

HCCHS AP Physics students sharpen their minds at GTP weekend in Jackson



(l to r) HCCHS physics instructor Ravi Dutt, students Isaac Randle, Tawanna Jefferson, Steven Burns and GTP physics tutor Brian Dolan

Special to The Mississippi Link

Lexington, Mississippi. Holmes County Central High School (HCCHS) current and prospective Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 1 students were among 59 students from 10 rural schools who convened in Jackson for the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access Global Teaching Project (GTP) camp, Jan. 18-21.

The consortium is a group of rural districts that have connected to provide “a scalable platform for extraordinary teachers from leading schools around the

world to deliver advanced-level secondary school subject matter to students throughout the State, regardless of their circumstances, and at no cost to the learner.”

The exciting AP Physics Martin Luther King Holiday weekend was hosted on the Jackson State University and Millsaps College campuses. According to GTP Chief Executive Officer Matthew Dolan, the Holmes County delegation was the largest with three current students and 14 prospective students.

Faculty from eight high

HCCHS

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Birmingham seeks to restore previously rescinded honor to Angela Davis



Reacting to the decision, Davis said that “although the BCRI refused my requests to reveal the substantive reasons for this action, I later learned that my long-term support of justice for Palestine was at issue.” PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Human and Civil Rights Activist Angela Davis turned 75 Saturday, Jan. 26 and family, fans and supporters took to social media and other platforms to salute the freedom fighter and Birmingham, Alabama native.

“Today is Angela Davis’ birthday and we salute our freedom-fighting sister leader for her genius, wisdom and courage in America and throughout the world,” said National

Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis, himself a well-known and lifelong civil rights activist.

“Happy birthday, Dr. Davis,” Tweeted the official account of Smithsonian Folkways, the nonprofit record label of Smithsonian.

“Today, we celebrate the birthday of activist/educator/author Angela Davis, who has

Davis

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The family of George Robinson seeks justice



The home of George Robinson

PHOTOS BY OTHOR CAIN



Robinson

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

Thursday of last week, family members, friends and attorneys gathered in the front yard of 61 year old George Robinson and demanded justice.

Robinson, who was recently released from jail and recovering from a stroke, was allegedly beaten by Jackson police officers according to witness testimony. Witnesses said, “officers repeatedly struck Robinson with a flashlight and body

slammed him to the ground.” Robinson died at the hospital two days later.

Police officers were in the West Jackson neighborhood known as Washington Addition, investigating the recent shooting death of 62 year old pastor Anthony Longino, when the alleged incident took place.

Robinson’s family retained the legal services of Sweet and Associates. “Based on our investigation, we believe this is a

case of police misconduct and excessive use of force,” said Dennis Sweet IV, lead attorney on this case. “The Jackson police officers had a duty to protect and serve the citizens of Jackson, not to victimize them...however, this has been a common pattern in Jackson.”

Sweet said his firm hired an independent investigator to gather the facts and based on preliminary findings, believes Robinson died at the hands of JPD officers.

Robinson’s sister Bettersten Wade also spoke during the media briefing and shared that the family had just buried another brother on Saturday and then Sunday was dealt another blow when police terrorized their neighborhood.

“On Sunday, police came here and brutalized him...they were suppose to protect and serve; we didn’t get that,” Wade said. “We didn’t get just-

Robinson

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IN MEMORIAM

Odie Mae Sweezer Hayes

September 1, 1926 - January 23, 2019

“If I can help somebody, as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody, with a word or song, if I can show somebody he is traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain. If I can do my duty, as a Christian ought, if I can bring back beauty in a world of wrought, if I can spread love’s message, as the Master taught, then my living shall not be in vain.” - Lyrics from a song often sang by Mrs. Hayes as a testimony for the life she lived.

Odie Mae Sweezer Hayes was the eighth child born to William and Emma Sweezer September 1, 1926. Transitioning before her was her husband, Emmitt Hayes Sr., the love of her life and a former principal of Jim Hill High School.

Her siblings also preceding her in transition, were Ida Belle, Jessie (Jack), Rosie, Willie Mae, Frankie, William Penn and Emma. They were all born and reared in Utica, MS. They all attended Cayuga School and were much-loved people of faith who strove to improve their condition.

“Lil’ Odie Mae” saw each of her older sisters leave home seeking their fortunes as she wanted to as well. In 1940 she



Hayes

had gone as far as she could at Cayuga School. One day she decided that she would write a letter to her mother, explaining that she wanted to go to school but would need to leave home to do so. Her mother consented and asked her cousins who lived in Jackson, to let Odie live with them, so she could attend school. She attended Lanier School in the Jackson Colored School System.

While living in Jackson she met Emmitt Hayes Sr. a good looking man who was persistent in pursuing her. He out-finessed the competition for the beautiful Odie Mae, and married her. Their union produced six children Carolyn, Paulette, Gwendolyn, Jacquelyn, Emmitt Jr. and Kelvin.

Mrs. Hayes stayed home to raise her children and started her own business, “Odie’s

Beauty Nook.” As a testament of her commitment and love for all children, when little girls in the neighborhood wanted professional hair care, she would only charge them twenty-five cents and if they did not have a quarter, she didn’t charge them anything.

Not stopping there, in 1959 she enrolled in Jackson State College and graduated in 1963, the same year her oldest daughter Carolyn graduated from high school. Mrs. Hayes taught elementary school, as she clearly had a talent for managing children. She reared her six children, “fixed hair,” went to college and graduated – all between 1945 and 1963. Her desire was to work with younger children in order to help them cultivate a passion for learning. She taught at both McLeod Elementary School and Walton Elementary School. Mrs. Hayes retired from Jackson Public Schools in 1989.

She was a lifelong member of College Hill Baptist Church where she served as a deaconess, sang in the gospel choir for many years, served as vice president of her mission circle

Hayes

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Genesis Begins Again

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Tennessee Tribune’s Rosetta Perry receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Mississippi Link Newswire

With one of pop music’s most profound voices performing during a ceremony that included a video tribute featuring tributes from a mayor, a congressman, a school superintendent and a university president, *Tennessee Tribune* Publisher Rosetta Miller Perry clearly was the star of the night.

On Jan. 25, Perry received the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award before a festive and appreciative gathering at the Hilton Orlando Hotel during the NNPA MidWinter Training Conference in Florida.

“Two years ago, it was Bob Bogle being honored from the *Philadelphia Tribune* and last year we saw Rod Doss of the *New Pittsburgh Courier* receive the Lifetime Achievement Award,” Perry said.

“Tonight, it’s Rosetta Perry. Maybe there’s something to it... three great publishers all from Pennsylvania,” she said, noting her tie to the Keystone State is in the fact she was raised there.

Perry thanked her fellow publishers for the distinguished recognition.

“I’m 85,” Perry quipped. “I’m sure glad you didn’t wait until I was 90.”

While the comment brought laughter and applause, Perry said the NNPA – the trade organization that consists of about



Rosetta Miller Perry (third from left), Publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, receives the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured with Perry are (left to right): Thurmon Jones, publisher of the North Dallas Gazette; Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA President and CEO; Dorothy R. Leavell, publisher of the Chicago Crusader and NNPA chairman



2019 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Rosetta Miller Perry (center), Publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, with members of her family who helped her to celebrate the evening’s events and national recognition of her many accomplishments.

215 African-American owned newspapers and media companies around the country – needs er leadership. like to see NNPA move toward the young ones because they



Perry and R& B Legend, Howard Hewitt who performed several of his hit songs to toast Perry.

know how to handle situations and they should not have to wait until they’re my age to hold positions,” she said.

“The young ones are talking about building relationships and that’s what’s needed,” said Perry, who toned down the festive atmosphere a bit to ask all to keep *Mississippi Link* Publisher Jackie Hampton in their thoughts.

Hampton abruptly left the conference after receiving devastating news that her mother passed away.

Crooner Howard Hewitt belted out several of his hit songs to toast Perry while NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and NNPA Chairman Dorothy R. Leavell, also feted Perry with congratulatory words.

Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry and African Union Permanent Representative to the U.S., Her Excellency Ambassador Arikan Chihombori-Quao also praised Perry.

“You were the first person in the United States to welcome me into your home,” Chihombori-Quao said. “I’m forever grateful for our friendship.”

After jokingly speaking about Perry’s abilities as a nurse in which she’s able to “embalm people,” Henry praised his fellow publisher.

Perry
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HCCHS

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schools provided instruction or observed. Faculty from HCCHS included Iftikar Azeem and Ravi Dutt. “Both of them were key members of our team,” Dolan stated in a recap of the weekend’s activities.

The primary activities of the three-day weekend were physics instruction, including hands-on experiments, observation, data collection, analysis and replication of results in many contexts. However, its agenda also emphasized the importance of the students knowing the Civil Rights struggles and state history. The trip included a visit to the Civil Rights Museum and the Mississippi Museum of History for the current AP Physics students who attended the event.

For prospective AP Physics student Asianay Fisher, a 10th grader, the education and historic experience was most exciting. “I was actually happy about going on the trip,” Fisher said. “It made me feel good about my heritage. It was fascinating to sit in the building where Dr. Martin Luther King fought segregation.”

The building Fisher is referring to is The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Civil Rights Education Center on JSU’s campus. The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) was established in 1961 as an umbrella organization to unify and meet the needs of an increasing presence of civil rights organizations in Mississippi. (<http://www.jsums.edu/cofo/>). During the camp, the students also participated in academic activities in the Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center.

“At the COFO Center, our students heard from JSU Professor of Civil Rights History Robby Luckett who gave a passionate talk about the struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi,” Dolan stated. “The students also heard from Raymond Pierce, the current president and CEO of the Southern Education Foundation, a former senior official in the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, and former law school dean, whose family has deep roots in Holmes County.”

At Millsaps College, former Congressman and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy shared his experiences growing up in Mississippi. Espy made history as the state’s first African-American congressman since Reconstruction. Travis Reginal, a graduate of a Mississippi public high school and a member of the Yale College Class of 2016 who is on the Global Teaching Project’s Advisory Board, also addressed the students.

Senior Tawanna Jefferson is also excited about the program and the opportunities it has availed her and others from economically deprived communities like Holmes County. During the Jackson trip, she and others shared with media representatives that in their communities they still face some of the same challenges and inequality that Dr. King fought against. “In my county we don’t have all the resources we need,” Jefferson shared. She cited the lack of computers and Wi-fi as challenges for accessing and completing online school work.

Yet, Jefferson and others like her find themselves taking advantage of programs such as the Global Teaching Project AP Physics camp as opportunities to sharpen their minds and skills. She is excited about the rollercoaster project she and her partner(s) built during one of the construction exercises in the course of the academic and historic field trip. Their project received praise and applause from attendees. “These are the kinds of scholarly experiences we, as a district, want for all of our bright and shiny stars as we connect for the success of our children,” said James L. Henderson, Superintendent of Schools. “We have so many brilliant young minds in Holmes County who need the nurturing they deserve.”

See photos on page 18.

Hayes

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and served on various planning committees. She knew without a doubt, that her pastor and church members loved her. She attended church up until her transition and they showed her each Sunday how much they cared for her.

She was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Jack and Jill of America and a member of the Jackson Metro Retired Teachers Chorale. Having the voice of an angel, she often sang solos at various events. In 2005, she was chosen ‘Woman of the Year’ at College Hill and in 2006, the Jackson Chapter of the National Congress of Negro Women honored her with the Mary McLeod Bethune award for community service. Mrs. Hayes never sought awards or recognition. Like the solo she often sang at church, “If I can Help Somebody,” she just wanted to “help somebody” as she traveled along.

In 1990, she and her siblings sought to organize a family reunion where she served as the host of the first Brooks-Miller-Sweezer Family Reunion, a tradition that continues until this day.

Leaving to cherish the life, the love and legacy of Deaconess Odie Sweezer Hayes, are six children: Carolyn (Cleophus) Amerson, Paulette (Roy) Patton, Gwendolyn (Leon) Williams, Jacquelyn Hampton, special son-in-law, James Hampton Jr., Emmitt Jr. (Wanda) Hayes, and Kelvin (Therese) Hayes; grandchildren: Cleophus III (Joy) Amerson, Kendal Amerson, Jarret (Damary) Patton, Jamila (Jamahl) Anderson, Angel Hampton, Carla Williams, James Hampton III, Emmitt Hayes III, and Adrian Hayes; great grandchildren: Kendrick Amerson, Maryana Patton, Jarret Patton II, Joven Patton, Chloe Amerson, Micah Anderson and Grayson Anderson; great-great grandchildren: Kendrick Amerson II and Ashton Nesbitt; nephews Edward Thompson, Melvin Robinson; great nephew Roderick (Linda) Robinson; god-granddaughters Morgan and Mya Bridgeman; and a host of other nephews, nieces, cousins, the Brooks, Miller Sweezer families and friends.

Homegoing services will be held at New Hope Baptist Church, 5202 Watkins Drive, Jackson, Saturday, February 2 at 11 a.m. Arrangements are entrusted to Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, 3580 Robinson Street, Jackson. Visitation will be all day Friday at Westhaven and Saturday from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at New Hope Baptist Church.

See family photos page 20.

Robinson

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Robinson's mother (center) and sisters after press breifing.

tice...not yet.”

Sources in the neighborhood spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation by police.

“You have to ask yourself why” one witnesses said. “Why did this happen to this preacher in this neighborhood at that time of day?”

Another person in the neighbor-

hood said, “the shooting of Pastor Longino wasn’t random and because police were hell bent on finding and arresting someone, George got caught in the crossfire.”

Speculation has largely focused on why Robinson was field released by officers. Field release by definition is when a person accused of

something or cited for something is released in the field and never transported to a jail or holding facility. “To add insult to injury in this case, after they (JPD officers) beat Mr. Robinson, they gave him a citation for disobeying a police officer,” Sweet said. “This is unacceptable. This investigation is ongoing.

Davis

Continued from page 1

spent decades fighting for civil and human rights all over the world,” Smithsonian Folkways tweeted.

Born Jan. 26, 1944, Davis became a master scholar who studied at the Sorbonne. She joined the U.S. Communist Party and was jailed for charges related to a prison outbreak, though ultimately cleared, according to *biography.com*.

Known for books like, “Women, Race & Class,” Davis has worked as a professor and activist who advocates gender equity, prison reform and alliances across color lines.

Davis grew up in a middle-class neighborhood dubbed “Dynamite Hill,” due to many of the African-American homes in the area that were bombed by the Ku Klux Klan.

She’s perhaps best known as a radical African-American educator and activist for civil rights and other social issues and, according to her biography, Davis knew about racial prejudice from her experiences with discrimination growing up in Alabama.

As a teenager, Davis organized interracial study groups, which were broken up by the police. She also knew some of the four African-American girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing of 1963.

Meanwhile, on the eve of her birthday, CNN reported that an Alabama civil rights group that rescinded an award for Davis announced it had “learned from its mistakes” over the controversial move and have requested Davis accept the honor after all.

