915	Pennsylvania	127,444
Indiana	3,848	Rhode Island	16,888
Iowa	394,306	South Carolina	165,079
Kansas	143,233	South Dakota	4,381
Kentucky	44,344	Tennessee	275,344
Louisiana	274,432	Texas	164,302
Massachusetts	274,432	Utah	9,889
Maryland	194,434	Virginia	37,164
Maine	3,717	Vermont	3,944
Michigan	344,787	Washington	79,042
Minnesota	61,781	Wisconsin	65,242
Missouri	189,444	West Virginia	34,481
		Wyoming	3,349

Chart showing numbers of unregistered Black voters in March of 2018. Source: Donna Brazile, former chair, Democratic National Committee

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

At this time last year, political observers around the nation were expecting a landslide turnout in the mid-term elections Nov. 6, 2018, demonstrating the power of Black voters — among others — to flip the then Republican-dominated House of Representatives.

Ten months later, it happened. Because of millions of determined voters, 40 Republican House seats were lost to Democrats, giving the party most voted for by Black people a 235-199 majority. Much deserved rejoicing has taken place over this success — by even non-partisan organizations whose only goals were to get as many voters to the polls as possible.

But despite the clear victories on many fronts, there are yet major lessons to be learned. Even as the overturn of the House has yielded major committee leadership sensitive to African-Americans, the loss of four Black candidates in statewide races have yet to be explained.

Democrat Stacey Abrams, after a brutal gubernatorial race in Georgia — lost to Republican Brian Kemp by 54,723 votes.

Democrat Andrew Gillum, in another nail biter gubernatorial election, lost to Republican Ron DeSantis by 32,463 votes.

Democrat Benjamin Todd Jealous — with the Democratic nomination in the predominantly Democratic state of Maryland, lost to Republican incumbent Larry Hogan by 273,005 votes.

Democrat Mike Espy, in a race that also gained national attention because of racial issues involved, lost to Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith by 68,585 votes in their Nov. 27th Runoff for the U. S. Senate.

Even as the nation remained spellbound in anticipation of the congressional election results, drama in the four statewide races stayed in the news. But since Nov. 6, there has been little discussion over how the Black vote might have been increased so that the statewide Black candidates might have won or could win in the future.

Undergirding this issue is the fact that, nationally, more than 7 million Black voters (7,135,303) were unregistered in the spring of 2018, according to documents publically distributed by former Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Donna Brazile. The list included 349,675 unregistered in Georgia; 199,656 unregistered in Maryland; 336,235 unregistered in Florida and 189,710 unregistered in Mississippi. In all four elections, just a fraction of more Black voters registered and voting for the Black candidates might have made a difference.

Nevertheless, even the 49-year-old Joint Center for Political and economic studies, which has "re-emerged as the preeminent center on how political and economic forces shape the lives of Black people and communities," according to its president, Spencer Overton, never even mentioned the four candidates — nor the Black vote - in the Center's annual report, released Dec. 28. And while the Center aims to continue its major campaigns on Black employment, the future of work, and diversity on Capitol Hill in 2019, there is no mention of the Black vote or how to increase the Black vote as a priority in the New Year.

Black voter turnout, in past years, has been at its highest when there are exciting candidates on the ballot such as during the election of President Barack Obama in 2008. The Black vote in Georgia was also at its peak on Election Day during the intense fight for the gubernatorial election of the charismatic Stacey Abrams. Yet, even the most exciting campaigners in America working for Abrams; including former President Obama, former First Lady Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey, could not pull the necessary votes for her to win.

Perhaps the greatest voting success in the Black community was among Black women

in general who voted based on issues such as the need for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and Affordable Healthcare, jobs, education and guns as domestic policy priorities, according to the Black Women's Roundtable, convened by Melanie Campbell, who is also president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

Campbell recently said in a statement: "This past election is further proof that Black women are clearly the 'secret sauce' with regard to maximizing the power and impact of the Black women's vote and leadership. Black women not only led in voting, they led highly successful national and state-based campaigns, raised money for Black voting campaigns, recruited and trained Black women candidates that were a key part of shifting power in many congressional races and much more. Folks need to remember, if you want to win, follow black women."

But, the losses of Abrams, Espy, Gillum and Jealous have made it plain that — in statewide elections — additional strategies will be needed.

Political scientist Dr. Wilmer Leon said Ben Jealous' loss was largely based on personalities and competing political strategies. Leon said in an interview last fall that "Because the state of Maryland, by most statistics, is doing well," Black voters have taken an "if it's not broke, don't fix it," approach.

He said, "Hogan has never proven himself to be a blind Republican ideologue. He's more of a moderate Republican than he is an extreme right wing Republican. So, with that, it's easier for Democrats to vote for him."

Charles Taylor, a community organizer and political data manager, who has been intricately involved in voter registration in Mississippi, including the Mississippi Conference NAACP's "This is My Vote" campaign, which registered more than 29,000 Black voters in Mississippi in 2012, has a national perspective on ways to increase the Black vote on local levels, especially in the South. Taylor says the statewide losses by Black candidates — particularly in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi — are more indicative of historic neglect by the Democratic Party, primarily supported by Black voters, and others who do not invest massive resources in get-out-to-vote and voter registration in the South.

"If the narrative that these candidates could have won if only African-Americans had done X, that's a horrible narrative because it's not a hopeful narrative and doesn't really tell the true story," Taylor says. "African-Americans in the electorate are already over performing their counterparts. The true issue of voting as it relates to any race of people is not apathy."

Taylor concludes that maximizing the Black vote across the South has to begin with a strategy that includes national organizations and community insiders working together to reach and educate voters. "They have been neglected for so long by any [national] Democratic Party any progressive party," he says. "I'm saying that it would be wise for national to invest in the South. The reason why this country is as conservative as it is, is because people have been neglectful of the South — and by extension — neglectful of rural America."

Taylor pointed to the post-slavery Reconstruction period as an example of the progress that could have been made by now had America kept pace with the elections of Blacks during that time (1863-1877). During Reconstruction, more than 2,000 Black people were elected to public office; including 16 elected to the U.S. Congress, more than 600 in state legislatures, and hundreds in local offices across the South, according to History.com.

"It all came to a halt when we were able to put race over good policy for a number of reasons," Taylor said. He added that he is just not sure people in certain parts of the country are ready to again, "make that investment."

Well done, thou good and faithful servant

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



Suppose you were to meet God at the judgment bar tonight, and He was to say: “You went to church all your life. You read the Bible and prayed every day, you kept the dress standard, you sang in the choir, you visited the nursing homes and the sick, you worked with the youth and in the service of God, you helped on church work days, and you witnessed to others. All those things were good but you lacked one thing.” How sad it would be to spend all your life doing these good things, which are needful in the work of God, and then hear God say, “You lacked one thing.”

