


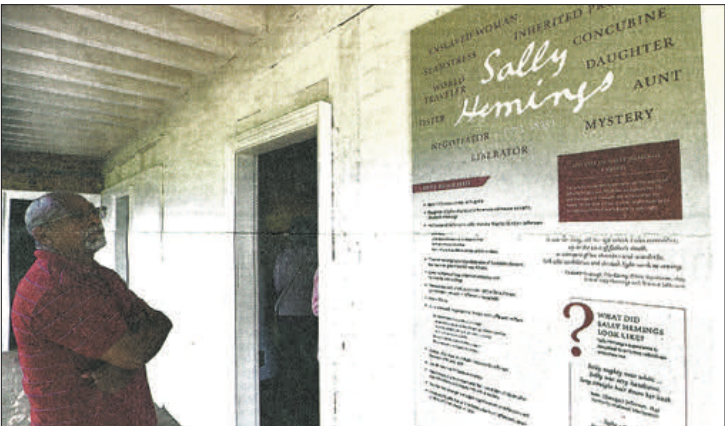
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“ People of color have a constant frustration of not being represented, or being misrepresented, and these images go around the world. ”

- Spike Lee



# Sallie Hemings First Lady



A 2018 exhibit at Monticello forthrightly stated Hemings’ relationship with Jefferson: the mother of six of his children. PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK / AP

By Evelia Jones  
Special to The Mississippi Link

It is now widely understood that my ancestor Sally Hemings, an enslaved black woman, was the intimate companion of Thomas Jefferson for nearly four decades. Monticello, the Virginia plantation operated as a museum by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, acknowledged as much with an exhibit last year: Hemings’ living quarters.

The exhibit presents as fact that Hemings gave birth to at least six of Jefferson’s children. Much about their relationship remains lost to history. We know that Hemings was Jefferson’s property, and that in America she did not have the right to refuse sexual advances from her owner. We also know that Hemings was able to negotiate freedom for her children and extraordinary privileges. For herself, and that she occupied a central place in Jefferson’s life.

Mainstream historians and the White House have long designated Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson as our country’s third

first lady. But Martha died in 1782, nearly two decades before Jefferson became president.

Hemings was with Jefferson from the late 1780s until his death in 1828. And although she didn’t live at the White House, Hemings bore three of Jefferson’s children during the years when he was president. For these reasons and others, it’s Sally Hemings, not Martha Wayles Skelton, who should be recognized as first lady.

This may seem a complex concept to wrap one’s mind around.

Here’s what we know about my family. In the 1730s, an English sea captain whose last name was Hemings conceived a child with an enslaved African woman. (Some historians speculate that the African woman’s name was Parthenk). The child, Elizabeth Hemings, became the property of a wealthy plantation owner named John Wayles. Wayles married three times. All three wives died relatively young, but not before bearing children. One of those children

**Hemings**  
Continued on page 3

# College Hill celebrates BHM



Asha Wilkerson

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Rev. C.J. Rhodes

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Like so many African-American churches, members of College Hill Baptist church consider every month Black History month; however, on February 21 C.J. Rhodes, pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church, helped the College Hill family celebrate BHM, with a presentation regarding a historical relationship between the black church and black colleges and universities.

Then, on Saturday night at its’ annual Heritage Banquet,

College Hill announced the winner of the Samuel L. Bailey Scholarship award and the recipient of its’ annual Black Achiever award.

Justin Coleman gave a history of the scholarship prior to Denise Griffin–Whittington presenting the awards. KeShawn Blackmon was the winner of a \$2000 cash scholarship. It was named in honor of the late Sam Bailey, who is known for his work in Mississippi for voter’s rights and race equality. Clay Morris and John Coleman Hall each received \$600 book

stipends. The guest speaker at this event was Asha Wilkerson, granddaughter of Sam Bailey.

Wilkerson passionately spoke about her grandfather as a civil rights worker during some of the most tumultuous times in Mississippi history. Wilkerson was pleased to receive a portrait of her grandfather presented by Druthie Bailey. It was a drawing by artist Gail Ghetts of College Hill.

The Black Achiever award was presented by Frank Yates. Mary Octavia Fisher, received the Black Achiever award.

Fisher is known for her work at College Hill serving in several ministries to include Girl Scouting, public relations and pastoral support. She is also a Sunday School teacher. Fisher volunteers her time and resources helping youth in the community by seeing that they attend church on a regular basis and makes certain they have books and clothes. for school and church. Margarette Meeks presided over the Saturday night event.

**College Hill**  
Continued on page 3



Spike Lee jumps on Samuel L. Jackson when he won Best Director Oscar. COURTESY OF A.M.P.A.S. / ABC

# Director Spike Lee wins first Oscar at 91st Annual Academy Awards

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Director Spike Lee, who was famously passed over for Best Film and Best Director for his 1992 film “Malcolm X,” won his first Oscar at the 91st Annual Academy Awards.

Wearing a purple suit and hat and seated in the front row at the Dolby Theatre on Hollywood

Boulevard in Los Angeles, Lee was nominated for two Oscars: Best Adaptive Screenplay for “Blackkkklansman,” and for Best Director of the same film.

Though Lee did not win for Best Director for “Blackkkklansman,” the evening featured a great deal of diversity as the director of the film “Roma,” Alfonso Cuarón, was awarded for Best Director.

Lee’s production company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks, has produced over 35 films since 1983. Lee, 61, has created several memorable films including, “She’s Gotta Have It” (1986), “School Daze” (1988), “Do the Right Thing” (1989), “Mo’ Better Blues” (1990), “Jungle Fever”

**Lee**  
Continued on page 3





# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## Hinds County School District will host its 2019 Job Fair March 2nd

Hinds County School District announces the 2019 Job Fair Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. The event will take place at Byram Middle School, 2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd., Byram, MS 39170. Candidates attending the 2019 Job Fair will be able to speak with district administrators and contracted employers. The goal of the event is to showcase all schools in the district and provide an opportunity for candidates to apply in-person.

HCSD will be seeking to hire all positions, including Certified Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Substitute Teachers, Bus Drivers, Custodians and Food Service Workers. To view a list of all open positions at HCSD and to apply online, visit [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us). Should you have questions, please contact HCSD Human Resources Department at 601-857-5222.



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# JOB FAIR

## March 2, 2019

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# Black History Month Quiz

## Test Your Knowledge

1. Who is known as the father of Black History Month?

a. Martin Luther King Jr.  
b. Booker T. Washington  
c. Thurgood Marshall  
d. Dr. Carter G. Woodson
2. The first Black mayor of a major American city was:

a. Tom Bradley (Los Angeles)  
b. Maynard Jackson (Atlanta)  
c. Carl Stokes (Cleveland)  
d. Harold Washington (Chicago)  
e. None of the above
3. Baseball legend Jackie Robinson famously broke baseball's color barrier in 1947 while playing for which team?

a. Brooklyn Dodgers  
b. Boston Red Sox  
c. Cleveland Indians  
d. Detroit Tigers
4. Legislation to restrict the movement and freedom of freedmen was enacted in 1865 in Mississippi and was known as:

a. Black Rules  
b. Negro Restriction  
c. Black Papers  
d. Black Codes  
e. None of the above
5. What are the names of the first Black actor and actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actor and Best Actress?

a. Denzel Washington (2001) and Halle Berry (2001)  
b. Cuba Gooding Jr. (1996) and Jennifer Hudson (1996)  
c. James Earl Jones (1970) and Hattie McDaniel (1939)  
d. Sidney Poitier (1963) and Halle Berry (2001)
6. Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black person to win a Pulitzer Prize, won the prize for her book:

a. Jubilee  
b. Soul on Ice  
c. Annie Allen  
d. The Fire Next Time  
e. None of the above

### College Hill

Continued from page 1

The presentation by Rhodes took place Wednesday night in the Family Life Center. This event was sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry. It didn’t take long for Rhodes to dive into his presentation after an icebreaker from church member Lenora Reed challenging the attendees to name at least 25 historical-ly black churches in 3 minutes. Church member Lenita Knight named 26.

Rhodes was introduced by Michael T. Williams, pastor of Col-lege Hill. Even though he stated there are more than 100 his-torically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the nation, Rhodes said there are six in Mississippi. His presentation focused mainly on the four colleges started before reconstruction with religious backgrounds.

Rust, which was started in 1866 was affiliated with the United Methodist Church; Tougaloo, founded in 1869 was affiliated with the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ; Alcorn was established in 1871 on the grounds of a former white Presbyter-ian church and Jackson State University, founded in 1877 by a genesis of a black seminary. The other two HBCU’s in Missis-sippi include Hinds Community College and Mississippi Valley State University, founded after reconstruction.

College Hill, currently under construction of a new sanctuary, is located at 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson, MS.

*See pictures on page 19.*

### Lee

Continued from page 1

(1991) and “Malcolm X” (1992).

When Best Actor nominee Denzel Washington, who starred in “Malcolm X,” lost to Al Pacino for his performance in “Scent of A Woman” it was considered one of the biggest snubs in Oscars his-tory. Overall, “Malcolm X” won no ma-jor awards.

“It was so funny and so horrifying because it was based on the truth and truth is so precious these days,” said legendary singer and film director, Bar-bra Streisand, as she introduced Lee’s film “Blackkkklansman,” at the Academy Awards.

Though Lee was born in Atlanta, he was raised in New York and has made Brooklyn, NY his hometown.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an indepen-dent journalist and writer for NNPA as well as a political analyst and strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke*

### Hemings

Continued from page 1

was Martha Wayles. After his third white wife died, John Wayles took as a concubine” his black slave Elizabeth Hemings, also known as Betty. He fathered six children with Betty Robert, James, These, Critta, Peter and Sally. (Yes that’s correct, Sally Hemings was the half-sister of MarthaWay-les Skelton, Jefferson’s white wife.).

Martha Wayles Skelton married her third cous-in Thomas Jefferson in 1772, the year before Sally was born. Together, Martha and Thomas Jefferson had six children. When John Wayles died, Jefferson inherited his property and slaves, including Sally, who then moved to Monticello as a toddler.

After 10 years of marriage, Martha died. Only two of Martha’s children with Jefferson survived into adulthood (Martha ‘Patsy” Jefferson and Ma-rie Jefferson ). By the time Martha died, Jefferson had served in the Virginia Home of Delegates and as governor of Virginia. He was elected to Con-gress the following year.

The year after that, 1784, he moved to Paris,

where he would serve as U.S. minister to France. Three years into what would be a five-year stay in Paris, Jefferson sent for his daughter Polly. (Pat-sy, the older of the two daughters, was already there.) Jefferson’s sister-in-law chose Sally, now 14 years old, to accompany Polly to France.