The move comes after the group’s board of directors last week issued a “public apology for its missteps in conferring, then rescinding, its nomination of Angela Y. Davis in early January.”

It is not known whether Davis will attend. CNN said it has reached out to her for comment.

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute President and CEO Andrea Taylor, said in a statement that “Dr. Angela Davis, a daughter of Birmingham, is highly regarded throughout the world as a human rights activist.

“In fact, the Schlesinger Library at Harvard Univer-

sity’s Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study acquired her personal archives in 2018, recognizing her significance in the movement for human rights, her involvement in raising issues of feminism, as well as her leadership in the campaign against mass incarceration. Her credentials in championing human rights are noteworthy.”

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute initially intended to honor Davis with its 2018 Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award in February. But the group earlier this month rescinded the honor following opposition.

Withdrawing the award came after “supporters and other concerned individuals and organizations, both inside and outside of our local community, began to make requests that we reconsider our decision,” the institute’s board said in a statement at the time, according to the CNN report.

“Upon closer examination of Ms. Davis’ statements and public record, we concluded that she unfortunately does not meet all of the criteria on which the award is based,” the statement said.

Mayor Randall Woodfin, who said he regretted the board’s move, said protests were made “by some members of the community, Jewish and otherwise.”

Reacting to the decision, Davis said that “although the BCRI refused my requests to reveal the substantive reasons for this action, I later learned that my long-term support of justice for Palestine was at issue.”

Davis said she was stunned by the move.

“I have devoted much of my own activism to international solidarity and, specifically, to linking struggles in other parts of the world to U.S. grassroots campaigns against police violence, the prison industrial complex and racism more broadly.

“The rescinding of this invitation and the cancellation of the event where I was scheduled to speak was thus not primarily an attack against me but rather against the very spirit of the indivisibility of justice,” she said.

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Lee Vance supports The Newman Foundation’s Food Pantry

Mississippi Link Newswire

We send out a special thank you to Lee Vance for the support he gave on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2019. Weathering the cold January temperature, he helped The Newman Foundation’s Food Pantry distribute food to the residents of the Town of Terry, Mississippi. Vance also brought food to distribute. Over 125 people were served.

THEnewmanFOUNDATION.org salutes Lee Vance on your run for Hinds County sheriff.



Pictured left to right is: Felicia A. Newman, vice-president of The Newman Foundation, Lee Vance, candidate for Hinds County sheriff and Tyrone L. Newman, CEO of The Newman Foundation

Single mother, aspiring nurse wins scholarship to complete nursing exam

Mississippi Link Newswire

L’Shay Hayes graduated from Hinds Community College with an associate degree in nursing this past fall as she excelled at juggling motherhood and school each day the past few years.

Hayes, 25, of Jackson, has been recognized by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, along with 15 of its members nationwide, who were awarded a Hurst Review NCLEX® Scholarship to help cover the cost of exam fees and study materials.

“It’s been a struggle these past two years with school and being a mom to my five-year-old son, Landon,” Hayes said. “But, there are so many opportunities like this through Hinds Community College that people just don’t know about.”

Hayes was a member of the Alpha Iota Kappa chapter of PTK, based at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center. The scholarship, funded by national nursing exam prep company Hurst Review Services, is exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa nursing majors who plan to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). Hurst Scholars will receive a code to cover the cost of study materials and a cash award to cover exam fees.

She plans to become a certified nephrology nurse after successful completion of her exam, then continue her nursing studies at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

“I’m already working as a kidney dialysis nurse and I enjoy working with my patients,” she said.

The NCLEX® is a standardized exam given by each state’s board of nursing to determine if RN or LPN/LVN candidates are competent for entry-level nursing practice.

In addition to the scholarship, Brookhaven-based Hurst also provides a \$50 discount on NCLEX study materials – including the company’s newest product, N-STREAM – for all Phi Theta Kappa members preparing to take the exam.



Hayes

Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in service

Mississippi Link Newswire

On Monday, January 21, 2019, in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday – Day of Service – The Mary Church Terrell Literary Club visited Matt’s House, a Stewpot Ministry Women Shelter. The club donated a variety items to the shelter; served the residents refreshments and fellowshipped with the residents and managing staff.



Pictured are Alberta Smith, Geneva Jones, Delores Hopkins, Belivira Junior, Jacquelyn Staffney and Anne Archie

New “Dinner and a Dive” Saltine meal hosted by Museum Foundation

Mississippi Link Newswire

Love museums and fine dining? Then, join us for “Dinner and a Dive” amongst the aquariums and exhibits at MDWFP’s Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, featuring a four-course meal created by Saltine Restaurant, Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation is hosting this new event.

The evening starts with live music and drinks, followed by an interpreted SCUBA dive and a delicious, seated meal created by Saltine Restaurant, and finishes with time to explore the museum. Saltine was recently named one of Bon Appétit’s best new restaurants of the south.

Chris Zachow, president of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation Board of Directors, is excited to offer this new event to the community. “The Foundation board and museum staff created this event for our guests to experience the museum in a fresh, unique way,” Zachow said.

Tickets are \$75 per person. Reservations and payments must be made by February 2, 2019 by calling 601-576-6000. Must be 21 years of age or over. Couples, singles, and groups are welcome. Seating is limited. All dinner seating will be in groups (no private seating available).

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation supports the MDWFP Mississippi Museum of Natural Science’s education, exhibits, research and tourism programs.

Visit <http://www.mdwfp.com/museum> or call 601-576-6000 for the complete menu and additional event details.

The museum is located at 2148 Riverside Drive in Jackson, Mississippi.

Follow us: www.facebook.com/msnaturalscience and www.instagram.com/MSScienceMuseum and www.twitter.com/MSScienceMuseum.

Youth waterfowl hunting day February 2

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) would like to remind hunters that all Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) with waterfowl hunting opportunity will be open for the final youth waterfowl hunting day of the season February 2.

Adults are encouraged to take a youth (under the age of 16) out to enjoy Mississippi’s waterfowl hunting during this special opportunity. Recent reports indicate waterfowl numbers are increasing, likely due to the winter storm moving across the country.

“It is important to MDWFP that Mississippi waterfowl hunters share their passion for hunting with our future hunters. State waterfowl stamp sales provide funds to accomplish important waterfowl management work like wetland enhancements and habitat restoration projects,” said MDWFP Waterfowl Program Coordinator Houston Havens. “This late-season youth day allows an opportunity to experience waterfowl hunting when bird numbers are typically at or near their peak for the season.”

Waterfowl regulations and bag limits for the youth waterfowl hunting day will be the same as during the regular waterfowl season; however, youth hunters are exempt from purchasing a hunting license, WMA user permit and duck stamps. Non-toxic shot and shotguns holding no more than three shells must still be used.

Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult who is licensed to hunt waterfowl in Mississippi, and adults are not allowed to harvest waterfowl during the youth hunt. Before hunting public lands, hunters are reminded to check the specific regulations and maps for the area they plan to hunt.

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

Black publishers push for more heart health awareness

Lauren Poteat
NNPA Washington Correspondent

On a mission to combat issues of heart failure, disproportionately endured by black Americans yearly, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the largest black-media resource in the United States, took the lead on a very important conversation surrounding heart health and its ongoing negative impacts on people of color.

During a high-energy panel discussion, held Jan. 24 as part of the organization’s Mid-Winter Conference, medical professionals, journalists, their fellow panelists and session attendees vehemently pushed for people of color to actively “get ahead” of their heart health.

Bishop Elton Amos, M.D., key panelist and founder of Church of God In Christ Global Health and Wellness, an organization devoted to promoting healthy lifestyles among minorities, championed the conversation on heart health and its effects on black Americans.

“We have to get ahead of our health,” Amos said. “Heart disease is still the number one killer for all Americans, with even higher risks for people of color. We have to start utilizing our doctors more, getting tested regularly and working better on balancing and maintaining healthy lifestyles.”

Often deemed the “unholy trinity,” according to the American Heart Association, three dangerous health factors including high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes, all play vital roles in increasing ones chances at succumbing to heart disease and strokes.


The report by the American Heart Association went on to state that in relation to high blood pressure (also known as “hypertension”), black Americans have the highest rates of this disease around the world and are more likely to have cases of diabetes in America, when compared to their white counterparts.

In the United States, black Americans are also disproportionately affected by obesity. Among non-Hispanic black Americans, age 20 and older, 63 percent of men and 77 percent of women are reportedly overweight or obese.

“There are ways that we can lower our risks,” Amos continued. “We don’t have to live unhealthy lifestyles and organizations like ‘Wellness for Your Soul,’ really help to put people on track. I strongly encourage everyone to learn more about the state of their heart health and utilize doctors and programs available to assist in improving your health.”

To combat heart failure and high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes, the American Heart Association recommends scheduling regular doctor appointments, checking your blood pressure regularly, eating healthier diets and increasing consistent exercise.

For more information on achieving better heart health, visit: heart.org



Oddie Richard

January 4, 1947 - January 16, 2019

On January 4, 1947, the world was forever changed when Oddie Richard made his grand entrance in Bogue Chitto, MS. The last of Maggie Ella's ten children, Oddie was born to the loving union of Tommie Lee Richard Sr. and Maggie Ella Richard.

A child of exceptional intelligence, Oddie achieved academically his whole life starting in his early education years. As evidenced, when he began his early education at Smith Robinson Elementary School in Jackson, MS where he was promoted from the 5T" grade to the 7T" grade. He went on to graduate with honors from Lanier High School, Class of 1964. There he met and chivalrously courted his forever girl, Irma Fitzgerald Richard. Oddie answered the call to service and enlisted in the United States Army in December of 1966; an adventure that took him to far off beautiful places like Jamaica and Alaska.

Oddie and Irma exchanged their sacred vows before God and their loved ones July 5, 1969. They were high school sweethearts who were joined at the hip, if you saw one you saw the other. They were like this until his last breath. Even with his extensive professional profile and volunteer work, Oddie could be found supporting Irma at every event throughout her Delta Sigma Theta journey. He was affectionately coined "Mr. Delta."

After serving his country with esteemed honor he was honorably discharged in December of 1969. He returned to Atlanta, GA where he continued his studies. He matriculated from Georgia State University, where he received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1973 – top of his class. Directly after graduation he enrolled in the Atlanta Law School in 1977. Oddie was so very smart. Irma would lament affectionately, "It's unfair, he gets all A's and hardly even studies, and I have to study all night." Focused and structured, he sat for the LSAT even passing on his first attempt.

Oddie then became a trailblazer in Atlanta, opening Cox & Richard Law Firm and a successful cash checking store with his business savvy wife. He practiced law for 23 years before exploring other careers, ultimately joining the SL King & Associates Engineering Firm cultivating numerous professional and personal relationships that he maintained through-out the years.

Oddie and Irma were blessed April 4, 1989 with a beautiful baby girl, Serena Danielle Richard. From the moment he laid eyes on her he couldn't help but spoil her rotten, she could do no wrong in his eyes. She remains one of his greatest achievements and loves of his life. He would look forward to attending the annual Mayor's Ball with her as his date. They both embodied the dynamics of a "Daddy's Girl," as she too adored her father.

Oddie was baptized and confessed Jesus Christ as the head of his life at Zion Chapel Church of God in Christ in Bolton, MS at an early age. After moving to Atlanta along with his family, he joined Hinsley Temple Church of God in Christ. Here he served on the Deacon Board and was also the executive assistant to Bishop J.D. Hus-



Richard

band.

Oddie later transferred membership to Elizabeth Baptist Church of Atlanta where he enjoyed arguing over the shoe shine check or meals with his "young pastor" as he endearingly referred to Pastor Oliver. Oddie loved the Lord and enjoyed being a member of the "One In Him" ministry.

In 1995, he joined the Eta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Atlanta. He carried the Omega Psi Phi cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. He was a notable member always giving back, assisting indigent clients with financial advice and tax filing – free of charge. He also volunteered with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. annually, until his health would no longer permit; although he still found ways to help his friends and neighbors.

In a nod to his military service, he regularly attended the annual veteran's luncheon held by his fellow battle buddies. Oddie embodied an overwhelmingly loving personality and spread his charm and war spirit everywhere he went. His light shined in any room he entered with his smile and humorous demeanor. He was a Christian man who enjoyed traveling, cooking and spending time with his family.

On January 16, 2019, Oddie's earthly journey concluded as he was called home to glory by the Lord.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Ella Mae Watts, Loree Middleton, Earnest Johnson, Judge Johnson, Marie Wells, Jessie Johnson and William C. Johnson.

Oddie leaves to cherish his precious memories his devoted and unwavering wife Irma Fitzgerald Richard and daughter Serena D. Richard; siblings: C.J. Richard, Tommiesean Pullens (JP), Jimmie Lee Richard (Margaret), Tommie Lee Richard Jr. (Dorothy); his "Pookie," Justice J. Miller as well as a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and cherished friends.

Celebration of life services were held January 26, 2019 at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 4245 Cascade Road, S.W., Atlanta, GA.

Legendary James Ingram dies at 66

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Popular R&B singer James Ingram, who collected two Grammy Awards and a pair of No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits over his decades-long career, has died at age 66 at his home in Los Angeles. The news was shared via Twitter by Ingram's friend and creative partner Debbie Allen, Jan. 29.

Ingram died of brain cancer.

With his strong vocals and stand out ballads, Ingram was known to collaborate with other big names of his generation such as Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones and Kenny Rogers. Ingram was one of the most successful singers of the 80s and 90s. He was also a successful songwriter.

"I have lost my dearest friend and creative partner James Ingram to the Celestial Choir. He will always be cherished, loved and remembered for his genius, his love of family and his humanity. I am blessed to have been so close. We will forever speak his name," wrote Debbie Allen on twitter. A long-time friend of Ingram's, Allen was the first to announce his passing. After her tribute, the accolades and the sadness poured in from many quarters.

Ingram won two Grammy awards, one for the song "One Hundred Ways" for best male R&B performance in 1981 and a second for a duet with Michael McDonald for the single "Yah Mo B There" for



Ingram

best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals in 1984. He earned nine hits on the Billboard top 100, which included two number one hits: "Baby Come to Me," with Patti Austin in 1983, and "I Don't Have the Heart" in 1990. He also scored 19 songs on the Adult Contemporary charts and 18 on the Hot R&B charts.

"Another dear friend has made his transition. James Ingram, a voice to be recognized and revered, a wonderful human being full of joy. Truly deep, heartfelt condolences to his wife and his family. He will be missed and may he now rest peacefully," wrote

Gladys Knight in a statement.

"There are no words to convey how much my heart aches with the news of the passing of my baby brother, James Ingram. With that soulful, whispy sounding voice, James was simply magical. He was, and always will be, beyond compare. Rest In Peace my baby bro....," wrote Quincy Jones.

Ingram was born in Akron, Ohio. He would later move to Los Angeles and become a member of band Revelation Funk. Ingram also was a member of Ray Charles' band as a keyboard player.