Mark 10:17-22 reads: “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the

commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

Many times people are presented with a remedy for something that is lacking in their lives, but what do they do with it? Often, like in this account, they go away grieved or sorrowfully, but it does not have to be that way with you. By all accounts, this young ruler seemed to have lived a good, moral life because he said he had kept all the commandments from his youth. Nevertheless, Jesus told him that he lacked one thing. You see, living a good, moral life is not going to get you into Heaven. It is going to take

more than living a good, moral life. The Bible does not state that this young ruler had done anything bad. It seems that he lived his life to the letter of the law. However, Jesus let him know that he lacked in one area of his life. The definition of the word lack is “to be deficient, to be short, or to stand in need of something”. This young ruler was standing in need of something, and the answer was right in front of him, yet he went away sorrowfully and grieved.

I wonder how many people sit in church every week, thinking they have followed God’s commands from their youth, thinking they are good people, yet they are missing the mark. Something is between them and God, and they refuse to give it over to Him. They hang on to that one thing, but it is going to keep them from making Heaven their home someday. God is faithful to point out needs in individual lives, yet many walk away without getting those needs met, just as this young ruler walked away without his need being met. I believe Christ looked into the face of that young man, reading

his life and searching his character. The Bible says Christ loved this young man, just as He loves each and every one of us. Christ desired to give him peace and joy that would change his life.

Christ was drawn to this young man. He found this young man to be sincere. Although a person is sincere, he could be sincerely wrong or sincerely misguided. This young man was sincere in what he was doing, and when he said, “All these have I kept from my youth up”, Christ gave him a test, just as we each are tested. As God brings things your way and shows you things, He is testing you. He called upon this young ruler to choose between the heavenly treasures and worldly treasures.

Next week – January 11, 2019, Part II – “Well done, Thou good and faithful servant”

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

P R E S E R V E D

Your waiting is not in vain!

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



The end of 2018 brought sighs of relief and, in some cases, shouts of “good riddance.” A few people I heard say that the best thing about 2018 was that it ended. For some, there were many losses: loved ones passed away, jobs were lost, relationships ended, finances decreased and peace of mind was lost. Some of us, however, weren’t so ready for 2018 to end. Not that we enjoyed the hard times; we were waiting on God to fulfill some promises. For those of us waiting on God to answer longstanding prayers, what made such a turbulent year tolerable was the small hope that we’d be able to give testimonies of God’s faithfulness and fulfilling his promises.

The new year brings the bittersweet reality that even though the prayers were unanswered and the promises were unfulfilled, we have an assurance that one day they will be. http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=42&chapter=2&verse=3&version=31&context=verse Habakkuk 2:3 reminds that “For the revelation awaits an appointed time... Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” I hate to admit it but that assurance wasn’t enough for me as I prayed about my goals for 2019. In the last week of 2018, I pulled out the journal I had from earlier in the year that showed my prayer requests and goals. I was grateful for the ones that God had answered but was still a little disappointed as I saw that a few were still unfulfilled.

Maybe that’s why I am so hesitant to journal my prayers for


2019...I don’t want to get disappointed again. I shared this struggle with a close friend as we made plans to go on a New Year’s fast and consecration together. As I was praying for the direction of my fast, I also was struck by something that I’d heard in my spirit in while I was in prayer: your waiting is not in vain.

Honestly, I’ve got a love/hate relationship with waiting which has never been easy for me. I used to blame the struggle I had with waiting on the fact that I’d inherited my Dad’s impatience. But the last few years of my life have taught me the importance of waiting and with the right attitude. For example, because I didn’t complain loudly about waiting but silently stood in line while Christmas shopping recently, I was given priority and great service. Now I realize that my being a bad “waiter” was not hereditary but a choice I made.

What I’ve learned about waiting is that it is not designed to wear you down; it’s designed to preserve and not frustrate you. Similarly, the longer you wait for God to answer your prayer, the stronger your faith is supposed to get. In addition, Isaiah 40:31 says “But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength...”

We all have to wait. We also have the choice to wait with an “attitude,” or choose to wait patiently on the promises of God. Waiting also strengthens you so you can then better handle the good and bad things that come your way. Happy New Year 2019...and happy waiting!

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




Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-3552670 • 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chrcbca@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
Worship Services
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
MONDAY
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m



Michael T. Williams
Pastor



New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhcms.org

SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.



224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 398-0915

Join Us!
for our Light Line Prayer Call
each Wednesday morning at
6:00 a.m. or join us on
Periscope @MarcusCheeks

The Light Line
PRAYER



Rev. Marcus E. Cheeks, Pastor
Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Phone Number: | Access Code:
(218) 339-7800 | 627 6205#
(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)
*The call will last only 30 minutes

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

Listen - A 2019 challenge in memory of Robby Gregg

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



I'm leaving 2018 behind, with its myriad trials and tribulations. For me, many of the challenges revolved around the unhealthy atmosphere in Washington, D.C., and that's not likely to change. But many of the challenges, joys, and sorrows were also personal. One of them was the loss of Robby Gregg, Jr., a diversity expert and consultant at Cook Ross, a diversity and inclusion firm in the DC area that was founded by my dear friend Howard Ross.

Robby died unexpectedly at 58, just a week before Christmas. Alarmed at not having heard from him, a friend went to his home and found him gone. Unless you are part of the D&I community (as diversity experts call themselves), connected to Wake Forest University (Robby was a 1983 graduate), or part of the vast Maya Angelou extended family (Robby was one of Dr. Maya's students at Wake, and an ardent supporter of the Maya Angelou school in Washington, D.C.), you probably wouldn't know Robby. He was a man worth knowing.

I'm writing about Robby because his memory has challenged me to make a 2019 resolution. I am going to endeavor to listen more, especially to people I disagree with. I'm am going to seek some of these people out for conversation, and I'm also planning to have tea or a meal (without knives – halfway joking) with a few of them. While I will never let go of my commitments to social and economic justice, to racial parity, and to reparations, knowing Robby made me realize that it is also important to open oneself up to thought-provoking conversations with those we disagree with.

Robby and I had been friends for a while, but he was no fan of my confrontational style, and he didn't mind telling me. He was offended by my Facebook page, which is a combination of policy analysis, organizing, and personal sharing. Because I live in a gentrified neighborhood where, in my opinion, my melanin-deficient neighbors can be entitled and inconsiderate, with a sprinkling of racism thrown in, I vent on my page about the brads and the Beckys. And Robby didn't like it. He responded that if I didn't like my neighborhood, I should move from the home I've lived in for 20 years. Not. I became so angered by his suggestion that we began to avoid each other and cease interaction.

An unpleasant encounter at a social gathering (I was wrong to carry our disagreement into that space) prompted me to reach out, and the result was a wonderful three-hour lunch where we offered each other the gift of listening. I think we both walked away feeling affirmed, if not in perfect agreement or alignment. We could agree that we loved and respected each other and shared common values, even if our ways of going about things was different.