In Paris, Polly and Patsy lived mostly at a pres-tigious convent where they attended school, the Abbaye Royale de Panthemont. Sally lived at Jefferson’s residence, the Hotel De Langeac, and worked as a domestic servant and maid. It was during this period that Sally became Jefferson’s concubine, according to the published recollec-tions of their future son, Madison Hemings.

After two years, Jefferson was preparing to re-turn to America. According to Madison’s account, Sally refused to return with him; in France, she was free. Sally agreed to return only after nego-tiating freedom for her future children. (It is not known if Sally tried to negotiate for her own per-sonal freedom.)

“In consequence of his promises, as Madison

put it, Sally returned to Virginia 1789, pregnant with Jefferson’s child. The child “lived but a short time, Madison said. Sally bore at least five more children with Jefferson, including Madison, who was named after future president James Madison at the request his wife, Dolley.

Jefferson never publicly acknowledged his re-lationship with Sally. But a political journalist, James T. Callender, exposed their relationship during Jefferson’s presidency in an article for a Richmond newspaper that was republished wide-ly, from Maine to Georgia. There is also evidence that John Adams may have gossiped about Jef-ferson and Hemings.

Jefferson freed Sally’s four surviving children, per their agreement. All four children were light-skinned, and three of them lived as members of white society as adults. The Jefferson-Hemings line includes many notable figures. Madison’s grandson Frederick Madison Roberts, who grew up in Los Angeles, became the first black member of the California Legislature. He served 18 years.

After more than two centuries of willful col-lective ignorance about Jefferson and Hemings, it might sound far-fetched to suggest that she ought to be designated as first lady. But our country was populated through precisely this sort of racial mixing – sexual relationships that, it bears repeat-ing, enslaved people such as Hemings did not choose for themselves. Her story is the American story.

Evelia Jones, a direct descendant of Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson, was a teacher in Los Angeles for 34 years. She wrote this piece with Harvey Wasserman, whose book, “Life & Death Spiral of U.S. History,” will be published in April.

Evelia Jones was born to the former JSU head of the art department, Lawrence A. Jones and art professor Maria L. Jones in Jackson, Mississippi.

She attended the JSC Lab School, Holy Ghost Middle School, Jim Hill High School and named the JSU Sonic Boom of the South while on its first J-Settes lineup.


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*Martin Wright Edelman, President of Children's Defense Fund*

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## IN MEMORIAM: Russell Bertrand Sugarmon Jr. – civil rights ‘giant’

By Dr. Sybil C. Mitchell  
Special to The New Tri-State Defender

Tributes to civil rights “giant” and attorney, Russell Bertrand Sugarmon Jr. flooded the Internet Monday as news spread quickly of his death.

One of the most touching tributes came from his daughter, Elena DeCosta Williams, who took to Facebook to express her love and admiration.

“To the world, he was Judge Russell B. Sugarmon Jr. To me, he was dad. He was a tireless civil rights warrior who fought for equality and humanity throughout Tennessee and across the Nation.”

Sugarmon, 89, was one of a group of African Americans who made the first serious bid for a major city office in Memphis, opening the door for future black leaders. He became the second African American elected to the Tennessee General Assembly after Reconstruction as a state representative.

As a member of the Memphis Branch NAACP, Sugarmon was instrumental in using the law to fight legal battles to desegregate public transportation, schools and restaurants.

A graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Rutgers University and Harvard Law School, he became a judge in 1987 and was re-elected numerous times.

State Rep. G.A. Hardaway,



Judge Russell Sugarmon (center) with U of M President Shirley Raines (left) and Black Student Association President Desmond Robinson. Photo by Glen Yaun/TSD archives

chairman of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators said, “Judge Sugarmon’s accomplishments obviously make him a Memphis icon. But in addition to all of the career accolades, it should be noted what an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, friend and human being he was.

“Everything he stood for in his public life, he also demonstrated in his private life,” Hardaway said. “Russell Sugarmon was a humble, kind and good man. The members of Tennessee Black Caucus are grateful for the generation of giants of conviction, advocacy and activism that made it possible for us to serve today.”

Colleague and long-time,

personal friend, Mike Cody, remembered Sugarmon as “a strong Democratic power broker and civil rights giant.”

“I met Russ in 1960 when he came to work for Birch Porter & Johnson. He was chairman of the Democratic Party back in those days. Back then, he and A.W. Willis were a team. They, along with Ben Hooks, broke down so many walls of segregation.”

Cody, former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, said Mr. Sugarmon left his mark on this city “as well as all of us. And I tell you, this city owes a great debt of gratitude for his contributions toward making us all better.”

Congressman Steve Cohen

released a statement Monday afternoon, saying, Mr. Sugarmon was a political genius who “guided many campaigns to victory and always fought the good fight. He worked tirelessly even when victory wasn’t in the cards and kept the faith, knowing that it would be down the line.

“Russell Sugarmon was one of the most learned people on politics and history in our community,” Cohen noted, referring to Sugarmon as a mentor, supporter and friend. “His influence cannot be overstated. Collaborations with a biracial group of Memphians and his progressive leadership has made Memphis the city it is today.”

Painting a picture

In 1946, Sugarmon graduated from Booker T. Washington High School at age 15. Drawing upon his online biography, this fuller picture emerges:

Sugarmon was born May 11, 1929, the year of America’s stock market crash, in Memphis to Russell and Lessye Hank Sugarmon. He grew up in South Memphis and attended Co-Operative Grammar School.

After graduating from BTW, he attended Morehouse College for one year. He received an A.B. in political science from Rutgers University in 1950. In 1953 he received a law degree from Harvard Law School and attended Boston University’s Graduate School of Finance.

He practiced as an attorney in Memphis in the firm Ratner, Sugarmon, Lucas, Willis and Caldwell. In 1959, Sugarmon ran for public works commissioner, the first African American in Memphis to run for a major city office.

According to the biography, the outgoing commissioner, Henry Loeb, forced most of the other candidates to withdraw from the election, so as not to split the white vote among several candidates. Bill Ferris, the only white man remaining on the ballot, won the post.

Sugarmon served in the Tennessee House of Representatives as a Democrat from the

11th District from 1967 to 1969.

Sugarmon’s son, Tarik B. Sugarmon, is a Memphis City Court judge who in 2014 ran for Memphis-Shelby County Juvenile Court, and presently serves as the Division Two Judge in Memphis Municipal Courts.

Taking note of “one of the greatest civil rights leaders,” Memphis Branch NAACP President Deidre Malone said Sugarmon was “a major supporter of the NAACP. He spent a great deal of his time in court, before he became a judge, working to get NAACP Memphis Branch members out of jail.

“Judge Sugarmon has left a legacy for public service for others to follow,” Malone said. “He will be missed. We offer condolences and prayers to the Sugarmon family.”

Sugarmon’s daughter completed her online tribute to her father with this:

“To me, he was the man who looked down on a 12-year-old little girl with braces, glasses and pimples and told her she was beautiful. He was the man who held me when I cried, whose eyes lit up whenever I walked into the room, who always made me feel like a shining star in his eyes. I wish every little girl could have a father as sweet and wonderful and kind as the one I was blessed with.”

## Bridgeford wins 3rd place in MDE’s Reading Fair

Mississippi Link Newswire

Reading truly is fundamental; just ask Le’Baudrio Bridgeford.

On Feb. 26, the Williams-Sullivan Elementary fifth-grader won third place in the Individual Literary Fiction category, Division D, of the Mississippi State Department of Education (MDE) Reading Fair.

Held in Jackson, the MDE’s Reading Fair attracts scores of participants from around the state. More than 90 students participated in the 21st Annual state level Reading Fair at the Mississippi School for the Deaf. Students must place first at the school, district and regional levels to make it to the state level that is held in February of each year.

“This young man is one of

our many bright and talented scholars,” said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, Ed.D. “I am also told that he is a great critical and analytical thinker who has achieved many accolades.”

Bridgeford won 1st place in the Holmes County Consolidated School District’s Science Fair December 6, 2018. He will compete in the Regional Science Fair next month.

In 2013, young Bridgeford was a leading school-ready graduate of the Community Students Learning Center’s (CSLC) Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program. He is the son of Ricky and Betty Bridgeford of Durant, Miss.



Bridgeford

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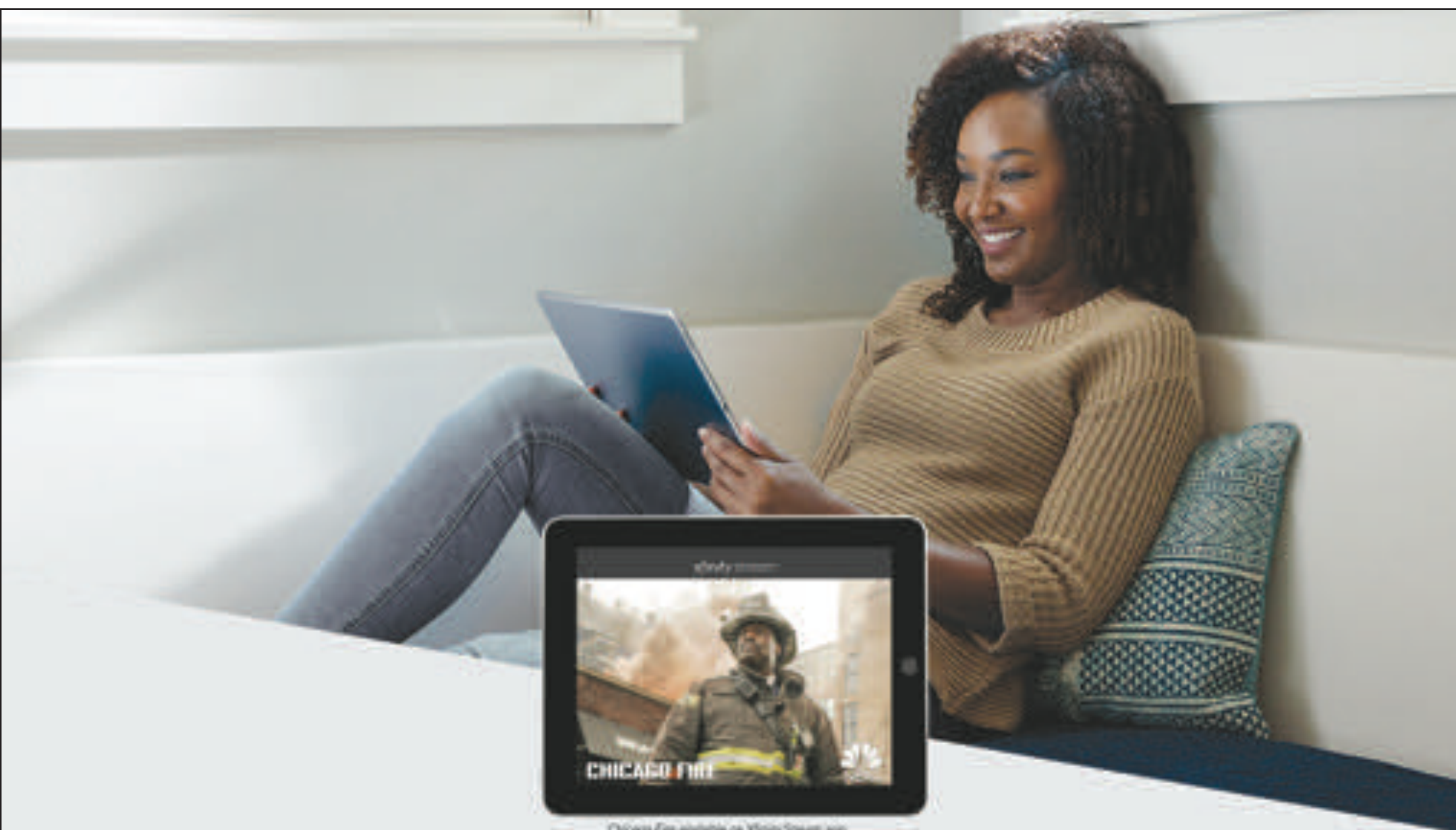
All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds, County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time within **15** days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467.