Details regarding funeral arrangements have not yet been released.

Ms. Nineen Corbert
Lanier Class of 1970



Celebration of Life
Saturday, February 2, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Liberal Trinity COGIC

Family Hour
Friday, February 1, 2019
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Westhaven Funeral Home

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Barr Elementary School principal named 2019 JPS Administrator of the Year



Participating in the Administrator of the Year Ceremony at Barr Elementary School on January 23 were (from left) Assistant Superintendent Otha Belcher, honoree Linda Murray, Superintendent Errick L. Greene and Deputy Superintendent Freddrick Murray.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Linda Murray, who has served as the principal of Barr Elementary for the past five years, was named the 2019 Administrator of the Year during a surprise celebration January 23. Her motto “Educate Scholars on Purpose with Purpose,” has transformed the culture at the school.

“Due largely to her steadfast leadership and her willingness to enter the playing field as a servant leader, Murray gets excellent results,” said Assistant Superintendent Otha Belcher. “In her current position as principal of Barr Elementary, she has led the transformation of the school into a place where students and staff love to come and into a place where high performance is the expectation.”

Under her leadership, the school’s performance rating increased from a D to a B and has sustained a B rating for two years consecutively. Similarly, the passing rate for Barr students taking the 3rd Grade Summative Assessment improved ten percent in the four years since it was first administered. Additionally, the school has been recognized as a Model PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) School by REACH Mississippi and for School Success by the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office.

Murray has instituted three programs to improve achievement at the school. The first of these is SWAP, or Students With Amazing Parents. As the name suggests, it is a parent involvement initiative that gives them a

chance to experience the school-day life of an elementary student. The Backpack Program, a partnership with the Mississippi Food Network and Christ United Methodist Church, provides backpacks filled with food to every student every week. In doing so, it addresses academic risks brought on by food and housing instability. I Read to the Principal makes Fridays at Barr very special. Students are randomly selected to spend time reading with the principal and, in the process, bonding with her.

The programs Murray has implemented have resulted in improved self-esteem and sense of community among students. Student attendance rates have increased and behavior referrals have decreased.

Cadet Col. Ruben Banks selected for United States Senate Youth Program

Mississippi Link Newswire

Cadet Col. Ruben Banks of Jim Hill High School has been selected for the 2019 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). He and Kennedy Guest of Brandon were selected from among the state’s top student leaders to take part in USSYP. The students will join Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith in representing Mississippi in the nation’s capital during the 57th annual USSYP Washington Week to be held March 2–9, 2019.

Only 104 students make up the entire national delegation. Each member will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

Banks is a graduating senior at Jim Hill High School. He serves as the school’s Student Government Association president and past governor of Magnolia State Mississippi Boys State 2018. He is the Jackson Public Schools JROTC Brigade Commander and has recently been awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award. Banks has also served for the past four years as a member of the United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol. He is also a member of FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council. Banks is the president of the Jackson Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc., Kappa League, and was featured last spring as an amazing teen by the Jackson Free Press.

“This is a remarkable young man, and I’ve quickly come to appreciate him for his drive, his leadership, his achievements and for his humility,” said JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene. “I’m very proud of Mr. Banks and excited to celebrate his continued success.”

USSYP is an extremely competitive and merit-based program. Each year, it brings the most outstanding



Banks

high school students to Washington, D.C. for an intensive weeklong study of the federal government and the people who lead it.

Only two students are selected from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of student delegates more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service.

While in Washington, the student delegates will attend meetings and briefings with senators, members of the House of Representatives, Congressional staff, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States and senior members of the national media. The students will also tour many of the national monuments and several museums.

Athletic events added to livestream schedule

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS Athletics has added the middle school soccer and basketball championships and more high school basketball games to its livestream schedule. You can watch these events on the district’s YouTube and Facebook channels as scheduled. More games may be added this school year.

Date	Game	Time
Thursday, January 24	Middle School Soccer Championship (Livestream Canceled)	6 p.m.
Monday, January 28	Middle School Basketball Championship	6 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 29	McComb at Lanier Basketball Game	6 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 1	Terry at Murrah Basketball Game	6 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 8	Brandon at Forest Hill Basketball Game	6 p.m./7:30 p.m.

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The Mississippi Link™

Volume 25 • Number 15

January 31 - February 6, 2019
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

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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.

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Reeves threatens voucher expansion - are you kidding me?

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Remember that special education voucher program that was supposed to help children with special needs? Well, here's the truth about that hoax (and keep reading to see what Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves is proposing now)...

The voucher program rules stack the deck against children with special needs, giving all the power to private voucher schools to exclude students they don't want and to deny special education services to those they do admit.

As a result, less than half of the children who were given vouchers have used them, and loads of our state tax dollars that were set aside for that program have gone unused – funds that state law says should have gone to provide special education services to children in our public schools.

In the four years that the voucher program has existed, special education in public schools has been underfunded \$102-million, nearly \$30-million this school year alone. See chart.

To make matters worse, a recent investigation of the



voucher program exposed fraud, program abuses, and a severe lack of accountability. More on that here.

This week, voucher lobbyists brought busloads of young children to the Capitol, wrapped them in yellow scarves and had them wave signs at a “school choice” rally demanding even more money for the voucher program, claiming it's needed for parents who are waiting for vouchers to pay their children's private school tuition.

The fact is that the voucher

program has had far more than enough money leftover each year to clear any waiting list.

Despite all the unused voucher funds, Lt. Gov. Reeves, speaking at the school choice rally, said he intends to give even more of our tax dollars to the voucher program. Legislators have caught on to this voucher scam that subsidizes unaccountable private academies, so we believe Reeves and the privatizers may try an end run to get their money. We will need for your legislators to watch vigilantly

for an attempt to sneak additional voucher funding into the K-12 appropriation bill, or other maneuvers to get more voucher dollars.

I will keep you posted as I learn more about efforts to divert the funds intended for special education in public schools to these private voucher schools.

Let us know what you are hearing, and we will do the same. Together, we've got this.

Nancy Loomer@ParentsCampaign

Baldwin named MVSU's 2018 Humanities Teacher of the Year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Professor Jo A. Baldwin has been selected by Mississippi Valley State University's Office of Academic Affairs as the 2018 Humanities Teacher of the Year.

Each year, the Mississippi Humanities Council recognizes October's designation of Arts and Humanities Month by bestowing Humanities Teacher Awards to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields at colleges and universities across the state.

Affectionately known by the campus community as “Dr. Jo,” Baldwin is an English professor and director of the writing center at MVSU, where she teaches composition, literature and creative writing and serves as associate editor of Fiction for “Valley Voices: A Literary Review.” She is a published writer of mainly short stories and book reviews.

“When I was told that I had received the Humanities Teacher of the Year Award, I smiled and have been smiling ever since,” Baldwin said.

As part of the nomination, Baldwin will give a presentation at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Cliff E. Williams Auditorium of MVSU's Business Education Building.

The topic of Baldwin's presentation will be “Student Introductions and My Social Trinity.”

Baldwin intends to connect with students on the first day of class with her introduction list. Her lecture, entitled “My Social Trinity,” is designed to inspire students to “become persons” rather than just exist as human beings. She believes personhood comes from practicing the “Golden Rule” and in willing service to others.

In addition to her position at Valley, Baldwin is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and is the pastor of Baldwin Chapel AMEC (named in her honor), located at 312 Tipton St. in Kosciusko.

Mindful of the separation of church and state, Baldwin said she is aware of the history of HBCUs and the power of the gospel to meet suffering and adversity head on with the determination to manage and eventually overcome all kinds of hardships.



Baldwin

“At the risk of telling my age,” she said, “I attended college 25 years ago and earned a bachelor's, three master's and a Ph.D.”

Baldwin holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), a master's degree in creative writing from UWM, a master's in speech/theatre from Marquette in Milwaukee, a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in English from UWM. She was the first black American to earn a Ph.D. in English from UWM.

Baldwin is the author of a homiletics text entitled “Seven Signature Sermons by a Tuning Woman Preacher of the Gospel.” Published by the Edwin Mellen Press, the book explores “tuning,” as a form of preaching in the black tradition.

She also authored an award-winning theology book entitled “Bible Verses Given to Me: A Memoir,” published by the AMEC Sunday School Union in Nashville.

As a preacher of the gospel, Baldwin said she was told by a prophet that her anointing is reflected in her hair and her hands and that every time she moves to a higher level spiritually her gray hair will grow.

For more information about MVSU's Humanities Teacher of the Year Award, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at (662) 254-3875.

MVSU alumna named president of Greenville Kiwanis Club

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A Mississippi Valley State University alumna and staff member now leads a local organization dedicated to improving the community.

Shearra Hardwick, a 2017 graduate of MVSU's Master of Business Administration program, was recently appointed as president of the Greenville Kiwanis Club.

Hardwick currently serves as an enrollment specialist and assistant to the executive director of MVSU's Greenville Higher Education Center site.

A Tennessee native, Hardwick is excited about her journey as president of the club and is looking forward to working closely with the Greenville community.

“2019 is going to be a year of growth and prosperity, and I'm looking forward to making a positive impact on the



Shearra Hardwick, Washington Co. Sheriff Milton Gaston and Gerald Husband, V.P. Greenville Kiwanis

club and the community,” Hardwick said.

Since taking on the role in Oct. 2018, Hardwick said one of her main priorities has been stabilizing the club's membership.

“My goals for this year are to increase and retain mem-

bership, bring awareness to the club through branding and recruiting students that receive scholarships from the club to attend MVSU,” she explained.

The Kiwanis International Club is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to “improving the lives of children

one community at a time.”

The club raises funds for scholarships by way of their annual pancake breakfast. This year's breakfast is slated for February 3, 2019.

To learn more about the Kiwanis International organization, visit www.kiwanis.org.

Mississippi Public Universities connect students to careers, help meet workforce needs

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Through classwork and extracurricular activities, students gain the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful in their first jobs. However, getting the first job can be a daunting task.

Career Centers at Mississippi Public Universities provide a vital link between the campus and the career fields students seek to enter. University Career Centers also play a vital role in helping businesses meet their workforce needs.

The Mississippi State University Career Center is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

At Jackson State University, the Career Center helps students select a major by providing them with career resources, coaching and a career interest assessment. They also hold a number of special events throughout the year,

including Graduate and Professional Schools Day, Fall/Spring Career Expos, Business Etiquette Dinner, Teacher Recruitment Day, and Professional Development Seminars.

The JSU Career Center provides ongoing assistance to students, including:

- Tigers2Work: Online Registration System for Employment Opportunities
- Resume/Cover Letter Assistance
- Interview Stream/Mock Interviews
- Internship/Co-Op Opportunities
- On-Campus Interviews
- Computer Resource Center
- Tiger Career Closet

Jackson State's Career Services Center offers services to assist employers in connecting with potential candidates. Employers can use the university's Web-based

recruiting system, Tigers2Work, to list job, internship and co-op opportunities, arrange campus interviews, register for career fairs and view electronic resumes.

Services available to students at Mississippi State University include: Individual Appointments with Career Center liaison/staff for identified majors, career assessments, in person Mock Interviews/online mock interviews, resume assistance, on-campus interviews, presentations of various professional topics, Cooperative Education opportunities, internships, and guidance on participating in the Disney College program, Washington, D.C. Internships, the Demmer's Scholars Program and the Workforce Recruitment Program.

The MSU Career Center hosts several events every year, including a campus wide career fair, co-op and internship interview day,

a part-time jobs fair, major fair, dinner etiquette programs and resident hall popup shops.

Services for employers include on-campus interviews, campus information sessions, hosting campus tours and visits and faculty meetings, networking and luncheons. Over 570 companies recruited on the MSU campus in 2016-2017.

The Career Center has an employer relations manager on staff to serve as the point of contact for employer needs and requests.

The Career Services Center at Mississippi Valley State University has a number of programs and services designed to connect students and alumni with the people, resources, and organizations that will take them where they want to go, whether it's a full-time job or a post-baccalaureate degree. Both students and alumni take advantage of the services

and opportunities available.

Services offered by the MVSU Career Services Center include:

- Career Counseling
- Programs & Workshops
- Mock Interviews
- Career Assessments
- Walk-in Advising
- Career Lab

The MVSU Career Services Center conducts outreach and creates strong business and industry partnerships to connect students to career professionals for real-world experience and job opportunities.

Representatives from businesses participate in career fairs held during spring and fall semesters, conduct table outreach to students, conduct mock interviews, participate in panel discussions, serve on advisory panels and conduct other on campus programming as needed.

The University of Mississippi

offers students career counseling and assessments; a career resource library; computer and internet-based applications designed to assist students with diverse career-related issues; outreach activities, including workshops and seminars; personal assistance with resume and cover letter development, job search strategies, interview preparation, career exploration and graduate/professional school research and admissions correspondence; opportunities to connect with employers for part-time jobs, internships and full-time positions; and a Career and Life Planning course (EDHE 301) for junior- and senior-level students.

The university provides students with access to the Am I Job Ready? software application to help them identify, assess and improve transferrable or “soft” skills.

Chelcey Leahman: WPRL 91.7's newest audio engineer



Leahman

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, Alcorn's Department of Mass Communication added a new employee to its ranks. Chelsea Leahman, a 25-year-old graduating senior, has been named WPRL 91.7's newest audio engineer. With spring graduation looming, it seems like Leahman won't have to venture too far after she's granted her bachelor's degree.

"I am so excited to be graduating," she said. "I did my time as a student. For a while now, Mr. Charles (Edmond) had been asking what I was going to do after I graduate, and I told him, but he kept asking."

The current Brave is also a graduate of Co-Lin Community College. As a member of the Wolfpack, Leahman earned an associate degree in communications before transferring to Alcorn.

"The work ethic here at Alcorn is different," she said. "The instructors here are a bit more engaging. They tend to get to know us on a personal level."

As May 4 quickly approaches, Leahman envisions herself giving the world a lot of joy.

"I want to make people laugh," she said. "I truly feel that I could be like Martin Lawrence."