Robby and I shared an appreciation for Howard Ross, the founder of Cook Ross and author of *Belonging: How Our Need To Connect is Tearing Us Apart* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2018).

It's a great read about the ways our human tendencies to belong work both for us and against us. Part of the book recounts Howard's journey around the country talking and listening to people who voted for 45, some of whom regret their vote, and others who stand by it. He walked away with a more nuanced understanding of 45 supporters, which he shares in the book, along with techniques for having civil, even friendly, and informative conversations.

When I interviewed Howard a few weeks ago, he threw out the suggestion of lunching with those with whom I have profound disagreements. I scoffed at it, considering it an utter waste of time in many cases. The day after our interview, Robby Gregg, Jr. was found dead, and I wondered if there was a message in his passing for me. After all, had we not had that delightful long lunch, my friend and I would not have had rapprochement.

So in memory of and in tribute to Robby and, equally importantly, to do my part in exploring the possibility of more civility in our discourse, I'm challenging myself to do more listening. And I'll promise an opponent at least three minutes of uninterrupted time, as long as I'm not on the air. I'm challenging you to do the same. Not just in the name of Robby Gregg, but in the interest of community.

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

The Prince of Peace, born an 'at-risk baby,' summons our better angels

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



On last Tuesday, Dec. 25, hundreds of millions of people celebrated Christmas across the country and around the world.

For many, the holiday was a joyous time: Families gathered, music filled the air, lights draped trees and lampposts; presents were exchanged; blessings were shared.

But Christmas was also a hard time for the lonely, the poor and the imprisoned. Each year at this time, I use this column to recall the real meaning of Christmas. Christmas is literally the mass for Christ, marking the birth of Jesus. He was born under occupation. Joseph and Mary were ordered to go far from home to register with authorities. The innkeeper told Joseph there was no room at the inn. Jesus was born in a stable, lying in a manger, an "at-risk baby." He was the son of a carpenter. He was born at a time of great misery and turmoil.

Prophets predicted that a new Messiah was coming — a King of Kings — one who would rout the occupiers and free the people. Many expected and hoped for a mighty warrior — like the superheroes of today's movies — who would mobilize an army to attack Rome's occupying legions. Fear-

ing the prophecy, the Roman King Herod ordered the "massacre of the innocents," the slaughter of all boys age two and under in Bethlehem and the nearby region.

Jesus confounded both Herod's fears and the peoples' hopes. He raised no army. He was a man of peace, not of war. He gathered disciples, not soldiers. He began his ministry by quoting Isaiah 62:1: "The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." We will be judged, he taught us, by how we treat "the least of these," by how we treat the stranger on the Jericho Road. He called on us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to offer aid to the refugee.

It's an extraordinary story. Jesus was a liberator, but by his words, not by his sword. He converted rather than conquered. He accumulated no worldly wealth. He threw the moneylenders from the temple. During his ministry, he owned no home, no land and had no regular paycheck. His time with us was too brief, and he was crucified for his ministry. And yet, he succeeded beyond all expectation to transform the world.

The Prince of Peace, he taught us that peace is not the absence of violence; it is the presence of justice and righteousness. These days, the mass for Christ has become a holiday, more secular than sacred. It is a time of sales and discounts,

of shopping and Santa. In the midst of this, we should stop a moment and take stock of where we are. The record surely is mixed. There is good news: Unemployment is down, poverty is down, incomes have slowly begun to rise. We continue to lock up more people than any nation in the world, but our generally dysfunctional Congress just passed a sensible reform that will reduce the number locked up for non-violent offenses or for inability to pay a fine. Mostly, however, we are astray.

The United States wastes lives and literally trillions in wars without end and without apparent purpose, yet when the president abruptly calls for withdrawing some of the troops, he gets criticized from all sides. Inequality is at record extremes, yet Congress passed a tax cut that went overwhelmingly into the pockets of the already rich. Millions still struggle in this rich country with getting adequate food to eat, yet the administration is intent on cutting support for food stamps that allow the working poor to feed their families.

On our borders, the administration is tearing babies away from their mothers, and keeping so many locked up that we have no facilities to house them. Health care remains unaffordable for too many, yet a federal judge recently threatened the health care of mil-

lions by declaring the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional. Jesus was not a partisan, but his birth was immensely political, both in the expectations of the people and the fears of the occupiers. Instead of turning us on one another, he called us to our highest selves.

As we enter a new year, we should not let the deeper meaning of Christmas be lost in the wrappings. In Chicago, I will continue to go — as I do every year — to visit prisoners. This year, however, many of the city's ministers are joining together to raise the funds to liberate those who are locked up simply because they cannot make bail. I urge ministers across the country to take this initiative to their towns, visit the local jails, find out how many non-violent offenders are in jail simply because they cannot make bail and work to liberate as many of them as possible. That surely will express the real meaning of the Christmas story. Jesus demonstrated the overwhelming power of faith, hope and charity, the importance of love. He showed that people of conscience can make a difference, even against the most powerful oppressor. He demonstrated the strength of summoning our better angels, rather than rousing our fears or feeding our divisions. At Christmas and beyond, this is certainly a message to remember. Merry Christmas, everybody. And blessed new year.

Sisters who made us proud in 2018

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



It's not unusual to find Black women who, despite the odds, make us proud. 2018 was no different. There were many who did

just that.

Black women in politics opened many new doors, ran in many areas across the country, who won and helped others win. We've come a long way since Rep. Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress.

Before I go to those who got credit for winning, and I use the word "credit for winning" because under fair conditions, I have no doubt that Stacey Abrams won. I've been there under similar circumstances when I ran for Congress and was told I lost the election with less than one percent of the vote. When I ride through towns in Louisiana now, I haven't found anyone who claimed not to

have voted for me! If you drove through Georgia today, I'm sure you'd find very few people who would admit to not voting for Stacey Abrams! The few who didn't vote for her didn't do so for lack of qualifications. She ran against someone who was a candidate and the referee! She was the best qualified candidate in the race. No matter what, she ran a great race, made us proud, and became the first Black woman nominee for Governor of any state. In our hearts, she did win. She ran an incredible campaign and she is to be commended for fighting all the way to the end—despite one of the worst cases of voter suppression.

In other national office races, Black women turned electoral power into political power where they did get credit for the victory. One of the new Congresswomen is Lucy McBath who lost her son, Jordan, to gun violence. She decided to take on gun control and she won! She did it from Georgia-- a southern state. That's something

most Democrats have been afraid to do. Lucy sent a powerful message to those afraid to take on the gun lobby when she said after her victory, "This win is just the beginning. . . We've sent a strong message to the entire country. Absolutely nothing - no politician and no special interest - is more powerful than a mother on a mission."