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# Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Hardwood Heroes for basketball

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

These are the 2018-2019 Hardwood Heroes of the Week for basketball. One of these players will be selected to receive \$1,800 to be donated in their name to their school's basketball program.

Hardwood Hero of the Week is sponsored by WJMI 99 Jams, Circle B and Monogram



Damarion Arrington



Marc (Ken) Evans



Keshuna Luckett



Mason Manning



Geonna Marshall



Keondre Montgomery



Ro'Darien Pendleton



Daeshun Ruffin



Earl Smith



Timisha Smith

November 12	Keshuna Luckett	Lanier High School (Girls)
November 19	Earl Smith	Lanier High School (Boys)
November 26	Daeshun Ruffin	Callaway High School (Boys)
December 3	Keshuna Luckett	Lanier High School (Girls)
December 10	Mason Manning	Murrah High School (Boys)
December 17	Keondre Montgomery	Forest Hill High School (Boys)
December 24	Geonna Marshall	Forest Hill High School (Girls)
December 31	Ro'Darien Pendleton	Provine High School (Boys)
January 7	Daeshun Ruffin	Callaway High School (Boys)
January 14	Marc (Ken) Evans	Forest Hill High School (Boys)
January 21	Damarion Arrington	Wingfield High School (Boys)
January 28	Timisha Smith	Murrah High School (Girls)
February 4	Daeshun Ruffin	Callaway High School (Boys)
February 11	Keshuna Luckett	Lanier High School (Girls)
February 11	Marc (Ken) Evans	Forest Hill High School (Boys)

## JPS Student-Athletes Participate In Districtwide Signing Day Event

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Jackson Public Schools had 12 student-athletes to announce their college commitments at its Districtwide signing ceremony held on National Signing Day February 6, 2019. Breland Speaks, a 2014 graduate of Callaway High School who just completed his rookie year with the Kansas City Chiefs, came home to deliver the Words of Encouragement for the ceremony. The signees accepted scholarships to play their preferred sport at the next level.

Though they did not announce their college commitments, three students were recognized as WAPT Blitz 16 BankPlus Scholar Athletes. Rodreikus Bush plays basketball and runs track at Forest Hill High School. Ruben Banks of Jim Hill participates in golf and judo. Trevon Rodgers plays football and runs track at Murrah High School. The WAPT Scholar Athlete award recognizes the top high school athletes in the Jackson metro area for their hard work in the classroom and in the field of athletic competition.

### Callaway

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Football/Chadwick Germany	Justin Manning	Hinds Community College
Football	Lakenith Thompson	Co-Lin Community College
Football	Greg White	Alcorn State University

### Jim Hill

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Football/Desmond Dixon	Jacquell Honer	Jackson State University
Baseball/Samuel Campbell	Jordan Holt	Mississippi Delta Community College

### Lanier

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Basketball (Girls)/Jonas James	Tamia Brown	Hinds Community College
Basketball (Girls)	Keshuna Luckett	Jackson State University

### Murrah

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Football/Damien Gary	Jalen Bracy	Jackson State University
Soccer (Boys)/Renaldo Milsap	Torenzo Williams	Meridian Community College

### Provine

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Football/Tim Wilson	Patrick Johnson	Jackson State University
Football	De'Monte Russell	Mississippi State University

### Wingfield

Sport/Head Coach	Name	Institution
Boys Basketball/Spencer Gatlin	Stephon Thomas	Hinds Community College

## JPS Geography Crusader named 2019 Mississippi Geographic Alliance Travel Fellow



Leggette

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Sylvia Leggette of Jackson Public Schools has been named a 2019 Travel Fellow of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance. She will travel to Ethiopia with the Global Exploration for Educators Organization. The non-profit is dedicated to showing teachers the world and helping them share their experiences with students and colleagues when they return.

From her expedition, Leggette hopes to bring back lesson plans on the amazing lifework of John C. Robinson. Robinson was an African-American aviator who fought with the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force against Fascist Italy in the 1930s. He was also considered the father of the Tuskegee Airmen for his contributions to the aviation programs he began at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in the early 1940s.

Leggette is a true crusader for geography education in the Jackson Public School District. She helped to establish a National Geographic Society partnership that launched in JPS in the fall of 2018. The project includes professional development for teachers and resources for middle school classrooms.

Leggette has worked in the Jackson Public School District in numerous capacities for 20 years including as a technology resource specialist, a grants manager and a library media specialist. She is currently the instructional technology specialist for the district. She is a teacher consultant with the Mississippi Geographic Alliance, a member of the MGA Steering Committee, a Google Certified Educator, a Master Teacher of Economics and Entrepreneurship, A National Geographic Certified Educator, and a member of the editorial board for the national journal, The Geography Teacher.

The Mississippi Geographic Alliance aims to increase the use of geospatial technologies in Mississippi classrooms by giving teacher leaders the knowledge needed to start building more technological capacity at the state level.

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## The Mississippi Link™

### Volume 25 • Number 19

February 28 - March 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](mailto:editor@mississippilink.com); Please visit our website at: [www.mississippilink.com](http://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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# Alcorn, Mississippi State partner in poultry science

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University have partnered to launch a dual degree program.

Alcorn Interim President Donzell Lee and MSU President Mark E. Keenum recently signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the program that will allow students to earn bachelor's degrees from both universities, at the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning in Jackson, Mississippi.

With this new program, Alcorn students can complete 91 hours toward a Bachelor of Science in agriculture science with a focus in animal science. Students can then transfer to Mississippi State to complete the remaining 31 hours in coursework for a Bachelor of Science in poultry science at MSU.

Upon completion of the MSU coursework, students will graduate from both institutions with two bachelor's degrees.

Lee said this partnership is a great opportunity for both institutions.

"I am delighted about the partnership," Lee said. "Working together, ASU and MSU will have a great impact on one of the largest industries in the state by creating a pipeline of competent individuals who can jump right into leadership positions."



Keenum said the new program would provide a range of benefits for both students and the poultry industry, the state's largest agricultural enterprise topping \$3 billion in value last year alone.

"This is an opportunity for two leading land-grant institutions to work together to prepare even more professionals and leaders for one of our state's most important industries," Keenum said. "Mississippi State offers one of only six poultry science programs in the nation, and

our graduates have a 100 percent job placement rate, with many of them considering multiple offers."

Marketing the program at Alcorn is the first step for program administrators this spring, and the colleges hope to start gaining students to the program by fall 2019. Students in the dual degree program will apply to MSU as transfer students and meet admission requirements. A component of the MSU curriculum includes an internship at a poultry processing plant during the summer.

# HCCHS's first National Honor Society (NHS) Chapter inducts 55 'cream of the crop'



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Congratulations are in order for the history-making inductees of the Holmes County Central High School's (HCCCHC) first chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Fifty-five straight-A students of the rural high school participated in the first chapter's premiere induction ceremony, February 14.

The National Honor Society (NHS), established in 1921, is the nation's premier organization to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character. Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in NHS activities. Chapters exist in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. (NHS.org).

In congratulating the students and their parents during her keynote speech, Principal Adrienne Griffin, Ed.D., hailed the students as the "future leaders of Holmes County." Griffin also shared some valuable advice from her grandmother, a retired teacher: "My dearest Adrienne, if you are to attain, you must toil." Griffin said those words were written beneath a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow quote sent to her while she was in college.

Longfellow's quote, found in the poem The Ladder of St. Augustine states: "The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in through the night."

Following the event, the principal

of the 800-plus student high school commented that "our students who were honored have put in the work, and this is a reward for their hard work. They are the cream of the crop. We are very proud of them. I challenge them to continue to shine."

Many of the students commented that they were proud of themselves, as well. "It feels like a true honor; I feel I have accomplished so much," said Kendal Garnett. She said her effort to keep her A average includes good study habits, sacrifices and "not doing some of the things that most kids do – maintaining myself in a certain range."

Sherita Tillman said she constantly goes over her work and keeps her mind off of negative things when she studies. "This honor makes me feel smart," she said.

English teacher Lorene Haymer said the school's NHS Chapter evolved as a result of a discussion she and her colleagues had about the fact that the school did not have a chapter. They went to their principal, then contacted the NHS and got the ball rolling. Requirements and eligibility for membership in the HCCHS Chapter include the following: All applicants have to be registered with NHS and complete a lengthy application consisting of teacher references, community service requirements, and an official transcript that reflects the current grade point average (GPA). Initially, students are required to maintain all As, which is a 4.0 GPA. However, to remain in NHS, seniors must maintain 3.80 or above, Juniors 3.75 or above, and Sophomores 3.50 or above. All students must complete all community service requirements.