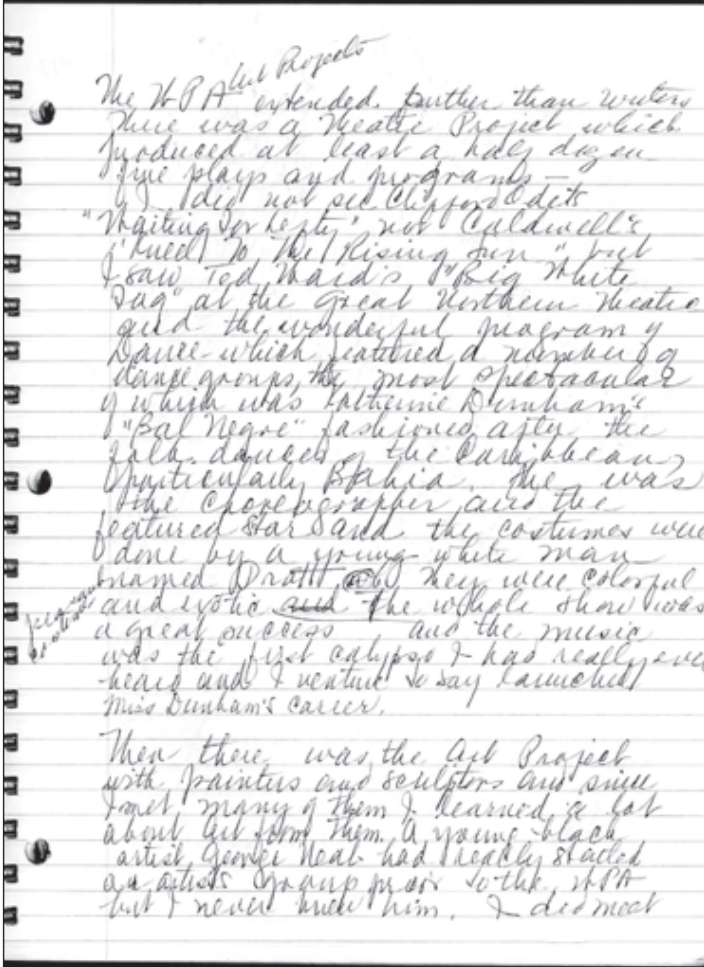
As a student of the mass communications field, Leahman believes that she has truly come a long way and though she feels satisfied, she feels that there is still room to grow.

"I evolved to my best self," she said. "Maybe one day I could be this millennium's Queen Latifah."

Hard work and consistency resulted in Leahman landing the position as an audio engineer. As for her contemporaries, co-workers and fellow classmates, Leahman advised them not to underestimate themselves.

"Know what you want to do," she said. "Don't get into a major because you feel it's easy. Mass communication is for those who truly want to be in the industry of news, media or entertainment."

JSU night at New Stage Theatre



The Mississippi Link Newswire

In 1973, Margaret Walker looked back on her time with the Works Progress Administration in Chicago during the New Deal and its "art projects....There was a Theatre Project which produced at least a half dozen fine plays and programs"

Margaret Walker did not see them all, but she took advantage when she could.

We hope you will take advantage of JSU night at New Stage Theatre, which will offer \$12 tickets to Jackson State students, faculty and staff for the performance of Hell in High Water Thursday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to the performance of Hell in High Water at 6:15 p.m. January 31, a discussion will be held about the impact of the flood on the community both then and now with Robert Luckett, director, Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University; Rolando Herts, director of the Delta Center of Culture and Learning at Delta State University; and Vasti Jackson, JSU alumnus,



Walker

Blues artist and Hell in High Water music director and composer.

Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling or coming to the New Stage Theatre box office and mentioning promo code River. Tickets are subject to availability. New Stage Theatre is located at 1100 Carlisle Street in Jackson. Box office 601.948.3533.

The conversation will continue after the performance when they will be joined with members of the cast.

For more information visit <http://newstagetheatre.com/hell-in-high-water/>.

Alcorn Extension to host annual Small Farmers Conference

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Alcorn State University Extension Program, in collaboration with the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives' Center for Cooperative Development, will host its 28th annual Small Farmers Conference Monday, April 1 through Wednesday, April 3 at the Horseshoe Hotel & Casino Tunica in Robinsonville, Mississippi.

The annual Small Farmers Conference is designed to expose interested participants to new and innovative farming strategies, issues affecting small farmers, financial resources, marketing concerns, opportunities for women in business and much more. This year's event will focus on the theme, "Innovating Change: Securing Sustainable Agriculture for the Future."

The conference will also feature mobile tours to various learning sites in Marks, Mississippi as well as to other local agricultural enterprises.

A diversified group of stakeholders, state and federal professional service agencies, the University community, farmers and ranchers, women in business and various individuals from across the expanse of the agricultural industry will be in attendance to share their knowledge and expertise.



According to Gerald Jones, conference chair and director of County Operations for the Alcorn State University Extension Program, the Small Farmers Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for landowners and women in business to enhance their knowledge on cutting edge production practices and new farming technology.

"We are very excited about this year's conference and all of the external agencies

and partners that will be participating during the three-day event. Over the years, the conference attendance has increased tremendously and this year will be no exception."

For more information about the 2019 Small Farmers Conference, visit www.alcorn.edu/sfc2019. You may also contact Jones at (601) 857-0250 or gwjones@alcorn.edu.

JSU alum named executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Brian Pugh has been named the next executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership. The center was established by congress as a living tribute to the public service career of John C. Stennis, who served in the United States senate for over 41 years.

"The primary reason that the Stennis Center for Public Service exist is to promote and strengthen public service leadership in America," Pugh said.

In 2014, Pugh received his PhD in public policy and administration from Jackson State. He says his time spent in the program correlates to the mission of the Stennis Center.

"Many of JSU's professors in the public policy & administration program seemed to have



Pugh

that same exact mission, Pugh said. "When I was a student, they made me eager about a career in public service. I plan to bring that same level of excitement to the Stennis Center to pass on to others interested in a career in public service."

The Stennis Center's congressional mandate is to attract young people to careers in pub-

lic service, to provide training for leaders in or likely to be in public service, and to offer training and development opportunities for senior congressional staff, members of congress, and other public service leaders.

As a graduate student at Mississippi State University, Pugh began his career as a program assistant at the Stennis Center.

"I've always wanted to go back. However, I would have never gained the knowledge and public service experience had I not left, says Pugh." "During that decade of absence from the Stennis Center, I was fortunate enough to work for the legislative and executive branches of government and I learned a lot about public service."

The Stennis Center for Pub-

lic Service Leadership is governed by the board of trustees appointed by the Democratic and Republican leaders in the US Senate and the US House of Representatives.

Pugh currently serves as deputy executive director of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration and previously served as fiscal policy advisor and director of finance for Governor Phil Bryant. He also worked as a legislative budget analyst for the Legislative Budget Office.

He will become executive director in the Spring, replacing the founding executive director of the Stennis Center, Rex Buffington, who has served in that position 30 years.

Dr. Pugh and his wife, Dominique, are parents of two daughters.



Mississippi should not Reauthorize administrative forfeiture

The Mississippi Link Newswire

If you asked most Mississippians whether the state should be able to confiscate cash and property from a person who was never charged with, much less convicted of a crime, the answer would be a resounding “no.”

Yet this is exactly what occurs every day under a practice known as civil forfeiture.

Right now, if Mississippians are accused of a crime, they are tried in a criminal proceeding. But if their property is seized by law enforcement, it instead goes into a civil proceeding, which lacks many meaningful safeguards.

The forfeited property does not even have to belong to the person suspected of criminal activity. Innocent property owners can easily become ensnared in this system. A parent who lets their teenager drive the family car may be surprised to learn they may never get the car back if the teenager is pulled over with drugs in the car, if the parent cannot prove they had no idea about the drugs.

Proponents of civil forfeiture argue that it is an important tool in combating drug trafficking throughout our state. This is a worthy goal, and should be pursued. But it should be pursued in a way that is consistent with basic American principles of fairness and justice. Those include the presumption of innocence



and the protection from punishment for those not convicted of a crime under a fair and impartial process.

Returning to these principles would not require police to change any of their current practices. Police officers would still be able to take property they believed to be connected to crime. The only difference would be that prosecutors would actually need to charge and convict the property owner before the state could keep the property. If anything, requiring criminal convictions for forfeiture cases would likely increase the number of criminals who were charged, convicted, and taken off the streets.

Even if our elected officials are not willing to require a conviction before property is forfeited, they should at least ensure that the current civil forfeiture process has as many safeguards as possible. But this is anything but the case.

By far, the most problematic aspect of civil forfeiture is the seizure of low value property, because it usually does not make economic sense for the property owner to contest. If the state took a \$4,000 car from you, and it would cost you \$10,000 to hire an attorney to fight to get your car back, would you pursue it? If you won, you'd lose.

Yet rather than offering additional protections for innocent

owners who have low value property seized, until recently state law created even more risk for low value property to be unfairly confiscated. Under a practice known as “administrative forfeiture,” the government was allowed to take and keep property valued at under \$20,000 without even having the forfeiture approved by a civil court. The burden was on the owner to sue if he or she wanted to contest the forfeiture.

Fortunately, last year, the legislature allowed the law that authorized administrative forfeitures to expire. However, lawmakers are already promising to bring the law back this year. The data shows that they shouldn't.

The legislature recently required a publicly accessible database to be created, providing some basic information about every seizure that occurs. This law has now been in effect for 18 months, and the initial data confirms that administrative forfeiture is a bad idea.

According to an analysis by the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, the database includes forty-seven seizures in which the state pursued administrative forfeiture. The average value of this seized property was only \$2,988. Forty-seven percent of the seizures were valued at less than \$1,000. Eight seizures involved property worth \$250 or less.

Moreover, the data indicates that, far from being used exclusively to take large quantities of drugs and cash from drug mules and cartel affiliates, trivial personal valuables are often taken under administrative forfeiture. The database includes items like an Apple Watch, multiple seizures of individual iPhones and a Makita power drill. In two instances, agencies seized as little as \$50 in cash. All of this gives the appearance that administrative forfeiture is sometimes used for roadside wallet and pocket emptying.

Whether guilty or innocent, it makes no sense for anyone to pursue legal action over these types of seizures, especially if the potential of criminal charges is hanging over their head. The result is a system in which the government can confiscate personal property with virtually no expectation of having to justify its actions.

Mississippians want to combat drug trafficking. But we also respect the property rights of innocent owners, and we expect our government to as well. The two are not mutually exclusive. Our lawmakers should look for ways to separate criminals from their ill-gotten gains, while ensuring adequate protections for the law abiding public.

This column appeared in the Clarion Ledger on January 24, 2019.

Entergy expands nuclear operations in Mississippi nearly 500 jobs created at nuclear plant and headquarters

Mississippi Link Newswire

The year 2019 will ring in new jobs and major investment in Mississippi as Entergy Nuclear continues to expand its operations and workforce.

Entergy Corporation has created some 170 jobs at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station since 2017, increasing its workforce to more than 820 employees. Over the next one to two years, Entergy expects to create about 70 more jobs at Grand Gulf.

At Entergy Nuclear's Jackson-based nationwide headquarters an expansion is underway to accommodate more than 250 new jobs, as the workforce grows from 250 to about 500 employees. The expansion and addition of jobs should both be complete by the end of the year.

The headquarters building houses professionals from various technical disciplines who support Entergy's nuclear plants. Those include five reactors in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, plus merchant plants in the northeastern United States.

“Our Nuclear Strategic Plan is a five-year business strategy to provide robust governance, oversight and support of the fleet and to achieve excellence in all nuclear operations,” said Chris Bakken, Entergy Nuclear executive vice president. “The expansion of the headquarters building at Echelon allows our growing nuclear team to work in a single location, fostering unity, collaboration and team effectiveness.”

“As we build the utility of the future, we're also building the workforce of the future,” said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO. “We're proud to be able to bring more jobs to the state. Entergy and Entergy Nuclear's combined workforce in Mississippi will



now be more than 2,000 employees.”

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant praised the most recent news about the company's investment in and commitment to the state.

“Entergy's decisions to locate its nuclear headquarters in Jackson and seek the relicensing of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson continue to pay big dividends for Mississippi,” said Gov. Phil Bryant. “This expansion of the company's nuclear workforce in our state will create hundreds of new high-tech, high-paying jobs and be yet another milestone toward making Mississippi a hub for the energy industry and the investments that go with it.”

Fisackerly noted the nuclear investments come on the heels of three other large investments by Entergy:

- Entergy Mississippi's newly-renovated \$20-million Distribution Operations Center in Jackson
- The company's intention to purchase the \$314-million Choctaw Generating Facility, a natural gas-fired power plant in French Camp subject to regulatory approval, and
- The company's proposal for

a \$138.4 million, 100-megawatt solar energy farm in the Mississippi Delta, also subject to regulatory approval.

In the past three years, the company has spent \$1 billion to strengthen and modernize Entergy Mississippi's electric grid.

Along with these new jobs and investments, Entergy Mississippi will begin installing advanced electric meters, the foundation for grid modernization technologies, throughout its service territory early this year. That project should be complete in 2021.

Entergy Mississippi, LLC provides electricity to approximately 449,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including nearly 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of approximately \$11 billion and more than 13,000 employees.



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Sentence for Chicago cop in shooting death of Laquan McDonald considered too short

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com



Former Chicago cop Jason Van Dyke’s African-American brother-in-law said Van Dyke wasn’t a racist although he shot to death Laquan McDonald, a 17-year-old black teenager holding a pen knife in a non-threatening way, brutalized other black men he stopped or arrested and had 22 excessive force complaints lodged against him during his years on the job, most brought by black men.

“He’s my brother,” Keith Thompson testified at Van Dyke’s sentencing hearing Friday.

Thompson, who is married to Van Dyke’s wife’s sister, hoped Cook County Judge Vincent Gaughan would sentence Van Dyke to probation and send him back to his wife and two daughters who need him because their lives are falling apart.

Van Dyke wasn’t sentenced to probation but he received a much lighter sentence than the 18 years special prosecutors had sought. However, it was more than the probation defense attorneys wanted for Van Dyke.

Judge Gaughan sentenced Van Dyke, 40, to 81 months or 6 years and 9 months in prison for the 2014 murder of McDonald. The former police officer had been convicted of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm on October 5, 2018 in the shooting death of McDonald.



Van Dyke

The unshaven Van Dyke, dressed in an yellow DOC jumpsuit, was sentenced only on the second-degree murder charge.

Van Dyke was the first on-duty police officer in 40 years charged with murder to be convicted.

His arrest occurred after Cook County Judge Franklin Valderrama ordered the release of a police-dash cam video showing Van Dyke repeatedly shooting McDonald who was lying on the ground, posing a threat to no one. The other cops at the scene did not pull their guns.

After Judge Gaughan issued his ruling, Pastor Marvin Hunter, McDonald’s great uncle, said it was both a sad day and a happy day. “It was a victory because we got our day in court,” Hunter said. “It’s sad because we expected Van Dyke to be sentenced to more time in prison.”



McDonald

Hunter said the prison sentence reduced McDonald to “a second-class citizen which no white man is bound to respect.” U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney made that same comment in deciding the Dred Scott Decision in 1857.

Van Dyke has been housed in the Rock Island County Jail in Rock Island, Illinois, a three-hour drive from Chicago, because law enforcement officials feared he would be beaten or killed if he were incarcerated in Chicago’s Cook County Jail.

The ruling means Van Dyke will only have to serve 3-½ years in prison before he could be released for good behavior. He also can appeal his conviction and his sentence, Judge Gaughan told a packed courtroom in the George Lehman Center, the Cook County Criminal Courts Building in Chicago.