She made her declaration with the guts of Shirley Chisholm, and I believe she's going to be a force to be reckoned with in Washington. Lauren Underwood, a nurse, with a pre-existing condition has a focus on health, was elected in Illinois and not just in a Black district. She won in a predominantly white and 86% Republican district! There again, many have thought that would be impossible—and maybe it was until she won! Her Republican Congressman had voted against the Affordable Care Act. That's when she said, "The game is on." She ran and she won what at one time was Republican Dennis Hastert's seat!

Ayanna Pressley defeated a 10-term Democrat in Massachusetts, making her the first Black woman to serve in Congress from her state!

Johana Hayes, a Teacher of the Year, won a Congressional seat against an incumbent, making her the first Black woman to represent Connecticut in Congress.

I pray that Democratic leaders have taken note of this election, and also see the huge number of Black women mayors of many key cities. Black women have been bringing victories to the Party for a very long time with our very strong vote for Democrats. Add the power of all other women of color and we can continue to win despite the slow rate at which many white women learn who votes and serves in their best interest, too.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. www.nationalcongressbw.org. She is also Host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFM-FM 89.3)

A N Y T I M E O N L I N E

Breaking News Streaming Videos Interactive Blogs

Visit our newly designed website:

www.mississippilink.com

Advice on health screenings and habits for the New Year

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Staying healthy in the New Year is an important resolution, but many adults tend to bypass preventive exams and screenings that would keep them stronger longer. Just as infants and children need to follow an immunization timetable, adults should also regularly schedule certain medical tests. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start.

Knowing which tests to get and when to get them can be a challenge, given that screening guidelines are changing frequently, as concerns grow that overusing such tests might lead to unnecessary procedures.

Health screening tests are an important part of medical care. Screening can take the form of simple questionnaires, lab tests, radiology exams (e.g. ultrasound, X-ray) or procedures (e.g. stress test). But just because a test is offered for screening purposes, it doesn't mean that it is a good screening test. Technical accuracy is necessary but not sufficient for a screening test. A combination of the right test, disease, patient and treatment plan makes up a health screening program.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you put together your list of New Year's Resolutions:

If you don't check your blood pressure, then you don't know if it's high or at goal. Checking your blood pressure about two to three times per week can help you notice any changes.

Diabetes tests should be taken if you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol, as well as every three years after age 45.

A panel created by the American Diabetes Association recommends that every diabetic over age 50 be tested for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) which narrows leg arteries and reduces blood flow. People with diabetes should have their feet examined during regular doctor visits four times a year.

Cholesterol checks should be taken every five years beginning at 20 years of age. Smokers, people with diabetes and those with a family history of heart disease should especially check their cholesterol on a regular basis.

Schedule a tetanus-diphtheria vaccine every 10 years, a flu-vaccine every season beginning at six months of age, and a pneumonia vaccine at age 65 (or possibly younger if you have a suppressed immune system or certain long-term health issues).

Colorectal cancer screenings should begin at age 50. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that adults age 50 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. The decision to be screened after age 75 should be made on an individual basis. If you are older than 75, ask your doctor if you should be screened. People at an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer should talk to their doctors about when to begin screening, which test is right for them, and how often to get tested.

Women should begin biennial mammogram screenings at the age of 50, and younger women should ask their health care provider if a mammogram is right for them, based on age, family history, overall health and personal concerns.

Women should have a Pap test every three years if they are sexually active or older than 21.

Women should have a bone density test for osteoporosis at age 65. Most people have no bone loss or have mild bone loss. Their risk of breaking a bone is low so they do not need the test. They should exercise regularly and get plenty of calcium and vitamin D. This is the best way to prevent bone loss.

Men should discuss having a prostate test and exam with their doctors by age 50 and by age 45 for those at high risk for prostate cancer such as African Americans and those with a family history. While high PSA levels can be a sign of prostate cancer, a number of conditions other than prostate cancer can cause PSA levels to rise. These other conditions could cause what's known as a "false-positive" - meaning a result that falsely indicates you might have prostate cancer when you don't. The PSA test isn't the only screening tool for prostate cancer. Digital rectal examination (DRE) is another important way to evaluate the prostate and look for signs of cancer.

Men and women should have their physician check for skin abnormalities when already receiving a physical examination. People of all colors, including those with brown and black skin, get skin cancer. When skin cancer develops in people of color, it's often in a late stage when diagnosed. The good news is you can find skin cancer early. Found early, most skin cancers, including melanoma, can be cured.

If you wear glasses, have a family history of vision problems or have a disease that puts you at risk for eye disease, such as diabetes, have your eyes checked frequently. A healthy adult with no vision problem should have an eye exam every five to 10 years between 20 and 30 years of age, and every two to four years between 40 and 65 years of age.

This year, resolve to take better care of yourself than before. Be sure to get the screenings you need to prevent and catch potential health problems before they become major concerns. If you are aiming for a more healthful 2019, the most important things to know are your numbers - including your weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index and cholesterol.

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan. Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com

Red Cross at work following recent severe weather

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The American Red Cross is assisting people impacted by recent severe weather that moved through Mississippi beginning on December 27. Those who need assistance with disaster-caused needs can call 1-800-REDCROSS.

The Red Cross is operating three shelters with around 55 registrants. Most of them are affected by flooding. The following Red Cross managed sites are open to the public:

Forrest County – Petal Civic Center, 712A South Main St., Petal, 39465

Jones County – Jones County Safe Room 361 Shelter, 1457 Ellis Blvd., Laurel, 39440

Clarke County – Shubuta Senior Citizen Community Center, 183 Station-Eucutt Road, Shubuta, 39360

Red Cross evacuation centers/shelters provide a safe place to stay for those who have evacuated their home. These sites typically are only meant to house people for 12-72 hours. Because these centers/shelters must open quickly, it may not be possible to provide a cot and blanket for each person and it may not be practical to move in supplies for such a short-term.

WHAT TO BRING TO A RED CROSS SHELTER

Anyone evacuating to a Red Cross shelter should bring essential items for each member of the family:

Prescriptions and emergency medications

Foods that meet unusual dietary requirements

Identification to show residence is in affected area and important personal documents

Extra clothing, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies and other comfort items

Supplies needed for children and infants, such as diapers, formula and toys

Special items for family members who are elderly or disabled

Chargers for any electronic devices you bring with you

Books, games and other ways to entertain your family and yourself

Additionally, Red Cross volunteers will be distributing cleaning supplies in the affected communities.

About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCrossMiss.



Red Cross workers in Laurel loaded several boxes of cleaning supplies on trucks to distribute in the impacted communities. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MISSISSIPPI REGION



A Red Cross volunteer sets up cots at the shelter in Petal, Miss.



Some people brought their personal items with them to the Red Cross shelter in Shubuta, Miss.

SKINNY'S ELITE BAR & GRILL

Best Wings & Burgers In Jackson!!!!