## Inductees

1. Zakiya Brooks
2. Amauria Mitchell
3. Jarie Brice
4. Treneyce Turner
5. Kania Turner

6. Kendal Garnett
7. Kyleah Chambers
8. Zanashia Hawkins
9. Rabria Moore
10. Shakayla Hester
11. Shakenya Hester
12. Sarah Burch
13. Asianay Fisher
14. Derica Junior
15. Eriyonna Redmond
16. Cameron Keys
17. Detrayvious Frizell
18. Kamiya Brownlow
19. Kaitlyn Kimbrough
20. Alicia Jefferson
21. Brea Portis
22. Dennis Thurmond
23. Ashayla Webster
24. Aja Webster
25. Brittany Huggins
26. Elissa Stewart
27. Sherita Tillman
28. Zamiya Mike
29. Lillian Lewis
30. Xavier Black
31. Vashanti Pate
32. Theo Hudson
33. Morgan Morris
34. Rayla Thompson
35. Christian Davis
36. Kayla Redmond
37. Kristen Ellis
38. Kersten Ellis
39. Jaquan Green
40. Samantha Deering
41. Shandrea Whitten
42. Shondrea Simmons
43. Miltetona Gray
44. Carleigh Andrews
45. Tabrelle Deering
46. Ta'kyaa Brown
47. Nick Horton
48. Tamia Anderson
49. Keishyah Rule
50. Mieshia Clay
51. Madison Pickett
52. Arena Smith
53. Tempress Mines
54. Makiya Baker
55. Kaylen Williams

# Scholarship programs available to qualified Mississippi students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A-1 Auto Transport, a top car shipping company operating in Mississippi is looking to award scholarships to eligible students in the state. These scholarships may value at \$250, \$500 or \$1,000. Any student with a GPA of 3.0 in Mississippi or higher is qualified for the scholarship as long as they're enrolled at an accredited college, high school or logistics program. All awarded scholarship money is sent right to the financial office of the accredited institute where the student.

To enter the scholarship program, qualified students must submit an essay of at least 1,000 words. All essays undergo a plagiarism check and mustn't be found published elsewhere online. A-1's Scholarship Committee will review all submissions. Examples of essay topics students may use include:

- Moving long distance
- Motorcycle shipping
- International car shipping
- Auto transport services
- Freight shipping

- Enclosed or open-air shipping methods

- Door to door vehicle delivery
- The process of shipping classic cars
- Moving overseas

Submissions are accepted until March 10, 2019. All participating students can refer to A-1 Auto Transport's website at the end of March 2019 to check for winners. Winners are also notified by email. A-1's Scholarship Committee will choose the winners and all scholarship awards will be sent directly to the financial offices of each student.

The scholarships will be available for year 2020 as well and all students who miss the March 10 deadline will be entered into the 2020 draw

To enter, students may submit their essay along with their name, email address, phone number, school name, and mailing address to [scholarships@a1autotransport.com](mailto:scholarships@a1autotransport.com)

To learn more about the A-1 scholarship program, visit <http://www.a1autotransport.com/a-1-auto-transport-scholarship/>

# Eastside PTO adds committee to support Clinton Alternative School



Clinton Alternative School teacher Karen Colvin displays a Christmas gift and snacks from the Eastside Elementary School PTO during the CAS holiday party in December.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Clinton Alternative School has a small enrollment and a dozen faculty and staff. It does not have any booster clubs or a Parent Teacher Organization.

"Many families rely on the services we offer at Clinton Alternative School, and these teachers and staff are very dedicated, hard-working people," said Tim Martin, superintendent. "For many years, the PTOs at other schools have supported Clinton Alternative as they could with monetary donations and teacher hospitality."

Beginning this school year, the Eastside Elementary PTO made sure that support is always in place by adding a permanent committee dedicated to CAS.

"We know they need help every year," said Eastside PTO President Tammie Stephens. "I talked to (Eastside Principal Cindy Hamil) and told her I thought we should create a committee devoted to just the Alternative School, and it would function just like our Eastside Hospitality Committee. She loved the idea so we got started."

Enrollment at CAS fluctuates depending on how many students are referred there at any given time in the school year. There are currently 37 students enrolled.

"We are extremely grateful to all our PTOs for their monetary donations to our school," said Amanda Durst, CAS teacher. "It helps weekly with rewards for our students who have met or exceeded their goals and expectations for

the week. Without their support it would be a challenge, at best, to find ways to motivate our students to succeed."

Durst said when the Eastside PTO committee visited CAS earlier this school year, several PTO members stayed and visited with each of the CAS teachers and staff.

"It's more than just sending something to our staff, it's their time and support that means the most," Durst said.

Traditionally, each school's PTO contributes to a CAS fund overseen by the Clinton Junior High PTO. Each school PTO also chooses a month during the school year to provide teacher hospitality to CAS faculty.

"Going forward, the Alternative School will know that Eastside has December and April, Christmas gifts and treats throughout the year," Stephens said. "We also gave \$200 this year, and we will include that in our budget every year now along with money to purchase items for the lunches twice a year."

The committee is planning a spring event in April and has arranged for coffee once a month from Cafezinho and doughnuts from Donut Palace.

"Our December treat for them went over really well," said Jessica Slade, committee chairwoman. "You could tell it was a new thing and that they were not used to that kind of special treatment."

Slade said the committee is planning a special treat for the CAS teachers in April, and will include them in Teacher Appreciation Week in May.



“Heather fosters a spirit of excellence in all that she does. She is both a leader and team player who believes in the purpose and mission of higher education,” says Cohen. Heather and people like her are an extraordinary asset to JSU and the city of Jackson.”



## Mississippi State Hospital, Hudspeth Center honor Butler



Pictured are (l to r) Hudspeth Assistant Director Tim Drane, Hudspeth Unit Director Toni Moore, Sen. Albert Butler and MSH Clinical Director Robert Maddux.

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Sen. Albert Butler, District 36, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds

and Jefferson Counties, was one of the attendees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center. The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those

Mississippians served through them.

Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

## Mississippi State Hospital Employee of the Month Angie Ware

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

Angie Ware has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Ware, a Pickens native who now lives in Canton, is a Mental Health recreation therapist on a receiving unit. The Alcorn State University graduate has worked at MSH for 30 years.

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



Ware

## Online Auction 161 tax-forfeited properties in Bolivar County now open

### Mississippi Link Newswire

An online auction of 161 tax-forfeited properties in Bolivar County valued at more than \$727,000 is now open. Parcels for sale are located throughout the county, with the majority in Boyle, Cleveland, Mound Bayou and Shaw.

"Online auctions are a great way to help a community because properties sold return to the tax rolls, benefiting counties, cities, and schools," said Secretary Hosemann, who launched online auctions in July 2016. "Auctions are also a great deal for buyers who receive valuable property at a fraction of market price."

Bids may be submitted through the Secretary of State's online auction portal until 11:59 p.m. CST, Wednesday, March 20.

To place a bid, a user is required to register online. Users may view property details such as parcel location and an auction map. Other information, such as auction dates, bid notices and market values of property are also available online.

Successful bidders will be notified by e-mail as soon as possible once bids are placed, and payment of the bid amount must be paid within 5 to 7 days of notification.

Buyers will also be permitted to pay a "Buy It Now" price on

any parcel, which allows them to purchase a property immediately instead of waiting until the end of the auction.

In recent years, successful auctions in Bay St. Louis, Greenville, Greenwood, Hinds County, Jackson, Jones County, Madison County, McComb, Meridian, Pearl River County, Rankin County, Waveland, Vicksburg and Yazoo City have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Mississippi schools, municipalities, and counties.

To learn more about tax-forfeited properties, visit the Secretary of State's website or call the Public Lands Division at 601-359-5156.

## Search Underway for Mrs. Hinds County & Mrs. Jackson 2019!

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The 2019 Mrs. Mississippi Pageant, a statewide pageant for married women, will be held the weekend of August 2-4, 2019, with finals on Sunday, August 4, 2019, at 3 p.m. at Tupelo Middle School in Tupelo, MS.

To qualify, contestants must be at least 18 years of age, married, a resident of her state (residency at a military base or dual-residency is acceptable), and of good moral character.

Contestants will be judged in

4 categories including personal interview, beauty, fitness wear, and evening gown, each worth 25 percent of her total score. There are additional awards given for Fitness, Interview, Evening Gown, Photogenic, Congeniality and Top Ad Sales.

Mrs. Mississippi will be awarded an amazing prize package that includes cash and sponsor gifts.

The Mrs. Mississippi Pageant celebrates all that the contemporary married woman represents... whether her days are

focused on family, career, civic duties or a combination of all. Pageant judges will be looking for contestants who are not only beautiful, but articulate and well-rounded.

For more information about becoming a contestant in the 2019 pageant, email the state director, Caitlin Jadofsky, at [mrsmississippipageant@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmississippipageant@gmail.com).

Visit our website at [www.mrsmississippipageant.com](http://www.mrsmississippipageant.com) for more information about our organization.

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We just want to say thank you to all our friends and supporters for showing up in a BIG way for the women of Mississippi on our recent 2019 MWESI Day at the Capitol on Feb. 12, 2019.

Through your advocacy, we were able to give voice to the important economic security issues women in our state face every single day, including pay equity, healthcare, child care, education and protection from sexual assault and domestic violence.

Although we didn't get some key bills passed this year, we are empowered through continuing to push for important legislation around the issues that are important to you and your families.

We also want to share an important video highlight of our day with you. One of our special guests, Equal Pay Advocate Amanda McMillian, shared her empowering story of triumphing against wage discrimination.

If you would like to share your own story of

wage discrimination, we would like to hear from you. We are partnering with the EEOC (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) to conduct upcoming "Know Your Rights" wage discrimination training in communities around the state. More information about this important series will be forthcoming soon.

We also encourage you to continue standing with us in this fight for equality. Mississippi continues to be one of only two states without an equal pay law and has one of the largest wage gaps in the country. We will not stop until we can finally give Mississippi women strong state law protections against pay discrimination and finally fill the holes left by our federal equal pay laws.

In the work,

Cassandra Welchlin, LSW, MA-SID  
MS-BWR Co-Convener/Lead Organizer  
Co-Founder of the MS Women's Economic Security Initiative (MWESI)  
Phone: (601) 750-8388



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# Be strong in the Lord

PART 1

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



We read in Proverbs 10:29 these words: “The way of the Lord is strength to the upright; but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.” Also Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

We are living in a time when there is trouble on every side. God is our refuge and strength and He is a very present help in the time of need. God is mindful of all our problems. He is mindful of what is going on. He knows everything and He knows how to deal with every situation. We do not have to fall by the wayside.

Isaiah 40:31 reads, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” God has enough power to help us to be a part of the Church

of the Living God. There is strength in living for God.

I want you to know that as God was in the morning time, so shall He be in the evening time. In the morning time, God had a victorious Church and it was made up of powerful men and women for God. They leaned upon God and nothing was able to stop them.

There is strength to be the Church today. I am glad that we can reign with Christ. God is still on the throne and we are not left alone. He knows our risings and our down sittings. He knows the path that we are traveling and every child of God has access to His grace, whereby we can stand and rejoice.