Blacks seated in the courtroom seemed stunned by the sentence. Whites in the audi-

ence stared off into space. Security was tight. The judge had ordered security guards posted facing those seated in the courtroom.

The sentencing hearing took a page out of the “Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.”

Three black men who were arrested or taken into custody by Van Dyke described him as a brutal racist who African Americans employed by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, which investigates citizen complaints of police misconduct, did nothing to stop.

Edward Nance, one of the prosecution’s witnesses, wept throughout his testimony and initially was afraid to look at Van Dyke who sat a few feet away at a library table with his lawyers. Nance testified that Van Dyke and his unnamed partner stopped the car Nance was driving with a cousin as a passenger in 2007.

Van Dyke demanded that Nance ‘open the goddamn door!’ Once the door was opened, Van Dyke yanked Nance by his left arm before handcuffing him behind the back. Van Dyke then pushed Nance face down on the floor in the back of squad car, not the backseat.

“I was in severe pain,” Nance cried, as he wiped away tears that ran down his face. Van Dyke pulled Nance from the backseat floor, removed the handcuffs and said he could go. Nance asked for his driver’s license, which made Van Dyke even more angry. Instead, he ticketed Nance because his car

did not have a front license plate. Nance walked home because his car, an Oldsmobile, was nowhere to be found and has not been recovered to-date.

Nance testified he has undergone four surgeries on his left and right shoulders, neck and both rotator cuffs. “I can’t sleep at night. I only sleep for an hour and a half. I’m in constant pain. I take a number of medications for the pain and I have seen two psychiatrists and psychologists.”

In 2008, he filed a civil rights suit against Van Dyke and the Chicago Police Department. The government awarded him \$350,000 in damages.

A year after the award, IPRA wrote Nance a letter telling him they weren’t going to investigate his complaint against Van Dyke. “He was back on the street the next day,” Nance said.

He added that if that if IPRA had acted on his complaint, McDonald would be alive today.

Jeremy Mayers, another prosecution witness, testified he was very nervous. He stopped several times to drink water from a paper cup and wipe perspiration rom his face.

He testified that Van Dyke and another officer pulled his car over March 19, 2011, citing him for not using his left turn signal and not having a light over his rear license plate.

The cops smelled liquor on his breath and found marijuana in his car. Van Dyke handcuffed him and pushed him into the patrol car. Somehow, Mayers managed to put a cough drop in his mouth. Van Dyke demanded

he spit it out. Mayers refused, so Van Dyke choked him with one hand.

Mayers also filed a complaint with IPRA, but said, “I could tell they weren’t interested.”

Another prosecution witness, Vidale Joy, an author and a poet, testified that Van Dyke put a gun to his temple during a traffic stop in 2005 after calling him a black ass nigger.” Joy said he remained calm.

Former police officers and Van Dyke’s wife, sister and brother-in-law painted a much different picture of him, reciting his good qualities and saying he was a good husband and father, working hard to provide for his family, faithfully attentive to them. Many of the defense witnesses were cops or former cops who knew little about him or only recently had contact with him.

Tiffany Van Dyke, Jason’s wife of 17 years, wanted her husband sentenced to probation because she fears what may happen to him in prison.

“My children (the couple has two daughters) have paid the price of not having a father. They don’t eat. They don’t sleep. I’m afraid they may kill him in prison,” she said. “He has no malice, no hatred and no racism.”

Thompson called Van Dyke a gentle giant. “I don’t think he’s a racist. I have known him for 13 years.”

After Thompson finished testifying, Dan Herbert, Van Dyke’s attorney, whispered in his client’s ear, smiled and patted him on the shoulder.

Remembering Dr. King and “The Other America”

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Once again on the third Monday in January, much of the nation marked the anniversary of the death of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Countless programs and events recalled his famous speeches from the 1963 March on Washington’s “I Have A Dream to his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” delivered in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers’ strike.

In a life of only 39 years, Dr. King captured global attention in his valiant, nonviolent fight for the values of freedom, justice and equality. Preaching and fighting for long overdue citizenship rights first promised to all in the Declaration of Independence, he championed economic justice – especially for blacks to have safe, decent, and affordable housing. He also called for full participation in the economy, and an end to financial exploitation.

Now 51 years since his assassination, his words still strike a resonant chord. His words – written as prose but markedly poetic – remain as timely as they are timeless.

“There are so many problems facing our nation and our world, that one could just take off anywhere,” Dr. King said in a speech delivered April 14, 1967 at Stanford University. Entitled, “The Other Amer-



In his advocacy for the poor and oppressed, Dr. King frequently spoke to President Lyndon B. Johnson, pushing for his signature on fair legislation. PHOTO: NATIONAL ARCHIVES

COMMENTARY

ica” Dr. King began by recapping the nation’s bounty and beauty, noting how “America is overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the honey of opportunity,” and how “millions of young people grow up in the sunlight of opportunity.”

For his audience, those comments almost certainly reflected the lifestyles of the students attending one of the nation’s elite educational institutions.

In his inimitable Baptist cadence, Dr. King then went on to speak of the “Other America” that was equally real but far removed from the commonplace privilege associated with Stanford.

“Little children in this other America are forced to grow

up with clouds of inferiority forming every day in their little mental skies. As we look at this other America, we see it as an arena of blasted hopes and shattered dreams,” said Dr. King. “It’s more difficult today because we are struggling for genuine equality. It’s much easier to integrate a lunch counter than it is to guarantee a livable income and a good solid job. It’s much easier to guarantee the right to vote than it is to guarantee the right to live in sanitary, decent housing conditions.”

In 2019 the two Americas Dr. King wrote about still remain. A nation once lauded for its enviable and expanding middle class has evolved into a nation of people who are either growing wealthy or growing poor. In this unfortunate process, the

nation’s envied middle class is vanishing.

Historically, homeownership has been a reliable measure of the nation’s middle class. Late last year it stood at 64.4 according to the Census Bureau. Yet when race and ethnicity are added who owns a home today discloses a far different picture. White homeownership was higher than the national average at 73.1 percent.

But blacks still-suffering from the financial losses from the now decade-old foreclosure crisis had a homeownership rate of 41.7 percent, lower than its pre-housing crisis rate of 47.7 percent. Today’s black homeownership resembles the same levels experienced at the time of the 1968 Fair Housing Act’s passage.

Latino homeownership today is higher than that of blacks at 46.3 percent; but still lower than its earlier pre-crisis rate of 47.7.

Housing also remains troubled for renters as well. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, the nation lacks more than 7 million affordable rental homes that affect 43.8 million families. Moreover, 11 million families pay more than half of their income on housing and are considered severely-cost burdened.

As of January 3, over 1,100 HUD contracts with landlords for its Section 8 rental voucher program expired. By February, another 1,000 more contracts are expected to expire. At press time, the stalemated federal government shutdown continued, leaving millions of people uncertain about their lives, or livelihoods or both. While landlords and HUD figure out the paperwork, 1.2 million families relying on this vital rental support program remain at risk.

Also caught in partisan bickering of a federal government shutdown are men and women – the military and civil servants – whose service to the country is deemed so essential that they must continue to work without knowing when another paycheck will arrive. Another 800,000 furloughed federal workers may be at home; but like others affected by the shutdown, they too still need to pay their rent or mortgage, honor their financial obligations and

take care of children as best they can.

When times are tough financially, a range of predatory lenders seize opportunities to tempt those who are hard-pressed for cash with interest rates on loans that would make a bookie blush. When a loan of only a few hundred dollars comes with interest payments that double or triple the cash borrowed, predatory lenders are ready to exploit those with few or no financial options.

Those who are unpaid or underemployed – those who are working but failing to earn a salary comparable to their education and training, student loan repayments can take a financial backseat to housing, utilities, or other daily living needs.

In 1967 Dr. King advised his Stanford University audience, “Somewhere we must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.... And so we must help time, and we must realize that the time is always right to do right.”

This year, may we all continue to honor Dr. King and do our respective efforts to make America live up to its promise of opportunity for all.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending’s Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

What kind of fruit are you bearing?

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



Many people try to do or be good, honest people who do what is right. But Jesus says that the only way to live a truly good life is to stay close to Him, like a branch attached to the vine. Apart from Christ our efforts are unfruitful. Are you receiving the nourishment and life offered by Christ, the Vine? Are you bearing the fruit of a Christian? What kind of fruit are you bearing?

We read in John 15:8, “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” Are you bearing the fruit of the Spirit as in Galatians 5:22-23? It reads: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-

suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: Against such there is no law.”

Is the fruit of your lips praising God? Hebrews 13:15 tells us, “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.” Are you bearing the fruit of good works? Is the fruit of good works apparent in your life? Titus 2:14 says, “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” God’s people are not saved by goods works; they are saved for good works so that they might extend His love and grace to others.

As you examine yourself, do you have the attitude of those who were the true Disciples of Christ? Paul reminds us in

Philippians 3:18-19, “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the Cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” The enemies of the Cross of Christ have a different goal, a different god, and a different glory than Christians. Because they set their minds on earthly things, their end is destruction.

There are those who are easy on themselves but hard on everyone else. There are those who have two standards. They have one standard for themselves and another standard for others.

There is a cover up for anything if you want it that way. Anything you want to do or any way you want to live, there is a cover up if that is the way

you want it.

To ensure that you will pass the test, you must examine yourself in the light of God’s Word. True believers never resent being put to the test. A good student does not mind a test; only those who have not done their homework and paid attention in class react negatively when the teacher says, “All right, we are going to take a test.” I normally reacted in a negative way, about 90 percent of the time. Do you know why? I was not ready for it. I had not studied. That is the way it is with many people today.

Next week “What Kind of Fruit You’re Bearing?”

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

PRESERVED

Sing your way to healing in 2019

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I did something that I haven’t done in over a decade: I joined my church’s praise and worship team. Even though I’ve always loved singing in church choirs, I wasn’t sure why God led me to do it at the time. However, I learned as I humbled myself and ministered to others, God answered my prayers and in the midst of my worship set me free from some deep emotional and spiritual wounds that I’d been burdened with. Also, singing these songs every week made me think about how we all need our own theme song, like Shaft, perhaps to remind us of who God has made us to be.

The more I think about the heart-breaking deaths of close friends and family members in 2018 and what is ahead in 2019, the song that I hum is “Your Latter Will Be Greater” by Israel Houghton. The song is a few years old but its message of looking ahead to the greater things that God has planned encourages me in a powerful way that I can’t describe. The song starts off simply:

*“You latter will be greater than your past,
You will be blessed, more than you could ask.
Despite all that has been done, the best is yet to come.”*

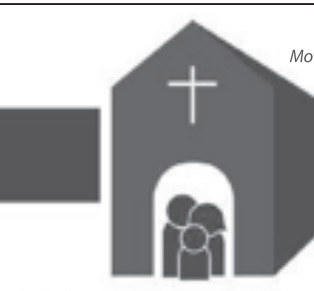
These words are reminiscent of Job 8:7 (NIV) “Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.” The power of the song’s lyrics and the scripture is the fact that both encourage us to look ahead to the future. Being future fo-

cused is sometimes difficult because it requires that we let go of the very real circumstances of our present and take a firm hold onto the faith-fueled promises of the future. And often, we can’t see those promises with our natural eyes. So how do we do it?

The answer comes in the next part of the song with the words “*All things are possible, possible, possible, possible.*” Here, the song reminds us that when we activate our faith, God can move in every circumstance and situation of our lives. The repetition of the words “*possible*” encourage us to believe that not only will God move in our lives, but that God also wants to do the most incredible things for us. Some have said that a dream isn’t big enough for God if you can figure out how to make it happen on your own.

If you had to come up with a theme song for your life in 2019, what would it be? Would it be a reminder of how difficult your life has been lately like, “*Rough Side of the Mountain?*” Or, would you choose a more inspiring song that reminds you of God’s promises of love, peace and mercy? For some of us, we’ve already had to adjust our expectations for 2019 as we’ve already faced challenges in the first few weeks of the new year. I encourage you to not let those disappointments keep you from picking out your song as a daily reminder of who God is and who He called you to be.

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




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NNPA Mid-Winter Training Conference highlights world expansion of the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) wrapped its Mid-Winter Training Conference Saturday, Jan. 26, in Orlando, Florida, where publishers, corporate partners and sponsors gathered to help move the publishing industry forward with increased sustainability for the Black Press of America.

Included among NNPA partners and sponsors are GM; RAI Reynolds America; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Ford; Pfizer Rare Disease; Macy's; Juul; Volkswagen; Lilly; Ascension; Compassion & Choices; Collaborative for Student Success; Nissan; Koch; API; AmeriHealth Caritas; AACR and AABE.

The conference theme, "Innovative Training and Global Expansion of the Black Press of America," was highlighted throughout, particularly with workshops and training sessions on the Every Student Succeeds Act; Investigative Journalism; African American Health Disparities; a Macy's-hosted Roundtable Discussion; and a presentation and discussion about Sickle Cell and other illnesses that was hosted by Pfizer, Inc. and included an interview with Bert Bruce, the vice president of global marketing at Pfizer Rare Disease.

Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori-Quao, the African Union Ambassador to the United States, also appeared at the conference where she and Jamaican Tourist Board Groups and Conventions manager John Woolcock, spoke about the global expansion of the Black Press – particularly to Africa and Jamaica.

The ambassador also said African leaders are on the verge of a free trade agreement that has Africa poised to become the world's largest free trade area with the 55 countries merging into a single market of 1.2 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$2.5 trillion.

"African leaders are saying with one voice, one mind and one heart that we are one continent," H.E. Chihombori-Quao said.

Highlights at the conference, which drew dozens of Black Press publishers from around the country, included a fireside chat with former Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who lost a razor-thin close election for Florida's governor in November.

Gillum's appearance came during a luncheon hosted by General Motors, who was represented by Lester Booker Jr., the automobile company's corporate giving communications and strategic businesses planner.

Christina Kolbjornsen, the senior vice president and head of Segments and marketing communications at Wells Fargo, also provided remarks at the luncheon.

Acclaimed Civil Rights Attorney Benjamin L. Crump provided remarks during a RAI hosted Criminal Justice Reform workshop where panelists included Durham, North Carolina Police Chief Cerelyn Davis; Law Enforcement Against Prohibition Executive Director Major Neil Franklin; New Jersey Police Training Commission Commissioner Jiles Ship; and San Diego Voice and Viewpoint Publisher John Warren.

On Friday, Jan. 25, *Tennessee Tribune* Publisher Rosetta Miller Perry received the NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award before a festive and appreciative gathering at the conference.

"Two years ago, it was Bob Bogle being honored from the *Philadelphia Tribune* and last year we saw Rod Doss of the *New Pittsburgh Courier* receive the Lifetime Achievement Award," Perry said.

"Tonight, it's Rosetta Perry. Maybe there's something to it... three great publishers all from Pennsylvania," she said, noting her tie to the Keystone State is in the fact she was raised there.