OPEN FOR LUNCH & CALL IN ORDERS WELCOME

FULL KITCHEN | POOL TABLES | BYOB

PARTY RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

SECURITY PROVIDED

DJ BILL 50 ON DA 1s & 2s

123 MCTYERE AVE, JACKSON | 601.730.5721

HOURS OF OPERATION: SUN-THURS 10A-10P | FRI-SAT 10A-UNTIL

SKINNY'S ELITE BAR & GRILL SKINNYSELITE

LEGAL		LEGAL	
<p>Advertisement for RFPs</p> <p>RFP 2019-01 Wireless Access Points, Installation and Management Services for Blackburn Middle School</p> <p>RFP 2019-02 Wireless Access Points, Installation and Management Services for Various Schools</p> <p>RFP 2019-03 Network Rack Replacements for Various Schools</p> <p>RFP 2019-04 Network Switch Replacements for Various Schools</p> <p>Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp 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.</p>		<p>DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS</p> <p>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:</p> <p>RE: GS# 350-022 Hail Damage (TRAILWAYS REPAIRS) Office of Capitol Facilities (Department of Finance and Administration) RFX Number: 3160002671</p> <p>at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:</p>	
<p>(Local Prevailing Time) February 12, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. There is a mandatory bidder's conference for RFP 2019-03, Network Rack Replacements for Various Schools that will be held January 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at Central Office East 630 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at HYPERLINK "http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us" www.jackson.k12.ms.us.</p>		<p>Professional: Shafer-Zahner-Zahner, PLLC Address: 510 University Drive Starkville, Mississippi 39759</p> <p>Phone: 662-323-1628 Email: lsims@szzarch.com</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management</p>	
12/27/2018, 1/3/2019		1/3/2019 , 1/10/2019	

U-RENTAL

Van Company



- New fleet of vans
- 12 & 15 passenger vans
- Unbeatable prices
- Unlimited miles
- Church / business trips
- Family vacation & more
- Cash or credit cards



3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162

Office Space for Rent

Garrett
Enterprises
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199

Enter To **WIN**
\$3,000



Newspaper sponsored shopping survey. No purchase necessary.



Enter to win now, go to:
www.pulsepoll.com

ANYTIME
ONLINE

Breaking News
Streaming Videos
Interactive Blogs



www.mississippilink.com

For information about advertising in

The
Mississippi
Link

please call:
601-896-0084

or e-mail:
jlinkads@bellsouth.net

www.mississippilink.com

PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON
BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
JJ MOBIL
Northside Drive and Flagg Chapel
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADE'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADE'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street,
Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street,
Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN
Mississippi Classified Advertising Network
To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

Classes / Training
AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Get FAA approved hands on Aviation training. Financial aid for qualified students. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 1-866-367-2510.
HEALTHCARE CAREER TRAINING ONLINE. Start a new career in Medical Billing and Coding. Medical Administrative Assistant. To learn more, call Ultimate Medical Academy. 1-844-664-5478
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN - ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE! Take the first step into a new career! Call now: 1-866-664-4140

Events
POSTAGE STAMP & POSTCARD SHOW. FREE Admission. Doubletree Hotel, 2150 Veterans Memorial, Kenner, LA. January 18-19. Hours: 10am - 5pm. Buy, Sell, Appraise, Exhibits, POST OFFICE. www.ccsno.org

Insurance
DENTAL INSURANCE. Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7045 or http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress. Ad# 6118
FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES. See how much you can save! High risk SR22 driver policies available! Call 844-714-2407

Medical Supplies
DO YOU USE A CPAP MACHINE for sleep apnea? Get your FDA approved CPAP machine and supplies at little or no cost! Free sleep supplement and sleep guide included! Call 855-234-0202! (Mon-Fri)

Medical Supplies
OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 888-964-0893
VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

Miscellaneous
DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263

Services-General
DIRECTV CHOICE All-included Package! Over 185 Channels! Only \$45/month (for 24 mos.) Call Now - Get NFL Sunday Ticket FREE! Call 1- 855-978-3110. Ask us How To Bundle and Save!
DIRECTV NOW. No Satellite Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-866-616-8331
DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-628-3143

Services-Financial
OVER \$10K IN DEBT? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 844-719-8928.
SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Is the bank threatening foreclosure? CALL Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help! 1-866-833-1513

Services-Medical
A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-877-224-1236
LIFE ALERT. 24/7. One press of a button sends help FAST! Medical, Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach a phone! FREE Brochure. CALL 877-824-5591



Place Your Classified Ad STATEWIDE In 100 Newspapers!

To order, call your local newspaper or MS Press Services at 601-981-3060.

STATEWIDE RATES:
Up to 25 words.....\$210
1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525
1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Nationwide Placement Available
Call MS Press Services 601-981-3060

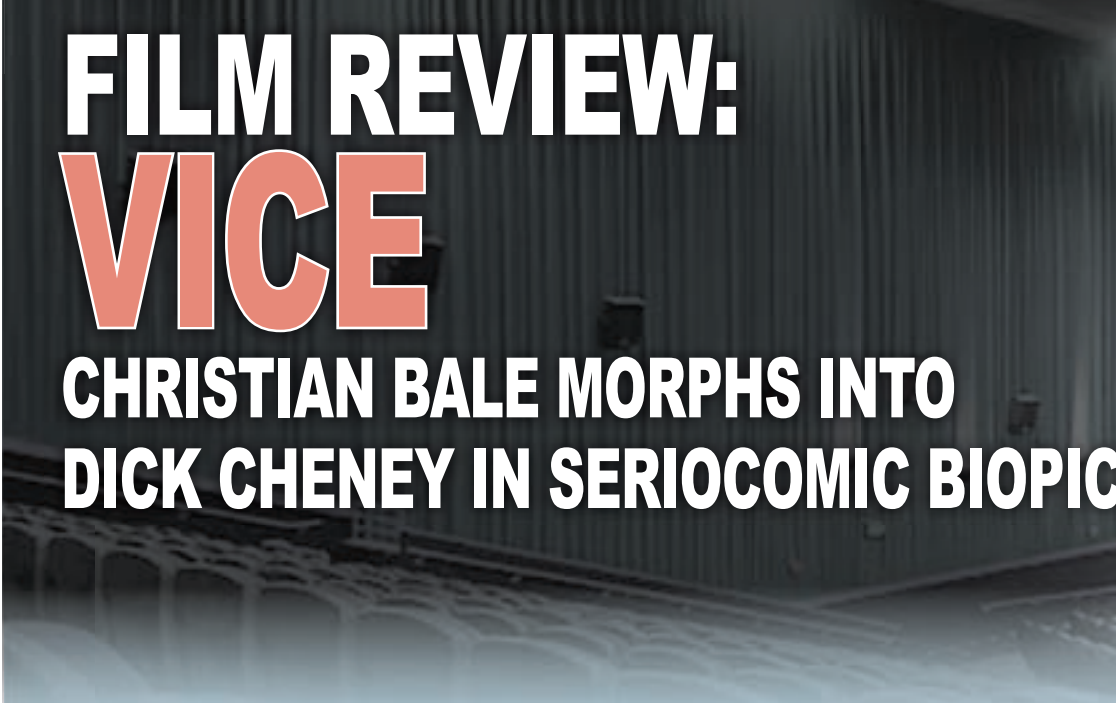
Week of December 30, 2018

Women for Progress Kwanzaa Observance

Civil Rights Museum • December 26, 2018 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG





By Kam Williams
Columnist

Who is the real Dick Cheney (Christian Bale) and how did he become the most powerful vice president in U.S. history? Those are the fundamental questions explored by Vice, an alternately hilarious and sobering biopic written and directed by Adam McKay.