Christian friends, in Christ, we can reign. He has made us a king and a priest and we can reign in this life. We can live the righteousness that God requires and be accepted by Him. At times, we may be tired and trials and tests will come, but if our hearts are

set on living for God, He will never leave us or forsake us.

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus said, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” What a mighty God we serve! God is faithful to His people. He will never fail us. He is an all-powerful God. None of us has to be weak and feeble. Thank God, we can be strong in the Lord. Jesus continues to be with us today through His Spirit.

Zechariah 12:8 reads, “In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.”

The Prophet Zechariah lets us know that in this day in which we are living, he that is feeble will be as David. Do we understand what he was talking about? When David had to go out and slay the giant, Goliath, in essence, he said to Goliath, “You come

to me with a sword, but I come to you in the Name of the Lord.” The Name of the Lord is a high tower to those who trust in Him. We might have a lot of “giants” before us, but thank God, there is not one that can get us down if we will trust in the Lord. David said that God delivered him from the bear and the lion and He would deliver him from the giant.

I want us to know that God is just the same in the evening time as He was in the morning time. When the Apostles went out, nothing could stop them. Though men threatened them and threw them in prison, they found the strength and grace to go on.

Next week, Part II, “Be strong in the Lord

*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 Comfortable but not growing

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“When you get comfortable, you stop growing.” In a 24-hour time period a few years ago, I heard this phrase from two different people. The first place I heard it was on a television show. Less than 24 hours later, the pastor at my church said it in his sermon. After the second time, I started to think about what this phrase should mean to me. I didn’t think it was just a coincidence that I’d heard it twice within such a short time.

It didn’t take me long to make the connection with this one. For the last few years, I have been working on my doctorate degree at University of Texas at Arlington.

God has blessed me every step of the way. From my getting into the program to successfully completing the coursework while balancing my responsibilities as a part-time student and full-time professor at Tarrant County College, God granted favor with my supervisors as well as with the professors in the Literature program. It has not been easy and has required sacrifices of time but through it all, the Lord continues to give me strength, creativity and determination to keep going.

Now that I am entering into a more challenging phase of the program, I find myself juggling a puzzling mixture of feeling excited, fearful and overwhelmed. (Sorry for the Iyanla “Fix My Life” moment).

So what does all of that have to do with getting comfortable and

growing?

As I talk to other people who have been through similar situations, they shared that they had the same feelings and realized that it was a part of the process. What made the difference in their failure or success was being willing to continue on in spite of those feelings. Philippians 3:14 says “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ.”

One mentor shared that all of those feelings are necessary to finish any difficult task. They act like fuel or energy to keep the process moving. Part of dealing with the uncomfortable feelings and working through those moments of confusion and doubt is knowing that the doubts can lead to despair or lead toward destiny.


You may not be in school but you might have started something new: business, relationship, spiritual journey and found yourself wrestling with similar feelings. These emotions are all a part of the process of growing to a new level. Instead of being concerned that you have those feelings, you should be concerned when you don’t have those feelings...because that means you have stopped growing.

When you go to new level, you decide that you are willing to be uncomfortable so that you can grow into the person that God has ordained for 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](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*

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## “Respect Us” gains Support

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



During President Barack Obama’s 2008 and 2012 campaigns, I worked really hard to elect him. Friends often joked that I was supporting him before Michelle was. That was probably a stretch, but I supported him very early. Supporting him remained true during his entire presidency. You can imagine my shock when I looked at his favorite songs list and saw Cardi B! If you don’t know her, please look up her lyrics. Find a song called “Twerk.” When you read the lyrics and see the women, you’ll understand why I nearly passed out.

I’m one of the leaders of the Respect Us campaign where we’re leading a movement to rid the airwaves of disrespectful, hateful music. It pains me to call it music that Cardi B, Kanye West, Nikki Minaj, 21 Savage and others do because the words used are nothing but hate against black women and often the black community. I told myself President Obama had never really heard the words used by Cardi B because a lot of rappers sound like they’re performing in another language.

Fast forward to the Obama I supported so vigorously. He was speaking at a meeting of “My Brothers’ Keeper – a program he initiated. I read an article a few days later by James Hohmann. The title was “Barack Obama Criticizes Pop Culture for Promoting the Wrong Values to Young Men.” He was talking with young men about defying stereotypes about what it means to be a man.

I perked up as I read on. He lectured the men about not worshipping money at all costs, and told them their worth is not measured by how much money they have or how famous they are. He told them he knew a lot of rich people who’re really messed up.

He cautioned against bullying and being selfish while urging them to seek causes greater than themselves. I wanted him to get to the part about not only respecting themselves, but respecting women. He did. He said, “If you’re very confident about your sexuality, you don’t have to have eight women around you twerking ... because you know I’ve got one woman, who I’m very happy with. And she’s a strong woman.”

I love this man for his love and respect for Michelle.

He blamed pop culture for amplifying toxic messages about modern masculinity (and presumably other things). Pop culture isn’t to blame for everything, but there’s a lot of disrespect in hateful rapping. As a black woman, I was pleased to hear him say, “We tend to rise to the expectations that’re set for us.” He reminded the young men to be kind and not bully people, and that would have an impact. He told them to treat young women with respect. He said, “They’re not objects. They’re humans with the same aspirations and desires, and they’re just as worthy of respect as men.”

He touted the importance of respecting and listening to women. He said, “Often times, historically, racism in this society sends a message that you are less than and weak, so we feel like we’ve got to compensate by exaggerating certain stereotypical ways that men are supposed to act.” He went on to say, “That’s a trap that we fall into, that we have to pull out of. If you’re confident about your strength, you don’t need to show me by putting someone else down. Show me how strong you are in that you can lift someone else up and treat someone well and be respectful.”

My Brother’s Keeper is a program that shows who Barack really is. In that lecture, he gave credence to our Respect Us campaign.

E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women and she is host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-89.3 FM radio. [www.nationalcongressbw.org](http://www.nationalcongressbw.org). 202 678-6788.

## Four hundred years and we still ain’t clear: Distortions of Black History

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



According to some historians, Afrodescendents first entered these united states in 1619 off the coast of Virginia. If we believe that narrative, Afrodescendents have been in this country for 400 years. If the people who were kidnapped and brought here had to tell the story, would they tell the same one? Would they say that we came before Columbus? That some of us might have been here even longer? There were captured Africans that came from the mother continent in 1619, but also, thanks to the transatlantic slave trade, Africans were here who had come from Bermuda, Jamaica and other places.

Why is this relevant? Because there is this misguided group of Afrodescendants, who are throwing shade at those who are not “American descendants of slaves” ADOS. Their shade is an odd version of the “am I black enough for you” game that some folks ran against President Barack Obama, and are now running against Presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Corey Booker.

What is black enough, when we, Afrodescendant people, all have enslavement in our background?

Let’s make it plain. Europeans went to the African continents, kidnapped people (sometimes with African acquiescence), brought them to the Western Hemisphere, and sold us. Goods and people flowed between England (or New England, the Americas and Africa), including sugar, tobacco, manufactured products, guns and humans. Understand that everyone in the triangle was affected and that enslaved people were freely traded between the United States and other parts of the Americas.

I am not sure what kinds of warped brains dreamed up the realities of enslavement and the ways that a minority in the South was able to control a majority. The laws that managed enslavement included laws that prevented literacy, ownership and much else. The laws often detailed the terms of punishment if restrictive conditions were breached. A North Carolina law said, “teaching slaves to read and write, tends to excite dissatisfaction in their minds, and to produce insurrection and rebellion.” Disobeying this law was punishable by thirty-nine lashes or imprisonment for a free black person, or a fine of two hundred dollars then, or about \$5000 now. People violated the laws, of course, but the warped sensibility that prohibited the dissemination of knowledge is the basis for

many sick stereotypes, such as “if you want to hide something from a black person, put it in a book.”

Fast-forward four hundred years, or even two. Why are teachers in Loudoun County, Virginia, forcing fifth and sixth-grade students to simulate enslavement with an obstacle course they called “The Underground Railroad?” Why were many of these students Afrodescendents? Why are the leaders of the school silent about the discipline that was ordered on the rogue teachers who took it upon their ignorant selves to construct such an exercise?

Why has David Stewart, the principal of the Madison Trust School in Loudoun County, sent out a vapid apology for a “culturally insensitive” exercise, and not a more strongly worded condemnation of the racism implicit in this nonsense.

We have been here at least 400 years, and still, some folks aren’t clear about the ways enslavement has shaped our nation.

In Virginia, where both the governor and the attorney general (two of the top three elected officials in the state) have admitted to masquerading in blackface, albeit thirty-odd years ago, teachers don’t see anything wrong with subjecting black students to a reenactment of enslavement. Oh, they said they were teaching “teamwork.” Really.

We have been here at least 400 years, and our nation is not yet clear about its flawed foundations. There would be no house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, which should not be called the White House, but the House that Enslaved People Built, were it not for the labor of kidnapped people and their descendants. There would be no banking system if enslaved people were not used as collateral for European devilmint. There would be no insurance industry were it not for the enslaved. But in our collective ignorance allows us, all of us, African Americans, European Americans, and others, to live in denial, pretending that there is fairness is a racist, patriarchal, predatory, capitalist society.

We have been here at least 400 years, but we still aren’t clear about the nonsense and exploitation that affects and infuses our very foundation. Our entire nation needs to go back to school to learn some history. But there is a special place in hell for teachers in Loudoun County, Virginia who think that enslavement is some kind of game.

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

## #CancelMichaelJackson? — It’s not that easy

By Stacy M. Brown  
TriceEdney Newswire



After a riveting documentary that revisited some of the alleged crimes by R&B superstar R. Kelly – even before his high-profile arrest on child pornography and other sex-related acts – a major social media movement got underway to #MuteRKelly and #CancelRKelly.

Now, a possibly equally explosive documentary about the late Michael Jackson has led some to wonder if it’s time to “#Mute” or “#Cancel” the late King of Pop.

“I don’t care about toppling Michael Jackson,” said the documentary’s filmmaker Dan Reed, whose “Leaving Neverland” is set to air over two nights on HBO beginning Sunday, March 3.

“The question we should be asking is, ‘Should I trust my children to this stranger?’ The question that child sexual abuse victims should be asking is, ‘Is this the time for me to come out and tell my story to those around me? Can I tell my mum?’”

Reed continued: “I don’t care whether people listen to Michael Jackson’s music or not. It’s about the man and not the music. But the man appears as a much different figure after watching the film. He hurt a lot of people. He was cruel. He was vicious. How you reconcile that with the music is a private matter.”

The film centers on two men who say that Jackson sexually assaulted them when they were children.

Choreographer Wade Robson met Jackson when he was 7.