Perry thanked her fellow publishers for the distinguished recognition, one that she said she's glad happened now.

"I'm 85," Perry quipped. "I'm sure glad you didn't wait until I was 90," she said following a video tribute that included congratulatory remarks from Nashville Mayor David Briley, Democratic U.S. Rep. James Cooper, Metro Nashville Public Schools Director Shawn Josephs and Tennessee State University President Glenda Glover.

Spike Lee's Best Director nomination is long overdue

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"People of color have a constant frustration of not being represented, or being misrepresented, and these images go around the world ... I do not think there is going to be any substantial movement until people of color get into those gatekeeper positions of people who have a green-light vote. That is what it comes down to. We do not have a vote, and we are not at that table when it is decided what gets made and what does not get made." – Spike Lee

In 2015 and 2016, we in the Urban League Movement joined a movement against the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences embodied in the hashtag, #OscarsSoWhite. At the time, the voting membership of the Academy was reported to be 94 percent white and 77 percent male.

As a result of the movement, the

academy pledged to double minority and women membership by 2020 and limited terms to 10 years for members who have not been active in the film industry.

Whether a direct result of these changes or not, Spike Lee's long-awaited first-time nomination for Best Director is a welcome development, as is the nomination of his film, *BlacKkKlansman*, for Best Picture.

For his part, Lee believes his nomination would not have come about without #OscarsSoWhite. "What that campaign did, it made the academy understand that they had to diversify their membership," he told *Entertainment Weekly*. "The diversity of the voting members makes a difference."

Lee previously was nominated for Best Screenplay for *Do The Right Thing*, and 4 Little Girls received a Best Documentary Feature nomination, but this is the first time in his 30-year career he's been acknowledged for his main contribution to American culture as a director

of provocative and artistic feature films.

I had the honor to participate in two of Lee's documentary films: When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts, a 2006 HBO production about Hurricane Katrina and the destruction it wrought on my hometown of New Orleans, and its 2010 sequel, *If God Is Willing and da Creek Don't Rise*. The series serves as a powerful and thought-provoking analysis of the issues of class and race in national disaster response.

When the Levees Broke won three Emmy Awards, an NAACP Image Award and the Peabody Award from the University of Georgia for being an "epic document of destruction and broken promises and a profound work of art" and "an uncompromising analysis of the events that precede and follow Hurricane Katrina's assault on New Orleans" that "tells the story with an unparalleled diversity of voices and sources."

In appreciation of his achievement, the National Urban League

presented Lee with a Special Recognition Award at our 50th Equal Opportunity Dinner in 2006.

It can be argued that many of the 30 films Lee has directed are as deserving of an Oscar as *BlacKkKlansman*, and many of them are destined to occupy their places in the canon of American cinema. But even though *BlacKkKlansman* is set in the early 1970s it is very much a film of our time – perhaps the film of our time. David Duke, the main villain of the story, is still very much a force in American politics today. He is shown to use the resurrected phrase "America First!" popularized during the 2016 presidential campaign, and speaks of making America "great again."

The film's central question of whether social change must be effected within the system or outside it resonates today. The recognition of Lee's talent by the Academy is long overdue, and we congratulate him on his achievement.

Marc Morial is President/CEO of the National Urban League.

Open a book, explore a world: The Philadelphia African-American Children's Book Fair

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



We hear the words "national emergency" so often from the bloviator that masquerades as a president that we forget what an emergency really looks like. One of our most pressing crises is the educational emergency that our nation faces, with the quality of inner-city education, in particular, so lacking that many young people are graduating from high school unequipped to manage either post-secondary education or employment. This hits African-American communities hardest, with an achievement gap well documented by the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Center for Educational statistics.

Why? Researchers like Georgia Perimeter College's Tiffany Flowers consider everything from what happens at home to what happens at school, noting that parental involvement in literacy makes a difference in a young person's reading ability. Some homes have bookshelves that are groaning with books, though, and others have just a few. The difference in access to children's books may

partly explain the achievement gap between black and white students as well as between children in lower-income and higher-income families.

What are families to do? Vanesse J. Lloyd-Sgambati has one of the answers. As the founder of the African-American Children's Book Project she has, for twenty-seven years, hosted the African-American Children's Book Fair. This year it will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, February 2, 2019, at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP). With the theme, A Book Opens Up A World of Opportunities, it feeds literacy hunger, bringing together book authors, booksellers, parents and children who are eager to experience culturally relevant literary experiences. Last year the event drew more than four thousand people, along with dozens of authors and illustrators.

Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati is passionate about her mission, noting that many economic and cultural factors contribute to the wealth gap. "You can't tell a child to read at home if there are no books in the household. With fewer retailers offering diverse books, the need is even greater." Her event not only salutes those who produce diverse books but also provides young people with the opportunity to have access to books. Says Lloyd-

Sgambati, "Adults who attended the program as children now bring their children. They understand the importance of having books in the home and the life-long impact of reading on the journey to success for their children."

I am writing about this local Philadelphia event because it is the kind of activity that needs to take place all over the country. Black children's literacy is improving, but the achievement gap is a national emergency. We combat the gap by encouraging literacy among young people, by embracing children's literacy as a cause, and by developing traditions like the African-American Children's Book Fair to salute those who write and illustrate diverse books and to provide opportunities for parents and children to buy books.

Books, says Vanesse, "empower, enrich and enlighten the lives of all children." She doesn't have to convince me. I've so frequently had my nose in a book, that I once wrote an essay about the ways I escaped my childhood life through reading. I was one of those kids who put books in front of my dolls and gave them lessons. Once forbidden to read a thick book because the contents were not child-appropriate, I climbed up a shelf to get the book, injuring my-

self but then allowed to devour the contents. I went to New York City without leaving San Francisco by reading, inhaled parts of the African continent without boarding an airplane through reading, and became livid about issues of economic justice because I had my nose in a book.

I wish the literacy experience for every young person, not only because it will influence their life experiences, but also because it can bring them joy.

I commend Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati who is, in full disclosure, a dear friend, for the work that she does to ensure that teachers and librarians have new books in their schools. Philadelphia is blessed to have her fantastic book fair. If she had the resources, she could replicate this event all over the country. When a child opens a book, she explores the world. Her book fair is a stellar commitment to children's literacy. There ought to be a similar book fair everywhere an achievement gap is documented.

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.julianne-malveaux.com

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‘Miss Amazing’ Aubrey Armstrong is Mississippi’s champion

UMMC

Mississippi’s 2019 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Champion is quite accustomed to titles.

Aubrey Armstrong, 14, of Oxford, announced recently as the spokesperson for Mississippi’s only hospital dedicated to pediatrics, Batson Children’s Hospital at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is also the reigning Mississippi Miss Amazing Junior Teen.

Among Aubrey’s previous titles: 2017 Mississippi Miss Amazing Preteen, Oxford Mayor for the Day and Children’s of Mississippi Kid Captain for Ole Miss’ 2018 football game against Auburn.

“I want to thank Batson Children’s Hospital for taking good care of me,” said Aubrey during a standing-room-only Champion celebration at The Pavilion Club on the University of Mississippi’s Oxford campus. “I love the doctors and nurses there.”

The event included the Ole Miss spirit squad, cheerleaders, Tony the Landshark and Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill, among others.

Each year, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for



The Armstrong family includes, from left, mother Holly, daughters Aubrey, Ann-Michael and Ava and father Brad.

children’s hospitals in the U.S. and Canada, identifies children with remarkable medical stories as champions to represent the millions of children treated at CMNH hospitals every year.

Included in that number are about 180,000 children treated through Children’s of Mississippi, the umbrella organization that includes all pediatric care provided across the state by UMMC,

including at Batson Children’s Hospital.

Miss Amazing seeks to provide opportunities for girls and women with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem.

When Holly and Brad Armstrong were expecting their second child, Aubrey, they didn’t know she would be born with any special needs.

“She was born and the doctor

came in and said, ‘We think Aubrey has characteristics of Down syndrome,’” said Holly, who is a nurse practitioner. “My first question was, ‘How is her heart?’ That was my first concern. They said, ‘She doesn’t even have a heart murmur. She’s great.’ Then I thought, ‘OK, we can do this.’ I knew if, medically, she was OK, we could handle everything else.”

Early intervention through Children’s of Mississippi physicians has made a world of difference, said Brad. “Aubrey is off the charts for highly functioning as a child with Down syndrome, and that is because of Batson Children’s Hospital and the care she received.”

Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy have been part of Aubrey’s care, and she continues to see specialists in otolaryngology, endocrinology and ophthalmology through Children’s of Mississippi.

Aubrey, who loves dancing, music, Ole Miss and spending time with her sisters, Ann-Michael, 16, and Ava, 6, is more than OK these days. Said Holly: “She’s amazing.”

“My sons think she’s famous,” said Tobi Breland, Aubrey’s aunt and a nurse practitioner at the Children’s Cancer Center housed

in Batson, said of her sons, Blair and Grant. “And she is. Around Oxford, everyone knows Aubrey.”

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning first met Aubrey in 2008 during a visit to Batson Children’s Hospital. Though Manning couldn’t attend in person, a video message from him to Aubrey was played at the champion announcement event.

“You know, I’m pretty good at recognizing when someone has what it takes to be a champion,” he said, “and when we met 10 years ago, I knew you had what it takes. I was not surprised to hear that you are this year’s Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Champion for Children’s of Mississippi. You are going to make a great champion.”

One of Aubrey’s physicians is Dr. Mark Reed, chief of the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology at UMMC. He also delivered a message for one of his favorite patients via a video played at the event.

“You are not only Miss Amazing,” said Reed, “but you are Miss Incredible, Miss Fabulous, Miss Marvelous and Miss Miraculous.”

Tannehill got to know Aubrey during a Buddy Walk in My

Shoes Initiative, following her to Oxford Middle School to learn how to make change at the school store and inviting her into her office at City Hall.

“That girl is a champion,” said Tannehill. “As a Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Champion, she will do what she does best: spread joy wherever she goes. Aubrey inspires me to find joy in the smallest things and to see opportunities instead of obstacles. She’s a rock star.”

Andrew Russell, a Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals specialist in UMMC’s Office of Development, said Aubrey has already been living the champion lifestyle, raising funds for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals by selling lemonade on Oxford’s downtown Square, participating in the events of 21 United, a Down Syndrome support group, and wearing the state Miss Amazing crown twice.

“Aubrey is truly amazing,” Russell said. “She is a huge ball of positive energy who doesn’t mind the spotlight. With her smarts and outgoing personality, she can just about talk to anyone and be their friend instantly. She is going to make a great champion for all kids treated at Children’s of Mississippi.”

Asylum Hill grant boosts mission to record descendants’ stories

UMMC

“King Cotton” lured John Benedict Whitfill from his life in Kentucky to the place he would die.

During the hard times of the Great Depression, he hauled his family and furniture in a Chevy truck to Mississippi, moving eventually to the Delta, where he expected to reap promised riches wrapped in cotton.

Instead, he harvested misery and malnutrition and a disease that put him in the Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane; there, he became one of the many nearly-forgotten patients buried on the grounds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, once occupied by the asylum that vanished like Whitfill’s dream.

Now, bolstered by a recently-awarded federal grant, the partners of the Asylum Hill Project, led by UMMC, are recovering those patients’ stories – for the sake of history and their descendants, including Whitfill’s grandson.

“For a long time, we didn’t know what had happened to our granddad,” said James T. Lee of Owensboro, Kentucky. “We had tried to find his body; our intention, at first, was to have him moved back to Kentucky, to the grave beside my grandmother.”

As participants in the oral history drive supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Lee and his brother Wayne Lee of Durham, North Carolina, have agreed to tell what they know about their grandfather.

The title of the undertaking, “Finding Community: Documenting Descendants of Mississippi State Lunatic Asylum Patients in History and Cultural Memory,” refers to the original name of the institution which operated from 1855 until 1935 – that is, until about three years after Whitfill’s death.



Asylum Hill graves excavation

NEH’s \$11,993 Common Heritage Grant is helping pay for, among other things, video recording equipment, scanners to reproduce historical documents and publicity to encourage descendants to weigh in.

“Community engagement is critical,” said Dr. Ralph Didlake, UMMC associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief academic officer, who assembled a band of experts and scholars to form the Asylum Hill Research Consortium.

The consortium has applied for another, larger NEH grant that could come through later this year, one that would fund the creation of a database and more information-gathering.

“Any money is big money in the humanities world,” said Didlake, who also directs the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, one of six consortium members representing the Medical Center.

“This grant is fabulous for the Asylum Hill Project.”

That venture is the province of the consortium formed to preserve and promote the asylum’s history. Made up primarily of many of Mississippi’s public uni-

versities and several community partners, privately-supported Millsaps College in Jackson has been a vital member as well.

It was Amy Forbes, Millsaps associate professor of history, who helped open the door for the grant.

“This all started with Amy,” Didlake said. “She led the way.”

Among the pages of the asylum’s official history, there is a “gap” that needs to be filled, said Forbes, who is also assistant director of archival material management with the Center for Bioethics and a UMMC associate professor for academic information services.

“Because the asylum closed in 1935, it’s unlikely we will talk to anyone with direct information about it, but descendants can tell us what they know from family lore and what it meant to them; they can help explain the asylum’s place in the state’s history.

“People seem to be eager to tell their stories. They’re curious about their ancestors. We need to reach them in every way we can. They want to get information and they want to share their information with us.”

Many will have the chance to

do that on two as-yet-undetermined dates this summer, when project participants will play host to a gathering of descendants to collect their histories, letters and other documents at Jackson State University’s Margaret Walker Center, another consortium member.

Several Millsaps students trained to take oral histories will be on hand.

Patients’ relatives may also contribute to, or pull information from, the Asylum Hill website managed by Lida Gibson, the assessment and research coordinator who is coordinating the oral history mission for UMMC.

“Between the descendants’ stories, asylum records, newspaper clippings and ancestry.com, it’s amazing what a detailed portrait we can put together of these patients who were often marginalized when they were alive,” Gibson said.

Already, she said, dozens of descendants have shown interest in this endeavor, including Lee, whose grandfather’s last name is also listed on some records as “Whitfield” – coincidentally, the name of a Rankin County town about 12 miles from Jackson; it is the home of Mississippi State Hospital: the asylum’s successor.

In the late 1920’s, John Whitfill, or Whitfield, and his family were living in western Kentucky, near a community whose name may have been inspired by a local asphalt mine and quarry: Tar Hill. The family tapped maple trees to make syrup and sugar Whitfill sold at nearby Leitchfield.

“They also raised corn, and they had a garden and a cow and, I guess, a hog and chickens,” said Lee, who learned all this from his mother.

“My granddad would hang out at the railroad depot to watch the trains and read the farmers’ magazines there. One of them talked

about ‘King Cotton’ and how much money you could make from it in Mississippi. That’s why he decided to go there.”