McKay won an Oscar in 2016 for his brilliant adaptation of The Big Short, the Michael Lewis best seller chronicling the complicated series of events leading to the stock market collapse of 2007. Nevertheless, he probably remains better known for having previously directed a string of sophomoric comedies starring Will Ferrell including Anchorman 1 and 2, Talladega Nights, Step Brothers and The Other Guys.

Despite Vice’s relatively-sophisticated subject matter, McKay’s comedic roots are showing here. And while all the jokes might prevent the audience from taking the events depicted as gospel truth, the humorous asides serve as a very welcome relief from an otherwise scary tale of blind ambition. They also have the effect of injecting a little personality

into a guy who was basically a boring bureaucrat.

The picture’s point of departure is Cheney’s wayward youth marked by multiple arrests for driving under the influence and flunking out of Yale University. Back home in Wyoming, he finally gets his act together with the help of his childhood sweetheart-turned-wife, Lynne (Amy Adams). She reads him the riot act, making it clear she’s unwilling to be married to an underachieving loser like her late father.

Soon, Cheney picks politics as a career path, starting out as an assistant to Donald Rumsfeld (Steve Carell) in the Nixon Administration. He held a number of other positions before becoming President Ford’s White House Chief of Staff.

He subsequently represented Wyoming in Congress for a decade before being appointed Secretary of Defense by President Bush 41. In 1995, he entered the private sector to serve as CEO of Halliburton.

He returned to government when George W. Bush wanted him as a running mate, but only on the condition that as veep he’d be in charge of foreign policy, intelligence briefings

and numerous executive departments. Bush 43 agrees, thus completing the unlikely evolution of an uncharismatic political hack into a sinister Machiavellian figure with the reins of world power at his disposal.

Credit the chameleon-like Christian Bale for thoroughly disappearing into his role as Cheney. More importantly, Bale plays him with just the right combination of venom and vulnerability to humanize a complicated character quite convincingly.

FYI, Vice is the third film co-starring Bale and Amy Adams. They both received Academy Award nominations for The Fighter in 2011, as well as for American Hustle in 2014, and will undoubtedly do so again for this equally-impressive collaboration. And you can bank on this seriocomic satire garnering a Best Picture nomination, too.

Excellent (4 stars)
Rated R for profanity and violent images

Running time: 132 minutes
Production Companies: Plan B Entertainment / Gary Sanchez Productions / Annapurna Pictures
Studio: Annapurna Pictures

ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

B·R·A·V·O·!

\$11 LUNCH COMBOS

**LUNCH COMBOS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

BRAVOBUZZ.COM | 601.982.8111
**4500 I-55 N. SUITE 204, HIGHLAND VILLAGE
JACKSON, MS 39216**

The 10 Best, No, the 100 Best Films of 2018

Kam’s Annual Assessment of the Cream of the Cinematic Crop

By Kam Williams
Columnist

- 10 Best Big Budget Films
1. Crazy Rich Asians
 2. Widows
 3. Bohemian Rhapsody
 4. Green Book
 5. Vice
 6. Black Panther
 7. Destroyer
 8. The Hate U Give
 9. Love, Simon
 10. BlacKkKlansman

Big Budgets Honorable Mention

11. Ready Player One
12. Beirut
13. The Girl in the Spider’s Web
14. First Man
15. Superfly
16. Life of the Party
17. Uncle Drew
18. Ben Is Back
19. Incredibles 2
20. The Equalizer 2
21. Sicario: Day of the Soldado
22. The Other Side of the Wind
23. Ocean’s 8
24. A Wrinkle in Time
25. Night School

10 Best Independent Films

1. Eighth Grade
2. Monsters and Men
3. Private Life
4. Sorry to Bother You
5. If Beale Street Could Talk
6. Blindspotting
7. Skate Kitchen
8. Assassination Nation
9. The Ballad of Buster Scruggs
10. Gemini

Independent Films Honorable Mention

11. Borg vs. McEnroe
12. Tyrel
13. Chappaquiddick
14. Upgrade
15. Bad Samaritan
16. Mid90s
17. Roxanne Roxanne
18. Kings
19. Support the Girls
20. Vox Lux
21. Nappily Ever After
22. Supercon
23. Unbroken: Path to Redemption
24. Samson
25. Midnight Sun

10 Best Foreign Films

1. Revenge (France)
2. Cold War (Poland)
3. Roma (Mexico)
4. Shoplifters (Japan)
5. The Guilty (Denmark)
6. On Her Shoulders (Iraq)
7. The Citizen (Hungary)
8. The Resistance Banker (The Netherlands)
9. I Am Not a Witch (Zambia)
10. The Road Movie (Russia)

Foreign Films Honorable Mention

11. Mirai (Japan)
12. Under the Tree (Iceland)
13. Girl (Belgium)
14. The Night Is Short, Walk on Girl (Japan)
15. Searching for Ingmar Bergman (Sweden)
16. Kinshasha Makambo (Congo)
17. November (Estonia)
18. Lu over the Wall (Japan)
19. A Twelve-Year Night (Uruguay)

20. Suspiria (Germany)
21. Beauty and the Dogs (Tunisia)
22. Tazzeke (Morocco)
23. Summer 1993 (Spain)
24. Ismael’s Ghosts (France)
25. Fireworks (Japan)

10 Best Documentaries

1. Active Measures
2. Three Identical Strangers
3. Shirkers
4. Quincy
5. Science Fair
6. Alt-Right: Age of Rage
7. RBG
8. John McEnroe: In the Realm of Perfection
9. Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes
10. Hal

Documentaries Honorable Mention

11. They’ll Love Me When I’m Dead
12. What Lies Upstream
13. The King
14. The Gospel According to Andre
15. The China Hustle
16. Boom for Real: The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat
17. Where’s Daddy?
18. The Last Race
19. Seeing Allred
20. The Bleeding Edge
21. The Final Year
22. Bad Reputation
23. Love, Gilda
24. Reversing Roe
25. Making The Five Heartbeats

2019 Mazda CX-9

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

Mazda is incrementally improving its midsize three row crossover vehicle the CX-9. But don't get it twisted; this was a good crossover to begin with but now it can compete with top notch premium crossovers.