James Safechuck said he began sharing a bed with the singer when he was only 10.

In their younger years, both men



denied Jackson molested them, but after Jackson’s death in 2009, both have detailed in graphic fashion the sex they said took place at various hotels and at the star’s famed Neverland Ranch in Santa Ynez, Calif.

Jackson’s estate has sued HBO for \$100 million claiming that the network entered into an agreement with the singer in 1992 that prohibited them from disparaging Jackson.

HBO called the suit meritless and said it would air the documentary as planned.

Some Twitter users have weighed in on whether there should be a “#Mute” or “#Cancel” Michael Jackson movement. “If you can #MuteRKelly you can also #mutemichaeljackson. Death has nothing to do with the situation,” wrote Twitter user Kris-siekris7331.

“#MichaelJackson doc #LeavingNeverland follows his serial rape of boys just like #SurvivingRKelly documents his serial abuse of girls,” Twitter user Robbie Woliver wrote. “Jackson’s music should be muted from playlists just like #RKelly. No difference just because the victims are boys.

#MuteMichaelJackson.”

Because fans of the late singer arguably are the most loyal for any entertainer and his estate is a cash cow that rakes in hundreds of millions each year, muting or canceling Michael Jackson poses many challenges.

It’s also a fact that Jackson’s music represents the soundtrack of the lives of so many and his songs are a staple at weddings, anniversaries, and just about any social event imaginable.

Oliver Keens, the Music & Nightlife editor of Time Out London, tackled that conundrum.

“DJs I’ve spoken to recently have already started saying goodbye to their disco edits of ‘Rock with You,’ pruning ‘Off The Wall’ out of their record boxes, deleting ‘PYT’ from their memory sticks. I can’t stress how much this is for your own good. After this film, you will not want to listen to Michael Jackson on the dance floor, at a wedding, at a club, anywhere.

“I think it’s essential that ‘Leaving Neverland’ sparks so much outrage that a movement for change begins straight away. Yet outrage itself is a complicated issue in

2019. Take a common reaction to any artist accused of wrongdoing, which goes: ‘But this is hypocritical. If we censor X, then surely we should censor Y and Z too?’

“If you’ve read all this and think I’m overreacting, see the film and make up your own mind. If you’re cynically minded and instinctively think the two men are liars (or just after money, a picture Jackson habitually tried to paint of any accuser), see the film and make up your own mind. Yes, Michael Jackson made some of the finest music ever recorded, but it’s not enough anymore. Letting his songs stay ingrained in the fabric of our society says that our society is morally dead.”

Still, Jackson’s family and fans argue that, like R. Kelly in his 2008 trial, the King of Pop was acquitted of charges in 2005 that he molested a young boy.

Critics counter that both men paid out substantial settlements in other cases, including Jackson’s more than \$20 million payout to a young accuser who said Jackson molested him in 1993.

As for the claims that “Leaving Neverland” is a “pathetic attempt to cash in on Michael Jackson,” Reed told the Independent: “Of course it’s all about money. It’s about the estate’s money. It made \$400m last year [and] is trying to protect its main asset.

“I’m not making any allegations, but I think the question remains: how much did the family know?” Reed said. “When did they know it? It’s clear that a lot of people in the Jackson household saw things. On the record, they testified to that,” he said.

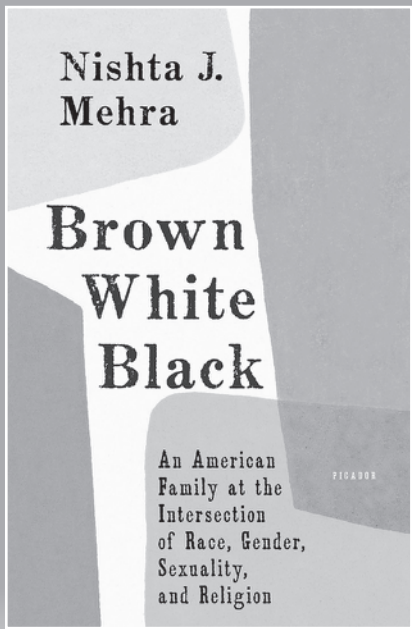
“[They] gave evidence in court. But the only noise I’m hearing from the Jackson camp is the estate hurling abuse at children who were raped by Michael Jackson. I think that’s shameful.”

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# BOOK REVIEW: “BROWN WHITE BLACK”

BY **NISHTA MEHRA**  
**C.2019, PICADOR**  
**\$25.00 / \$32.50 CANADA • 213 PAGES**

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Column A or Column B? Truth is, you don’t fit in either. You’re unique, from your toes to your hair, inside and out. People can try to categorize you, but it just won’t work. As you’ll see in the new book “Brown White Black” by Nishta J. Mehra, there’s a lot to learn.

One of her earliest memories still stings.

Nishta Mehra was “about seven or eight years old” when she was shopping with her mother and a little boy called

her the n-word. She cried then, not because she was black but because she wasn’t.

As the child of parents from India, Mehra is “brown” but she “came of age not fully at home in either black or white spaces.” She was an only child with few other Indians nearby, and she had to blaze her own trails through whatever discomforts she might feel in social, religious and cultural situations – something that was exacerbated when she went to college and she “realized that I was queer.”

Today, Mehra’s life is “com-

plicated.”

Her internal narrative always included children but never a wedding. While in college, though, she met a white woman who became her professor, then her partner, then her wife. Nineteen years Mehra’s senior, Jill had assumed that she’d never have children, until the idea of adoption became so appealing that the two women carefully searched for a gay-friendly agency.

Nine months later, they were the mothers of a black baby boy.

It takes a lot of restraint to

continue to kindly answer questions about being “a two-mom, three-color family,” says Mehra. People say things that are hurtful or that make her angry but that’s also given her a better awareness of the privilege she had and of the institutions and limitations of gender assumptions and roles and of racism in America.

“I often wonder if what feels so essential to me now,” she muses, “would still be on our radar if we did not have a black son.”

Sticks and stones, as the playground saying goes, are more

damaging than mere words. It’s a retort that author Nishta J. Mehra disputes, but conflict-ingly so.

While so very valuable as an entry into the national conversation on the meaning of language and family, “Brown White Black” may also seem somewhat rant-like. Mehra makes many excellent points: in how she shouldn’t have to explain her life, her son’s life, his love of “girly” things, or her shorn head; on why she allows him certain freedoms; on having children, and the panoply of choices.

But then, curiously, she questions the choices of others in childrearing, friend-making, and mundane things like “car sticker families,” focusing particularly on language (“words matter”) and seemingly refusing to allow for even the slightest of natural human awkwardness.

“We’re making it up as we go,” says Mehra on gay marriage, and that’s a sentence to remember if you tackle this book. “Brown White Black” is certainly a thought-provoking look at modern American families but for some readers, it just won’t fit.



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Parents of Mississippi Link publisher/partner Jackie Hampton



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Principal, Jim Hill High School  
(Principal during first year of  
desegregated schools in MS)  
Jackson, MS



Odie Hayes 1926 – 2019  
Teacher  
Business Owner  
Jackson, MS

Parents of Mississippi Link partner Minnie Garrett



W.E. Garrett 1910 – 1987  
Civil Rights Worker  
First Black Election  
Commissioner  
Madison County, MS



Zenova D. Garrett 1917 – 1985  
Educator  
Justice Court Judge  
Madison County, MS

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Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 04/02/2019, for:

RE: GS# 428-020 Chiller Replacement  
Central Mississippi Residential Center  
RFx #: 3160002765

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

Professional: Edmonds Engineering, Inc.  
(Hoover, Alabama, through the Office listed herein)  
Address: 1900 Lakeland Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39216  
Phone: 601-362-6478  
Email: dstrickland@edmondsengineering.com

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

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

2/28/2019 3/7/2019

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BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND  
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
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Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 03/26/2019 , for:

RE: GS# 321-259 Water & Wastewater Improvements (Re-Bid)  
Mississippi State Penitentiary  
RFx Number: 3160002743

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Professional: Pickering Firm, Inc.  
(Memphis, Tennessee, through the Office listed herein)  
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Flowood, Mississippi 39232-8846  
Phone: 601-956-3663  
Email: tbryant@pickeringinc.com

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

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

2/21/2019, 2/28/2019

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
CHARLIE MAE CAIN, DECEASED

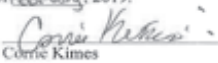
CAUSE NO. P2019-38 O/3

NOTICE OF KNOWN CREDITORS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF Hinds

I, Corrie Kimes, Executor of the Estate of Charlie Mae Cain, Deceased, after being first duly sworn, deposed and says:

- That I am the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Charlie Mae Cain, Deceased.
- That I have made reasonable diligent efforts to identify all persons having claims against the above-styled and numbered Estate and have given notice by mail to persons so identified, at their last known address informing them that a failure to have their claim probated and registered by the Clerk of the Court granting Letters of Administration within the ninety (90) day period provided by Miss. Code Ann. Section 91-7-151 (1972 as amended) will bar such claim.
- At this time, there are any known creditors.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2019.  
  
Corrie Kimes

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2019.  
  
LaQuanda Smith  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:  


2/28/2019,

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

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: 2007 Buick UXL – Vin #1G4HD57267U133095  
Registered to Robinson Dominique and Funches  
Car Nation, LLC, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: 3/8/19  
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.

2/28/2019

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

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.  
2002 Chevy Tahoe  
VIN #1GNEC13V92R313760  
Registered to Williams, Mallery  
Title Max of Mississippi, Inc. Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: March 14, 2019  
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.

2/21/19, 2/28/19, 3/7/19

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Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

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2009 Toyota CBA  
VIN #4T1BE46K39U344157  
Registered to Dixon Antawanna  
Watkins Auto Sales, I LLC, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: March 14, 2019  
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.

2/21/19, 2/28/19, 3/7/19

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2019. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

A workshop on the Request for Proposals packet is scheduled for MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019 beginning promptly at 2:00pm. It will be held at the Municipal Art Gallery located at 839 North State Street Jackson, MS 39202. Those interested in submitting proposals should attend this Workshop.

For the Request for Proposals packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposals must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on March 15, 2019. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS.