The family lingered a while in Tupelo before heading west to settle in Leflore County, near Itta Bena. That’s where Whitfill’s dad – Lee’s great-grandad – died and was buried, having moved there from Kentucky after his son sent for him.

“Times were bad and they were starving,” Lee said. “My granddad was worried about the kids; they came first, as far as getting to eat. So he ended up having pellagra.”

A vitamin deficiency resulting from malnutrition, pellagra can lead to delirium. “My granddad would say there were people outside who were coming to get him,” Lee said. “He was losing his mind.”

It appears that someone contacted the sheriff, Lee said. But Lee’s grandmother couldn’t read or write, so the oldest child had to sign the papers committing John Whitfill to the asylum: Lee’s mother.

“That always bothered her,” Lee said.

Whitfill entered the hospital in November and died about two months later, on Jan. 3, 1932. He was 56.

Over the years, Lee and his relatives tried to find out more about John Whitfill’s death. “We went to Whitfield around 1978 or so, because that’s where we thought he had been,” Lee said. “But the people there said they didn’t know where he was buried or what had happened to him.

“So I sent off for his death certificate. It said he died of pellagra. He was probably one of the last ones buried there in Jackson.”

By early 2013, a road construction project on the Medical Center’s northeast campus had uncovered dozens of coffins

that turned out to hold the remains of asylum residents. Later, a geophysical survey revealed that many more coffins lie underground and unmarked across some 20 acres of UMMC, which opened in 1955, 20 years after the asylum closed in Jackson.

The discovery of the graves led to the creation of the Asylum Hill Project, an initiative with many parts, including plans to place patient remains in UMMC’s Farmer’s Market facility, reclaim the burial sites for future land development, build a memorial to the patients and establish a field school with a long-term scientific and educational program.

Archaeologists believe that the remains of as many as 7,000 asylum residents are still buried on the Medical Center’s campus. The death certificates of more than 4,000 of these patients can be viewed online through a search engine provided by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History’s website.

Many, succumbed, officially, to pellagra, like Lee’s ancestor. Identifying him, or any one of the thousands of people buried near the former asylum site, would be difficult – something Lee has grown to realize.

As Didlake has pointed out before, the extent of the cemetery is still unknown; construction may have obscured some of the gravesites, so not everyone may be exhumed, although plans are to disinter as many as possible.

“We wanted to move my granddad back to Kentucky,” Lee said. For now, he and his family’s best hope is that his remains, like thousands of others, will be reburied and placed near the memorial.

“At least we would know he’s there. Maybe his name would be there somewhere, too.”

To participate in the Asylum Hill Project, contact Lida Gibson at lbjgibson@umc.edu.



CLASSIFIED

LEGAL	LEGAL	LEGAL
<p>Advertisement for Bid</p> <p>Bid 3087 Waste Dispos</p> <p>Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 12, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. 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 www.jackson.k12.ms.us.</p> <p>1/24/2019 1/31/2019</p>	<p>Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle</p> <p>Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.</p> <p>Vehicle Type: 2007 Buick UXL – Vin #1G4HD5726U133095 Registered to Robinson Dominique and Funches Car Nation, LLC, Lien Holder Date of Sale: 2/11/19 Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213 Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>1/24/2019 1/31/2019 2/7/2019</p>	<p>Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle</p> <p>Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale. Vehicle Type: 1998 Honda UEX - VIN #1HGCG1655WA064864 Registered to Aldairiah Adreanna TitleMax, Lien Holder Date of Sale: 2/11/19 Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213 Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.</p> <p>1/24/2019 1/31/2019 2/7/2019</p>

LEGAL	LEGAL	LEGAL
<p>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ON AIRPORT HOTEL DEVELOPMENT BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 7000-005-19 January 9, 2019</p> <p>The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Proposals (“Proposal”) from experienced firms for the design, construction and operation of an on-airport hotel at the Jackson Medgar-Wiley Evers International Airport (“JAN”).</p> <p>JMAA will receive Proposals at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 14, 2019 (the “Deadline”).</p> <p>JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Byrd, JMAA's Procurement Manager, as follows:</p>	<p>Jackson Municipal Airport Authority 100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208) Post Office Box 98109 Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109 Attention: Robin Byrd, Procurement Manager Telephone No.: (601) 360-8616 Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713 E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com</p> <p>or from JMAA's website at https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/</p> <p>Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter into negotiations to provide the Services. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.</p> <p>JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central</p>	<p>Standard Time on February 13, 2019, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Consultant for the Services and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference; and a detailed review of the scope of work. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.</p> <p>JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.</p> <p>JMAA has established a ACDBE participation goal of 15% for the Services solicited by this RFP.</p> <p>JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY</p> <p>1/10/2019, 1/17/2019, 1/24/2019, 1/31/2019, 2/7/2019</p>

LEGAL	LEGAL	LEGAL
<p>Invitations for Bid (IFB)#2019-01 Bus Stop Improvement Program</p> <p>The City of Jackson is seeking sealed bids from qualified firms for the Bus Stop Improvement Program: Site Design, Engineering and Project Management Services for Bus Shelters, Benches, Bust Stop Signs and Associated Improvements on a Multi-Year Contract.</p> <p>Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals, and any proposal addenda by emailing mguice@jacksonms.gov. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Please reference IFB#2019-01.</p> <p>Six copies of the offeror's Proposal together with a PDF file of the Proposal on a flash drive shall be deposited with the City of Jackson, Office of City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until Tuesday, February 26, 2019 by 3:30 pm, Central Standard Time (CST). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Submittals received after the specified date and time shall not be accepted.</p> <p>The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City as a pre- condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi.</p> <p>The City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering City of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.</p> <p>The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.</p> <p>1/17/2019 1/31/2019 2/14/2019</p>	<p>Request for Proposal (RFP) #2019-01 Mobile Surveillance Camera System</p> <p>The City of Jackson is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFPs) based on a firm fixed price basis to purchase, install, train, and maintain a new surveillance camera system for its fixed route and paratransit fleet.</p> <p>Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals, and any proposal addenda by emailing mguice@jacksonms.gov. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Please reference RFP#2019-01.</p> <p>Six copies of the Proposal together with a PDF file of the Proposal on a flash drive shall be deposited with the City of Jackson, Office of City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until February 26, 2019 by 3:30 pm Central Standard Time (CST). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Submittals received after the specified date and time shall not be accepted.</p> <p>The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. 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(Local Prevailing Time) March 1, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Lee Elementary School will be held at 330 Judy Drive, Jackson, MS 39212, on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Sykes Elementary School will be held at 3555 Simpson Street, Jackson, MS 39212, on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.</p> <p>Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.majordesignstudioplans.com. A \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each set of hardcopy bid documents and \$50.00 for digital set and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online proposal, please contact Plan House Printing at (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents, please contact Major Design Studio, PLLC, 414-1 Main Street, Columbus, MS 39701, Phone: 662-425-2485, Fax: 662-356-1460.</p> <p>1/31/2019, 2/7/2019</p>

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9				10		11			
12						13			
14				15	16		17		
			18			19			
	20	21							
22				23			24	25	26
27			28		29	30			
31					32				
33						34			

ACROSS

- Molecule
- Hobble
- Coke’s competitor
- Tyrant
- Thin flat strips
- Ranch guy
- Annex
- New England state (abbr.)
- Bomb
- Indian trading shells
- Warning
- That girl
- Large (abbr.)
- Dined
- Mexican money
- Fire remains
- Absent without leave
- Popular condiment
- Font
- Allows

DOWN

- Recess
- Inform
- Opaque gem
- Mountain Standard Time
- Limited (abbr.)
- Car manufacturer
- Woman
- Secondary
- Center of much political dispute
- Mental sights
- West Virginia (abbr.)
- Platinum (abbr.)
- Not crunchy
- Fable writer
- Quarrel
- Competent
- Examine
- Extremely long time periods
- Bullfight cheer
- Bad (prefix)

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Crossword Solution

A	T	O	M			L	I	M	P
P	E	P	S	I		T	S	A	R
S	L	A	T	S		D	U	D	E
E	L	L		R	I		Z	A	P
			W	A	M	P	U	M	
	C	A	V	E	A	T			
S	H	E		L	G		A	T	E
P	E	S	O		E	M	B	E	R
A	W	O	L		S	A	L	S	A
T	Y	P	E			L	E	T	S

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE,
ZT NA AWSKATT OOK IKZUBUQMA
WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT
NA RQTU PAHAK YOKIAU UCZU
THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION
UCA CBICATU ZSSKAFBZUBOP
IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT
BT POU UO QUUAK NOKMT VQU
TO LIVE BY THEM.
UO DBHA VL UCAR

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Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated celebrate Joint National Founders' Day 2019

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG

The Mississippi Link Newswire

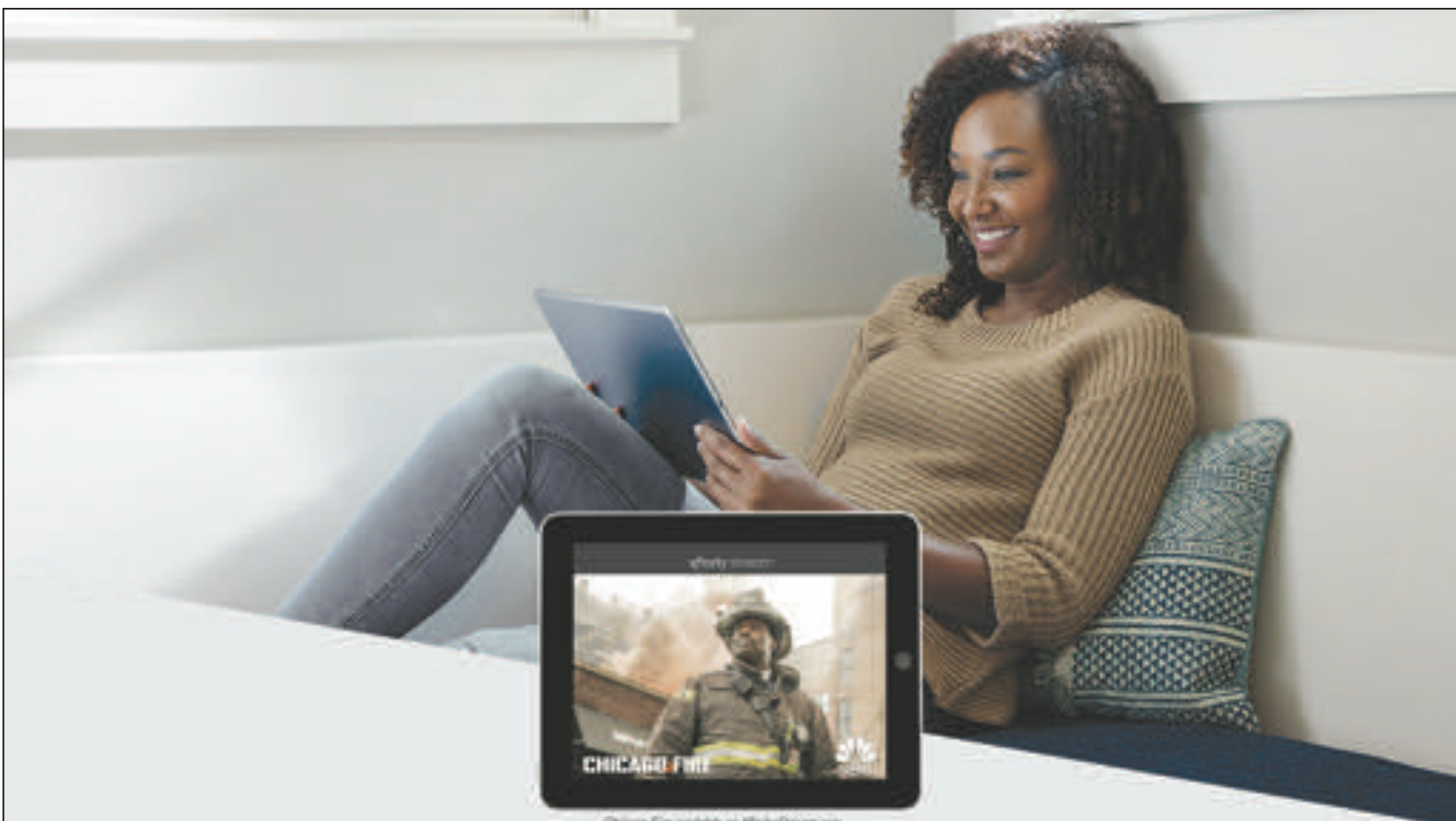
Carnations and roses nestled in a tapestry of royal blue and white set the stage as the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority came together to honor and celebrate the persons and principles of their respective organization. As the only constitutionally bound brother-sister Greek organization, it was an unprecedented celebration of the Blue and White Family Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the New Horizon Event Center.

Celebrating 105 years, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated was founded at Howard University in Washington, D. C. January 9, 1914 by three young African-American male students. The founders, Honorable A. Langston Taylor, Honorable Leonard F. Morse, and Honorable Charles I. Brown wanted to organize a Greek letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship and service.

Celebrating 99 years and looking to 2020 for its "Centennial" Year, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded January 16, 1920 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. by five coeds: Arizona Cleaver, Myrtle Tyler, Viola Tyler, Fannie Pettie and Pearl Neal. These women dared to depart from the traditional coalitions for black women and sought to establish a new organization predicated on the precepts of scholarship, service, sisterly love and finer womanhood.

Engaging the audience and addressing the theme of the Blue and White Family was the dynamic and mesmerizing Jonathan A. Mason Sr., founder and CEO of JAM Media Solutions, pastor of Northeast Baptist Church and 34th International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. Igniting the spirit of unity and telling the story of the Blue and White Family was the Sigma-Zeta Choir.

A special thank you to the efforts of the Jackson Metro area graduate chapters – Alpha Delta Zeta (Jackson), Tau Upsilon Zeta (Clinton), Mu Sigma (Jackson), Rho Iota Zeta (Mendenhall), Omega Tau Zeta (Brandon) – along with the collegiate chapters– Lambda Beta (JSU), Nu Beta (Tougaloo), Alpha Beta (JSU), Beta Rho (Tougaloo), Lambda Phi (Millsaps) for an inspiring and impressive Joint National Founders' Day Celebration.



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FILM REVIEW: MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

SAOIRSE RONAN PLAYS BELEAGUERED MONARCH IN FLAMBOYANT COSTUME DRAMA

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Mary Stuart (1542-1587) is a tragic figure whose life story does not naturally lend itself to the big screen. After all, despite being King James V's only legitimate offspring at the time of his death, she spent most of her childhood exiled in France and over 18 years of her adulthood imprisoned in England before being beheaded at the behest of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

But that hasn't discouraged filmmakers from periodically taking liberties with the facts in order to mount an entertaining, if fanciful, biopic about the ill-fated aristocrat.

Katharine Hepburn played Mary in a 1936 version directed by John Ford, while Vanessa Redgrave landed an Academy Award nomination for her rendition in a 1971 remake which netted a half-dozen Oscar nominations.