Style is not a shortcoming with Mazda. The smooth lines of the company's KODO soul of motion design have been transferred to the larger CX-9 nicely. The signature look; a long nose, short rump and arching curves over the wheel wells have been proportioned so that the CX-9 does not look like an oversized station wagon.

When you start out with a good solid vehicle, incremental changes can seem like leaps forward. Externally, I thought the LED enhanced lighting that edged the bottom of the grille made the 2019 CX-9 look like a much more expensive vehicle.

I had the top of the line Signature all-wheel-drive trim and it featured LED headlights as well as LED fog lights and automatic high beams. The all-wheel-drive system can send up to 50 percent of the CX-9's torque to the rear wheels. It can also route power to limit understeer during robust driving.

Under the hood was a 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that made 227 horsepower using regular gasoline. Put in premium gas and its horsepower output jumps to 250. It made 310 pound-feet of torque at a relatively low 2,000 RPMs and it was mated to a six-speed transmission with a sport drive mode.

The 2019 Mazda CX-9 had an EPA fuel rating of 20 mpg in the city, 26 mpg on the highway and 23 mpg com-



bined.

This engine had just enough oomph to make the 4,300 lb. 2019 CX-9 perky. It was smooth, there was acceleration when I needed it and it cruised at expressway speeds effortlessly.

Although the 2019 CX-9 had three rows of seats it didn't drive big. The uni-body construction gave it the feel of a midsize sedan. And that is the way it handled.

I don't think Mazda gives itself enough credit for its interior design which was smooth and flowing. While checking out the second row of the CX-9, I saw how the interior was one

flowing unit; it seemed to slant rearward as if it was in motion.

A designer told me years ago that the interior is where luxury is conveyed and the Mazda CX-9 struck me as a premium vehicle. There was LED ambient lighting throughout. Although Mazda called the control center a center-stack in the press material it's not. It was more horizontal and contemporary.

There was a floating infotainment screen atop the dash. The vents were beneath it and then there was let's call it the control island. The climate controls were just beneath the vents, the

gear shift was beneath and set back in the shift console and behind that was the control dial for the infotainment system and audio volume dial. This was all in the control console which was slightly angled back matching the rest of the interior.

Those small additions that comprised a big leap forward were power folding sideview mirrors, cooled front seats to match the heated front seats and heated second row seats. The 2019 Mazda CX-9 is now equipped with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

New too was a Sirius® 3 Year traffic and travel link subscription, a new

reconfigurable 7.0-inch TFT gauge display and a new 360° view monitor were also part of the equipment upgrade. The retuned suspension added to the premium feel too. And the tactile character of the 2019 CX-9 had been improved. The car was awash in Nappa leather, Santos Rosewood and aluminum trim; it made for a very swanky look.

I got in the second row and checked out the entertainment system. I thought the screens looked a little clumsy the way they were mounted to the back of the front seats. But the set up allowed for some screen titling for a better view. Besides, I don't think anybody would really care as long as they worked.

The third row seats were a bit of a chore to get into. The second row headrests should come off to have the widest third row access. I thought the quality of the third row seats was really good. However, there wasn't much head space for me, an almost six-footer. Shorter and probably younger people would be most comfortable back there.

There was a bunch of creature comforts including satellite radio, Bluetooth, a navigation system, a tilt and telescoping steering wheel, adaptive cruise control and adaptive headlights, a moonroof, a power liftgate, aluminum roof rails, rain sensing windshield wipers, keyless entry, push button start and a 12-speaker premium audio system.

The 2019 Mazda CX-9 was chock full of equipment and the quality of workmanship was first rate. It was certainly worth the \$49,330 price as tested.



Open Doors to Curiosity. Discovery. Belonging.

Step through our doors today. Come explore the many stories that connect us all as Mississippians.

222 North Street, Jackson
museumofmshistory.com



Shine Light on the Power of Courage.

Explore the movement that changed the nation—and the people behind it.

222 North Street, Jackson
mscivilrightsmuseum.com



SAVE LIVES. SAVE MONEY.

More than 70%
of Mississippi supports a cigarette tax increase.

Paid for by the Invest in a Healthier Future Coalition.

BEST OF 2018

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Everybody, it seems, has a Best of 2018 List out for the year. Best vacation, best TV shows, best movies, best place to eat. So here are the Absolutely Can't Miss, Don't Pass Them By, Wipe Your Calendar Clean So You Can Stay Home and Read Best Books of 2018 (a totally subjective list, in no particular order).

Fiction
Just about every person alive grew up feeling sorry for poor little Cinderella. In "All the Ever Afters" by Danielle Teller, we see the classic story from the POV of Agnes, the evil-not-evil stepmother. This novel is an eye-opener: there are always two sides to a story, and both could be correct.

Another two-sides-to-the-tale tale is "The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein" by Kiersten White, a novel of the woman who loved Victor Frankenstein. Or did she? Without

him, she'd be homeless, broke and hungry. With him, she would always fear his temper and the horrible things she was discovering about him. It's a dark-and-stormy kind of book, perfect for anyone who wants winter chills of a different sort.

A lot of mini-stories make up "Berlin 1936" by Oliver Hilmes, translated from the German by Jefferson Chase. It's a multi-level tale of Nazis, gypsies, homosexuals and secrets in the infancy of the Third Reich, told in a conglomerate, slice-of-life sort of way that will make you forget that it's all fiction.

Every year, it seems, scientists claim that humans will achieve immortality within a few decades. That's a curse in "How to Stop Time" by Matt Haig.

In 1598, a man named Tom fell in love with a woman named Rose. They had a daughter and then Rose fell ill and died; Tom, however, survived because he's an "alba." Tom is more than 400 years old and there are two

things he wants: to feel as normal as he did in 1598, and to find his daughter, who is also an alba. Romance? Yes, but also part sci-fi, part history, a little drama, and a whole lot of wonderful.

To round out the fiction list, there's "Tin Man: A Novel" by Sarah Winman. It's also the story of Ellis, who lost his wife and his best friend, the former to a car accident and the latter to AIDS. Ellis misses Annie because she opened his world; he misses Michael because Michael pushed him to do things he would have never tried. But there were so many things Ellis never knew about Michael, until he finds Michael's journal. Emotional, dramatic, also romantic, here's a book that'll make you curl up in your chair, stricken, for an hour after you've finished it.

Nonfiction
For anyone who's ever wondered how that guy on TV does those illusion tricks, "Here is Real Magic" by Nate Staniforth

is a book for you. Staniforth always wanted to be a magician but he wanted to do it big. Little coin tricks were old-school so, in this book, he goes on a journey to find out if magic is real or not. Hint: this isn't a magic book. Read it, and you'll be left with answers you weren't even asking for.

You may never see "The Language of Kindness" by Christie Watson on any other Best Of list and that's too bad. Watson is a nurse, and this is a book about being ill, care-giving, living and dying. Beware that some of the stories are a bit gruesome, but this is a lovely book for anyone alive.