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services

2/14/2019 2/21/2019 2/28/2019 3/7/2019 3/14/2019

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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
1. Am not
5. Tool
9. Sacred poem
11. Keats
12. Cut cheese
13. Pivot
14. Conger
15. Newfoundlnd (abbr.)
17. Constrictor
18. Accepts
20. Stick
22. Vigor
23. Brand of cola
24. Future Farmers of America (abr.)
27. Part of the eye
29. Tied
31. Parts of plays
32. Broods
33. Endure
34. Margarine
- DOWN
1. Niche
2. Island
3. Arrest
4. What a nurse gives
5. Inclined
6. Lack confidence
7. Nothings
8. Gas burner
10. Serviceman
16. Troops
18. I see
19. Gym
20. Approximate date
21. Leaves out
22. Phial
24. Crowded
25. Falsify
26. Ditto
28. Supersonic transport
30. Status \_\_

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

F GUTAVXOC EHQW D NKL YR J M I Z B S P

I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE I

C TND J YAFQQS VAAQ QCHA C

HAVE TO HAVE A DEBATE WITH

OFIA JN OFIA F TAGFJA ZCJO

MY HUSBAND OVER ISSUES

WS OMRGFD T NIAY CRRMAR

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Crossword Solution

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

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2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

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# Nigerian Nun shames Catholic Church for silence on sex abuse

TriceEdneyWire.com

A Nigerian nun faced a Vatican summit on sexual abuse in the church and delivered a stinging indictment to stone-faced church leaders who failed to take action against abusers.

It was the third day of the Vatican summit. Sister Veronica Openibo did not mince words.

A member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Sister Openibo said she had watched the American-made movie “Spotlight” about a U.S. newspaper, the Boston Globe, whose reporters discovered a decades-long cover-up of child abuse within the local Catholic Archdiocese.

At the end of the film was a long list of cases and dioceses where the abuses had occurred, and reading about the number of children affected and seeing the vast amount of money spent on settlements, she said that tears of sorrow flowed.

“How could the clerical church have kept silent, covering these atrocities?” she asked.

Sister Openibo, who serves on the executive board of the International Union of Superiors General, acknowledged that the church has at times failed to live up to its own moral code.

“Yes, we proclaim the Ten Commandments and parade ourselves as being the custodians of moral standards and values and good behavior into society. But why did we keep silent for so long?”

Openibo, one of only three women to address the event and the only speaker



Sister Openibo

from Africa, went on to say the scandal had “seriously clouded the grace of the Christ mission.”

“Is it possible for us to move from fear of scandal to truth? How do we remove the masks that hide our sinful neglect?” she asked.

Openibo, who has worked in Africa, Europe and the U.S, said: “Too often we want to keep silent until the storm has passed. This storm will not pass by. Our credibility is at stake.”

During the summit, bishops from the United States, Europe and Australia have urged caution when it comes to universal changes in church rules, saying that local cultures could require nuanced policies. But Sister Openibo said that church leaders should not make excuses when it

comes to confronting abuse.

“The fact that there are huge issues of poverty, illness, war and violence in some countries in the Global South does not mean that the area of sexual abuse should be downplayed or ignored,” she said. “The church has to be proactive in facing it.”

The pontiff and the 190 bishops and cardinals in attendance watched videotaped testimony from survivors of abuse telling of their trauma and the cruel indifference shown by church leaders.

One woman from Africa told the summit that a priest who had begun raping her at age 15 forced her to have three abortions, and beat her when she refused him sex. A survivor from Chile told the bishops and religious superiors they had inflicted even more pain on survivors by discrediting them and protecting priests who abused.

A list of 21 “reflection points” written by the pope is expected to provide the basis for the development of new anti-abuse procedures for bishops.

Global Information Network creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada.

Our goal is to introduce important new voices on topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.

# Jussie Smollett case threatens to distract from the rising tide of hate crimes

TriceEdneyWire.com

*“I’m left hanging my head and asking why. Why would anyone, especially an African-American man use the symbolism of a noose to make false accusations? How could someone look at the hatred and suffering associated with that symbol and see an opportunity to manipulate that symbol to further his own public profile. How can an individual who’s been embraced by the city of Chicago turn around and slap everybody in the face making these false claims?” – Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson*

This week, the Southern Poverty Law Center announced that the number of hate groups in the United States continued to rise for the fourth consecutive year in 2018.

Also, this week, a television actor was arrested on charges of staging a fake racist and homophobic attack on himself, allegedly so he could appear more sympathetic in salary negotiations.

The announcement by Chicago police of the case against Jussie Smollett sparked outrage and dismay across the nation, particularly among people of color and LGBTQ people who are increasingly targets of hate crimes like the one Smollett allegedly staged. Smollett is, of course, presumed innocent until proven guilty and is entitled to due process. But the accusations shock the conscience.

The SPLC said the 30 percent rise in the number of hate groups since 2014 coincided with a 30 percent increase in the number of hate crimes reported to the F.B.I. from 2015 through 2017. At least 50 people were killed in a wave of right-wing violence in 2018, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Just a week ago, federal authorities arrested a self-described “White nationalist” Coast Guard officer who had stockpiled 15 firearms and more than 1,000 rounds of mixed ammunition and who wanted to use violence to establish a “white homeland.” His hit list of prospective victims included prominent Democratic politicians, activists, political organizations and media personalities.

In the face of the growing menace of hate-fueled terrorism, it would be tragic if the collapse of Smollett’s story makes it harder for true victims of hate crimes to be believed. As *New York Times* columnist Jamelle Bouie noted on Twitter this week, the details of many hate crimes are outrageous, and his accounts of the horrors of lynchings and other racially-motivated terrorism are sometimes met with incredulity. “Why didn’t anyone do anything?” he was asked.

“Take a deep dive into the history of racist violence in the United States and you’ll come away with



Smollett

countless items that sound absurd or even ... conspiratorial. But they are true, and the truth of them informs reactions today,” Bouie wrote.

Bouie was responding to a conversation that included mention of the 1998 murders of James Byrd Jr. and Matthew Shepherd.

White supremacists attacked Byrd, spray painted his face and chained him by his ankles to the bumper of a pickup truck. He was dragged three miles, conscious for most of his ordeal until he was decapitated. Shepherd’s attackers, motivated by homophobia, tied him to a fence and pistol-whipped him into unconsciousness. He hung on the fence for 18 hours before he was found, and lingered nearly a week in a coma before he died.

“These crimes were so monstrous and random and thorough that they might seem to defy plausibility,” journalist Gene Denby of NPR wrote. “How can anyone look at the history of racialized violence or hate crimes in America and think some randos with bleach and a noose ain’t feasible?”

The Chicago police appear to have done thorough work in Smollett’s case. They took his complaint seriously, devoted considerable resources to investigating his claims and followed the evidence where it led. Every report of a hate crime should be investigated as thoroughly.

Many questions remain about the Smollett case. False reports – particularly in a high-profile case – represent a squandering of precious law-enforcement resources. Chicago, battling a wave of gun violence, can ill afford the distraction. Indeed, Johnson said, “I just wish that the families of gun violence in this city got this much attention, because that’s who really deserves the amount of attention that we’re giving to this particular incident.”

Rather than minimize the true victims of hate crimes, we should take this opportunity to turn our attention to the rising threat. And should Smollett be proved beyond a reasonable doubt to have betrayed the public trust, must be held accountable for his actions.

# Gunman kills five at an Illinois plant where he worked

*Blacks committed 17 of 107 mass shootings between 1982 and November 2018; whites committed 60 of 107 mass shootings during the same period*

By Frederick H. Lowe  
TriceEdneyWire.com

Gary Martin, who went on a rampage Feb. 15, 2019, killing five of his former co-workers, had been depressed about losing his job of 15 years at a factory in Aurora, Illinois, his sister said.

“He was very depressed,” Tameka Martin told *The New York Times*. At a dinner a few nights ago at their mother’s home, her brother could barely speak because he expected to be fired from his job, she said.

Martin, 45, worked as a large valve assembler for Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, 40 miles west of Chicago.

On Friday, he was summoned to a meeting with representatives of the company’s Human Resources Department, where he was told he was being fired. Martin pulled a gun and shot to death five people. Martin shot three people in the meeting and two others inside the cavernous plant. He also wounded five police officers and six others before police killed him.

Workplace homicides account for 10 percent of the nation’s occupational in-



Martin

juries, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2016, the latest statistics available, 66 people were killed by co-workers.

Between 1982 and November 2018, blacks committed 17 of the 107 mass shootings. Sixty of the 107 mass shootings during that period were committed by whites, according to Statista, The Statistics Portal. The remaining 30 mass shootings were committed by Hispanics (10), Asians (8), Other (5), Unknown (4)

and Native Americans (3).

Martin was fired for a “culmination of various workplace rules violations,” said Sean Hall, CEO of Mueller Water Products, a Henry Pratt subsidiary. Hall did not offer details about the violations.

Job loss causes depression and anxiety because of a lack of money. For black men, it can be even worse because the unemployment rate is much higher for us compared with other racial and ethnic groups, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

Martin had a concealed carry permit for a .40 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol with a laser sight since 2014, although a 1995 felony assault conviction in Mississippi disqualified him from carrying a gun. While applying for the permit, the earlier conviction didn’t surface, Aurora police said.

Neighbors who lived in an apartment complex with Martin described him as a quiet person who mostly kept to himself and flew drones. But one white woman described him as creepy although he never said or did anything to her.

# Trump’s National Emergency Declaration called unconstitutional, ‘egregious abuse of power’

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

U. S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), the highest ranking African American in the U. S. Congress, has assailed President Donald Trump’s immigration national emergency as an “egregious abuse of power” and calls on his fellow congressional members to challenge his actions.

“The President’s declaration of a manufactured national emergency in order to erect an ineffective, wasteful and medieval wall sets a dangerous precedent,” Clyburn said in a statement. “All of us who have taken an oath to the Constitution must challenge this egregious abuse of power and uphold the checks and balances that are the foundation of our republic.”

Clyburn joins a chorus of voices ex-

pressing outrage about Trump’s action which could draw \$5.7 billion of taxpayer dollars for a wall that more than 58 percent of Americans say they do not want, according to a recent PRRI survey.

“This declaration has more to do with the President’s bruised ego than actually doing what is best for America. The author of ‘The Art of The Deal’ couldn’t make a deal to build a wall. This is a fake solution to a fake crisis and we must stand firm in keeping the nation focused on the real issues impacting Americans,” says Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.).

*The Washington Post* has reported that a coalition of 16 states have filed a federal lawsuit to block Trump’s plan for a border wall. Like Clyburn, the complaint filed in the U. S. District Court

for the Northern District of California, argues that Trump’s declaration of a national emergency was unconstitutional.

The lawsuit is being brought by states with Democratic governors, except Maryland’s Larry Hogan, a Republican who has challenged Trump on several major issues.

Trump is clear that he is declaring the national emergency because Congress refused to provide enough money for a border wall that he promised as a presidential candidate and also promised that Mexico would pay for it. But, then Mexico President Enrique Pena Nieto refused to pay for the wall, saying “Mexico doesn’t believe in walls.” Trump was then stuck with the unkept campaign promise and now appears desperate for a way to make good.