Now, Saoirse Ronan stars as the beleaguered queen in a visually-captivating costume drama marking the directorial debut of Josie Rourke. The movie is based on John A. Guy's 2004 biography, "Queen of Scots: The True Life of Mary Stuart," though the production seems less concerned with historical accuracy than with flamboyant hair and makeup.

You can forget about the book's assertion about being "true." For example, Mary and Elizabeth (Margot Robbie) never met in real life, yet this picture's climax revolves around their rendezvousing for a face-to-face showdown fabricated for dramatic effect. Equally disconcerting is that the film hypes female solidarity as a hot button issue, a glaring reminder of how a movie often tells you more about the period in which it was made than the one it is supposedly about.

Even if you're inclined to forgive all of the above, perhaps the picture's most annoying flaw is that it opens with the heroine's execution, and is then followed by a series of flashbacks leading back to Mary's demise. Why spoil the ending by assuming everyone in your audience is a history buff who knows how the story's going to turn out?

An anti-climactic overindulgence in pomp and pageantry designed for fans of British royalty.

Fair (1 star)

Rated R for violence and sexuality

Running time: 124 minutes

Production Companies: Focus Features / Working Title Films / Perfect World Pictures

Studio: Focus Features

To see a trailer for *Mary Queen of Scots*, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnqjSgMU36U>

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By Kam Williams
Columnist

For movies opening February 1, 2019

Wide Releases

Miss Bala (PG-13 for violence, profanity, sexuality, drug use and mature themes) English language remake of the 2011 Mexican action thriller about a makeup artist from L.A. (Gina Rodriguez) forced to survive by her wits south of the border after being kidnapped by a drug cartel while visiting her BFF (Cristina Rodlo) in Tijuana. With Anthony Mackie, Ismael Cruz Cordova and Thomas Dekker.

Independent & Foreign Films

Arctic (PG-13 for profanity and bloody images) Tale of survival about a man (Mads Mikkelsen) stranded near the North Pole who must decide between remaining with the helicopter

wreckage and embarking on a perilous trek back to civilization across the frozen tundra. With Maria Thelma Smaradottir.

The Least of These: The Graham Staines Story (PG-13 for mature themes and disturbing images) Stephen Baldwin plays the title character in this fact-based drama, set in rural India in the late nineties, about an Australian missionary burned alive while caring for and converting lepers to Christianity. Featuring Sharman Joshi, Shari Rigby and Manoj Mishra.

Piercing (R for profanity, nudity, bizarre violence and deviant sexuality) Horror comedy, adapted from Ryu Murakami's novel of the same name about a family man (Christopher Abbott) who decides to indulge a dark impulse while on a business trip by murdering a call girl (Mia Wasikowska) in his

hotel room. Cast includes Laia Costa, Wendell Pierce and Marin Ireland.

Velvet Buzzsaw (R for profanity, sexuality, nudity, violence and drug use) Suspense thriller, set in L.A., about a supernatural force that exacts revenge on the greedy purchasers of high-priced paintings by a mysterious, unknown artist. Ensemble includes Jake Gyllenhaal, John Malkovich, Toni Collette, Rene Russo, Daveed Diggs and Billy Magnussen.

The Wild Pear Tree (Unrated) Dysfunctional family drama about an aspiring writer (Dogu Demirkol) who returns home to his tiny village from Istanbul after graduating from college only to find himself forced to deal with his father's (Murat Cemcir) gambling debts. With Hazar Ergüçlü, Serkan Keskin and Benu Yildirimli. (In Turkish with subtitles)

Sudoku

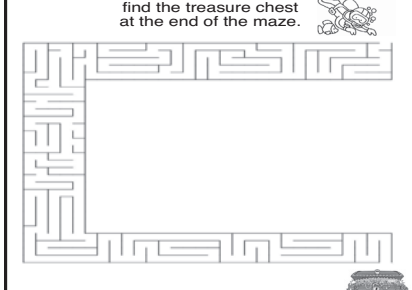
The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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

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Kidz Maze Mania

Help the scuba diver find the treasure chest at the end of the maze.



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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by John F. Kennedy

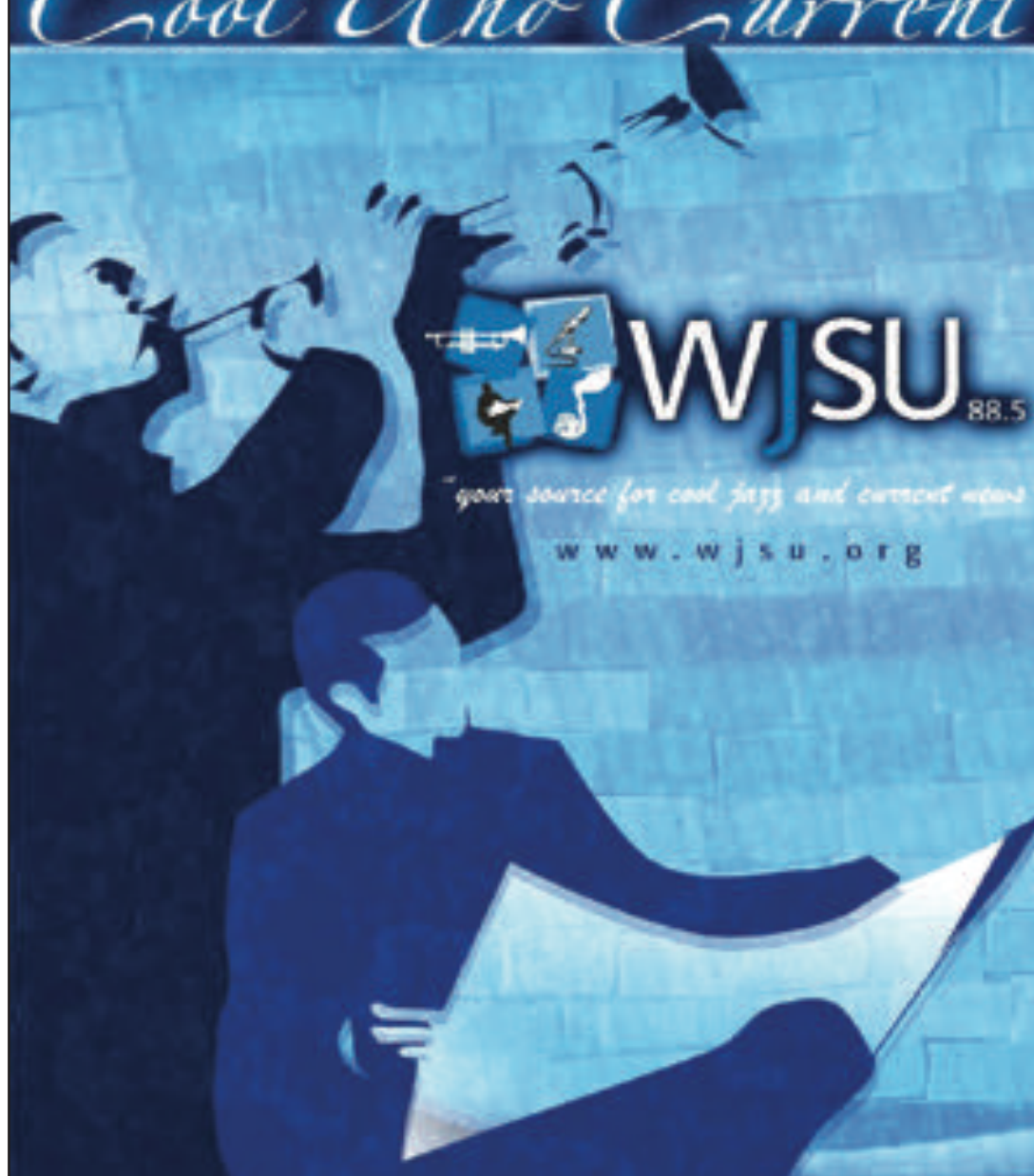
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

Cool And Current



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Perry

Continued from page 2

“Rosetta Miller Perry is ever acclaimed for all she did during Civil Rights with Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks [and others],” Henry said, prior to a video tribute that included congratulatory remarks from Nashville Mayor David Briley, Democratic U.S. Rep. James Cooper, Metro Nashville Public Schools Director Shawn Josephs and Tennessee State University President Glenda Glover.

A retired U.S. Navy officer and lawyer by trade, Perry has enjoyed much success over the past three decades as publisher of the *Tennessee Tribune*, a newspaper that reaches more than 150,000 people each week.

A graduate of Memphis State University, Perry recently was named among the Top 10 Most Powerful African Americans of 2018 by the *Nashville Voice*, a popular Music City publication.

Raised in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania – a melting pot of Russians, Polish, Italians, Greeks, African-Americans and others – during an era when steel was an important part of American manufacturing, Perry not only grew up near the Allegheny River, but spent her first four years on her aunt’s houseboat.

She’d become an avid reader of newspapers and magazines, particularly the Black Press where, since childhood, the *Pittsburgh Courier* was a personal favorite.

Perry has often said she noticed a trend in mainstream publishing towards sensationalism and a focus on crime and negative events, particularly as it related to black people.

“I knew as a young black woman it was something that could be corrected through ownership and control of our image, reporting and news coverage,” Perry said.

She and her husband, who counted as Tennessee’s first black gastroenterologist, founded Perry and Perry Associates in 1990.

After founding the *Tribune* to focus primarily on health, education and voter registration, Perry and her husband made a conscious decision not to spotlight crime, and to report positive events and focus on success stories and personalities in the black community. They did so without ignoring either the problems or the tough issues that minority communities face each day.

On the night she’s honored, Perry said she also was preparing for “a major announcement” involving the future of the *Tennessee Tribune*.

While she didn’t reveal specifics – only that the announcement will be made in Nashville Feb. 1 – Perry left with a promise. “I will always support my folks,” she said. “It’s not about me.”

HCCHS



HCCHS teacher Iftikar Azeem (left), HCCHS present and future AP Physics students, GTP tutor Brian Dolan (rear) and instructor Ravi Dutt with Raymond Pierce (center), the current president and CEO of the Southern Education Foundation



HCCHS physics instructor Ravi Dutt (left), student Tawanna Jefferson (center) and GTP Physics CEO Matt Dolan (right)



GTP Tutor Brian Dolan with Tawanna Jefferson and HCCHS students
PHOTOS COURTESY OF HCCHSD



GTP Tutor Brian Dolan with Tawanna Jefferson and HCCHS students



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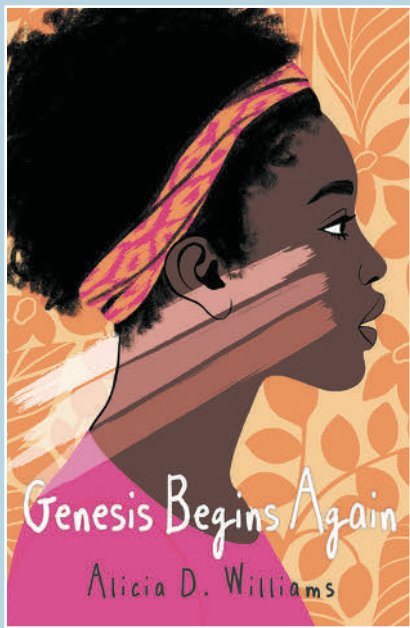
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BOOK REVIEW:

“GENESIS BEGINS AGAIN”

BY ALICIA D. WILLIAMS

C.2019, ATHENEUM BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 384 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Leave me alone.

That’s what you’d like to tell just about everybody right now: go away. Stop talking to me. Don’t fuss, quit fighting, put away those bad words. You’re done, so leave me alone. As in the new book “Genesis Begins Again” by Alicia D. Williams, life is much easier if you don’t rely too much on people who hurt you.

The Mean Girls at her old school were dumb.

Thirteen-year-old Genesis An-

derson had proof: the list they circulated was titled “100 REASONS WHY WE HATE GENESIS” but only sixty things were on the list and some were totally lame.

Whatever. Every now and then, Genesis added her own entries to the list.

She hated that she let Mean Girls get away with being mean. She hated herself because her dad drank too much and gambled with rent-paying money, so her family moved a lot. She hated having to stay with her grandma, however temporary it was each

time. Most of all, she hated her dark skin and her tangly-thick curls, and that she didn’t inherit her mother’s coffee-with-milk complexion and “good hair.”

She could’ve added that she hated having fake friends but, after yet another publicly humiliating home eviction, more promises from dad, and an upgraded rental, she’d first see if a new school and another fresh start made any difference.

Thankfully, as it turned out, things weren’t bad at Farmington Oaks Middle School, just outside Detroit. In the beginning, Gen-

esis kept to herself because there were Mean Girls there, too, but she was happy to see that most of the kids were nice. She began to make real friends, and she found her first BFF. She even liked her teachers, including the one who encouraged her talents as a singer.

But none of these positives changed Genesis’s view of herself as “ugly.” Dark skin, “nappy” hair, there had to be a way to fix it. Once she learned the secrets in her family, past and present, there was just no way she could accept herself as she

was...

Starting with an awkward situation with frenemies, author Alicia D. Williams introduces 9-to-13-year-olds to an observant, smart-but-typical kid with modern problems, including a kind of racism that’s not often discussed.

What ultimately happens is a shocker to the story, in part because we’re abruptly told the truth about some of the adults in Genesis’ life and though it explains a lot, it’s not pretty. We learn of this ugliness when she does, presenting an opportunity for readers to think about (and

deal with) topics that might be new or uncomfortable. Happily, it’s all done with the barest, mildest profanity and absolutely zero unnecessary drama.

Also nice for both you, and for your young reader: the friends Genesis makes are real-life-real, and adults in this book are portrayed without a hint of malice or ridicule.

For a middle-schooler, this book set in a middle-schooler’s life is perfect, especially if their life isn’t. Hand your child “Genesis Begins Again,” and she won’t be able to leave it alone.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District recognizes

parents from across the district

The Hinds County School District Board recently recognized each school’s Parents of the Year during its regular board meeting. Families, administrators, faculty, staff and friends attended the award ceremony to show their support to these parents.



District Group Pictured: Back Row L-R: Krystal Mason, BEEMS; Patricia Bryant, BMS; Larita Johnson, GRI; and Amber Uzzle, RES. Front Row L-R: Debra Cockrell, THS; Marshea Cooper, RHS; Dewartha Lollis, GRE; Shawna Butler, UEMS and Ashley Tall-Mack, CMS.

Ashley Tall-Mack named

Hinds County School

District Parent of the Year

Tall-Mack works diligently to provide support and services to new families attending Carver, Raymond Elementary, Raymond High and Bolton Edwards. She recognizes their needs and provides key information, recommendations, and or directions. Tall-Mack is a wonderful ambassador for the school. She assists faculty, students and staff with school supplies, seasonal decoration and cleaning supplies.



Tall-Mack

Highlights of the Recognition Program



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