And not that there's a theme here or anything, but you'll also want to read "Natural Causes" by Barbara Ehrenreich, a book about the things we do to avoid dying. It's informative, funny, wry and intelligent. Hint: rant, rail, avoid sweets, eat kale, do all you want, but you're going to die someday anyhow...

There's a ton of surprising gratitude inside "The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row" by Anthony Ray Hardin with Lara Love Hardin. The reason is that Anthony Hardin was put on

death row for a crime he didn't commit. First surprise: it took thirty years for him to be exonerated. Second surprise: this book holds a whole lot less anger than you'd think it would, and a whole lot of uplifting. Of all the books on this list, it's the one you'll never regret reading.

And finally, rounding up the Nonfiction list, there's "West Like Lightning: The Brief, Legendary Ride of the Pony Express" by Jim DeFelice. History fans will love this book because DeFelice focuses on the Pony Express but doesn't ignore other major players in the Civil War era. Readers who like tales of little-known life will love this book, too, as will anyone who loves a good oater. Bonus: it's one of those easy to browse books that will pull you in tight.

Children's Books
For any child who loves the Little House on the Prairie books, "Hardscrabble" by Sandra Dallas will be a winner. It's a tale of twelve-year-old Belle Martin, who moves with her family from a farm in Iowa to the prairie in Colorado in 1910, and it wasn't easy. For your 8-to-13-year-old, though, Dallas eases through the difficulty and happiness of this historical

novel.
Much as I loved the bouncy, joyful words that make up "Lorraine: The Girl Who Sang the Storm Away" by Ketch Secor, and as much as they made me so very happy, the cherry on this literary sundae are the illustrations by Higgins Bond. Lush, colorful and radiant, this is the tale of a girl and her grandfather, their love of music, and a mysterious spate of missing items. Your 3-to-6-year-old will like that. You'll love the artwork.

And finally, something totally fun to read, for the kid who loves oddities: "They Lost Their Heads! What Happened to Washington's Teeth, Einstein's Brain and Other Famous Body Parts" by Carlyn Beccia. This is a book that will inform your 10-to-14-year-old. It's also going to give them light shivers, a few laughs and a big dose of informative history that doesn't feel like schooling. What better thing to have while school is out?

And there you are: The Absolutely Can't Miss, Don't Pass Them By, Wipe Your Calendar Clean So You Can Stay Home and Read Best Books of 2018. Go get 'em.
Season's Readings!

Hinds County School District



ENGAGING
EMPOWERING
ENSURING
EXCELLENCE

Mission: Providing an engaging and empowering environment that ensures excellence.

Vision: HCSD is a collaborative environment where we explore the world, experience authentic learning, enhance our character, envision our dreams, pursue excellence and celebrate success.

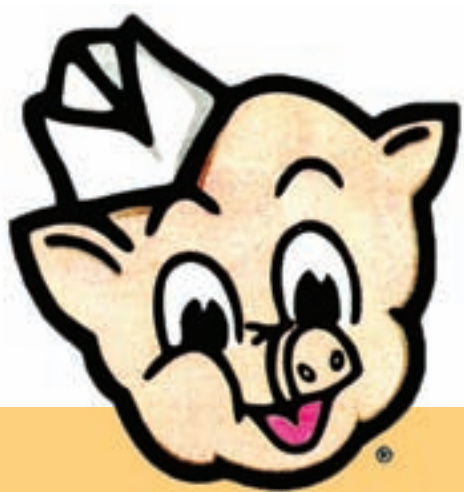
From our family to yours – Happy New Year



WRTM-FM SMOOTH 100.5 FM, IS JACKSON'S URBAN RHYTHM AND BLUES STATION PLAYING FAMILIAR FAVORITES FROM THE 70'S, 80'S AND 90'S. TUNE IN TO HEAR JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF BLUES AND TODAY'S BIGGEST HITS.

January 2 - 8, 2019

piggly wiggly



110 East Academy
CANTON, MS

1150 East Peace St.
CANTON, MS

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

225 Meadowbrook Rd.
JACKSON, MS

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

1574 West Government Blvd.
BRANDON, MS
Crossgates Shopping
Village

Down Home, Down The Street™

the price you see is the price
you pay at the register.
www.pigglywigglyms.com

No Cards Needed To Shop Our Low Prices

USDA CHOICE BEEF
**BONELESS
SHOULDER ROAST**
PER LB.
\$2⁹⁹

FAMILY PACK
**CENTER CUT
PORK CHOPS**
PER LB.
\$1⁷⁹

FAMILY PACK
**FRYER
WINGS**
PER LB.
\$1⁵⁹

USDA CHOICE BEEF
**TOP SIRLOIN
STEAK**
PER LB.
\$4⁹⁹

FAMILY PACK
**BREAKFAST
PORK CHOPS**
PER LB.
\$1⁹⁹

GREAT ON THE GRILL!
**BABY BACK
PORK RIBS**
PER LB.
\$2⁹⁹

FAMILY PACK
**CATFISH
NUGGETS**
PER LB.
99¢

HILLSHIRE FARMS
**SMOKED
SAUSAGE**
13 - 14 OZ.
\$2⁹⁹

REGULAR / THICK CUT
**BRYAN
BACON**
12 OZ.
\$2⁹⁹

BONELESS FRYER
**BREAST
TENDERS**
PER LB.
\$1⁹⁹

ASSORTED
**HAMBURGER
HELPER**
4.7 - 7.5 OZ.
4/\$5

ASSORTED FAMILY SIZE
**LAYS
POTATO CHIPS**
9.5 OZ.
2/\$4

FRESH EXPRESS
SALADS
VEGGIE LOVERS, HEARTS OF ROMAINE,
9 - 11 OZ.
\$1⁹⁹

FRESH PRODUCE
SUPER SELECT
**FRESH
CUCUMBERS**
EACH
2/\$1

RUSSET / RED
**BUTTER
POTATOES**
5 LB. BAG
\$1⁹⁹

DAIRY & FROZEN DEPARTMENTS

PIGGLY WIGGLY
**BUTTER-ME-NOT
BISCUITS** **89¢**
10 CT.

KRAFT AMERICAN SLICED
**CHEESE
SINGLES** **\$2⁹⁹**
16 OZ.

ASSORTED
**YOPLAIT
YOGURT** **2/\$1**
4 - 6 OZ.

TROPICANA
ORANGE JUICE **\$3⁹⁹**
52 OZ.

YELLOW, FRIED, WHITE
**MC KENZIE
CHUB CORN** **\$1⁰⁰**
16 - 20 OZ.

SELECT FROZEN
**BIRDSEYE
VEGETABLES** **2/\$3**
10 - 10.8 OZ.

ASSORTED
**HUNGRY MAN
DINNERS** **2/\$6**
14 - 16 OZ.