The 16 states suing Trump are Cali-

fornia, New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon and Virginia.

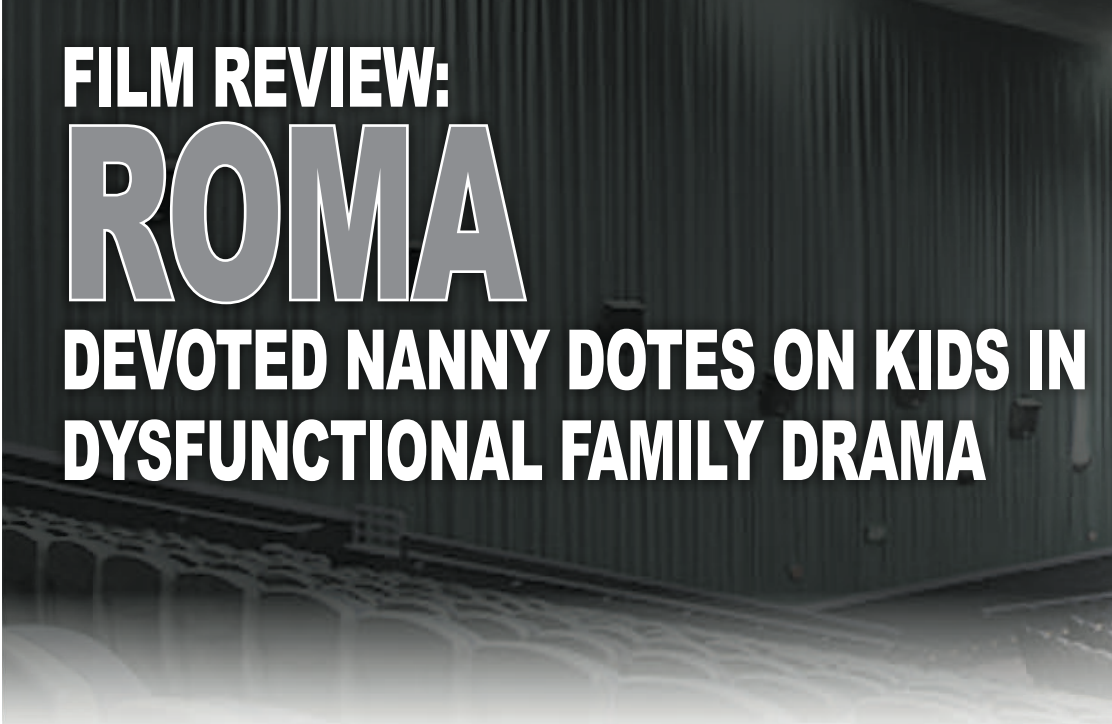
In a Rose Garden announcement of his intent to declare the emergency, Trump claimed he is protecting the nation from caravans of people that he says are bringing drugs and crime into the U. S. through the Southern border, a claim that experts have refuted as false.

“So, we’re going to be signing today, and registering, national emergency. And it’s a great thing to do because we have an invasion of drugs, invasion of gangs, invasion of people, and it’s unacceptable,” Trump said in his Rose Garden announcement, calling the emergency a “National Security and Humanitarian Crisis”.

As Trump continues to dig in his heels, predicting an eventual win in the U. S. Supreme Court, civil rights leaders are fighting their war in the court of public opinion.

CBC Chairwoman Bass concludes, “There are families who can’t make ends meet because their wages are too low. Citizens are being denied equal access at the ballot box because of voter suppression. We have a criminal justice system that still treats Americans better if they are rich and guilty than if they are poor and innocent. Black boys and girls are dying prematurely from gun violence while black women are losing their lives during childbirth. These are just some of the real crises confronting America. Mr. President, it’s time to finally demonstrate the leadership worthy of the office you hold.”





By Kam Williams  
Columnist

Cleo Gutierrez (Yalitza Aparicio) is one of two live-in maids maintaining the home of Antonio (Fernando Grediaga) and Sofia (Marina de Tavora), a couple in crisis with four young children. They can afford the help, which includes a chauffeur, because he’s a prominent physician. But they also need the staff, since Antonio spends so much time supposedly attending “conferences in Canada.”

The delinquent dad explains his absence to the kids as being away on business. However his long-suffering wife suspects that he’s just up to monkey business with his mistress, which explains why she’s not above begging him to cancel a trip. Luckily, Sofia has a shoulder to cry on in her mother, Teresa (Veronica Garcia), who lives with them, too.

Meanwhile, Cleo and her fellow nanny, Adela (Nancy Garcia), dutifully assume the bulk of the child-rearing and house-keeping duties. Both of these servants hail from humble roots, being uneducated peasants of Mixteco, native Mexican heritage.

Yet, like typical young women, they do dream of someday escaping their lowly station to start families of their own. And each has a romantic interest. Cleo’s is Fermin (Jorge Antonio Guerrero), a cousin of Adela’s boyfriend, Ramon (Jose Manuel Guerrero Mendoza).

The plot thickens the evening the two couples go on a double date to a movie theater. Against her better judgment, Cleo leaves early with Fermin who has reserved a motel room where they share an evening of passionate, unprotected sex.

She ends up pregnant, and a moment of truth arrives when

her baby-daddy reacts badly to the news that he’s about to become a father. So, now she has to worry whether she’ll be fired when she tells Sofia that she’s knocked up.

Thus unfolds Roma, a semi-autobiographical, dysfunctional family drama written and directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Set in Mexico City in the Seventies, this impressionistic saga shot in black & white more than makes up in atmosphere what it might lack in meaningful dialogue.

Kudos to Cuarón for crafting such a visually-captivating, surreal memoir of his troubled coming of age!

Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated R for profanity, disturbing images and graphic nudity

In Spanish and Mixtec with subtitles.

Running time: 135 minutes  
Production Companies: Esperanto Filmoj / Participant Media  
Distributor: Netflix

# Kam’s Kapsules

## Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

For movies opening March 1, 2019.

### Wide Releases

**Greta** (R for violence and disturbing images) Suspense thriller, set in NYC, about a naive young woman (Chloe Grace Moretz) who unwittingly befriends a widow with an evil agenda (Isabelle Huppert) whose pocketbook she found on the subway. With Maika Monroe, Colm Feore and Stephen Rea.

**A Madea Family Funeral** (PG-13 for profanity, crude sexuality and pervasive drug use) Tyler Perry’s back in drag as a sassy granny for this raucous comedy set in rural Georgia where a joyous family reunion is unexpectedly marred by tragedy. Co-starring Cassi Davis, Patricia Lovely and Mike Tyson.

### Independent & Foreign Films

**Apollo 11** (Unrated) IMAX documentary revisiting NASA’s historic 1969 mission, the first spaceflight to land on the moon. Featuring archival footage of astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins.

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** (Unrated) Chiwe-

tel Ejiofor makes his directorial debut with this adaptation of Malawi’s William Kamkwamba’s memoir about saving his village from famine at the age of 13 by building a wind turbine. Cast includes Ejiofor, Maxwell Simba, Lily Banda and Aissa Maiga.

**Climax** (R for disturbing content including profanity, graphic nudity and sexuality, drug use and violence) Horror musical set at an abandoned boarding school where a dance troupe’s party is sabotaged by a bowl of sangria laced with LSD. Ensemble cast includes Sofia Boutella, Romain Guillermic, Kiddy Smile, Giselle Palmer and Taylor Castle. (In French and English with subtitles)

**Furie** (Unrated) Action thriller about an ex-assassin (Veronica Ngo) who comes out of retirement to rescue her young daughter kidnapped by a sex-trafficking ring. With Hoa Tran, Mai Cat Vi and Thanh Nhien Phan. (In Vietnamese with subtitles)

**Saint Judy** (Unrated) Michelle Monaghan portrays the title character in this reverential biopic about immigration attorney Judy Wood who has single-handedly saved the lives of thousands of female refugees

by successfully lobbying for changes in the United States’ asylum laws. Supporting cast includes Common, Mykelti Williamson, Alfred Molina and Alfre Woodard.

**Styx** (Unrated) Seafaring thriller about a German ER physician (Susanne Wolff) sailing solo on the Atlantic Ocean who diverts her boat to come to the aid of 100 shipwrecked refugees. With Alexander Beyer, Inga Birkenfeld and Gedion Oduor Wekesa. (In English and German with subtitles)

**Transit** (Unrated) Adaptation of Anna Segher’s novel of the same name, set in Marseilles, about a German refugee (Franz Rogowski) who falls in love with the widow (Paula Beer) of the recently-deceased writer whose identity he’s assumed. Cast includes Godehard Giese, Lilien Batman and Maryam Zaree. (In German, French and sign language)

**The Wedding Guest** (R for profanity, violence and brief nudity) Dev Patel plays the title character in this suspense thriller about a shadowy figure who travels from England to Pakistan to kidnap a Muslim bride-to-be (Radhike Apte). With Jim Sarbh, Harish Khanna and Nish Nathwani.

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# Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Access Mental Health

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**Registration Begins at 8:30A.M.**  
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Jackson Medical Mall**

**Attorney General and  
Candidate for Governor  
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### 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.

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

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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 Laura Bush

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
				A									Q												

C T N D J Y A F Q Q S V A A Q Q C H A C  
O F I A J N O F I A F T A G F J A Z C J O  
W S O M R G F D T N I A Y C R R M A R

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)



# UMMC-Anderson collaboration brings specialty pediatric care closer to Meridian-Area patients

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Expert specialty pediatric care is closer to home for children and families in the Meridian area, thanks to a collaborative effort between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Anderson Regional Health System.

Leaders in medicine, business and government cut the ribbon on a new Children's of Mississippi specialty clinic adjacent to Meridian's Anderson Regional Medical Center during a ceremony recently.

"This is a celebration of the fearfully and wonderfully made," said John Anderson, president and CEO of Anderson Regional Health System. The clinic, he said, is the result of two years of collaboration with UMMC and Children's of Mississippi, the branch of UMMC that includes all pediatric care including Batson Children's Hospital.

Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi, said putting specialty care within reach of families in the Meridian and Lauderdale County area is part of the organization's vision of helping children in the state reach their full potential.

"Children's of Mississippi caregivers value the trust families place in us, and we are honored to work with Anderson Regional Health System to bring the best in specialty care to Meridian and the surrounding community."

Children's of Mississippi pediatric specialists in orthopaedics, neurology and urology began caring for patients at the Meridian clinic in late 2018. Additional specialties to be added this year include cardiology, hematology/oncology, child development, genetics, endocrinology, general surgery and psychiatry.

One of the patients soon to be receiving care at the clinic is Anna Armstrong, Anderson's 5-year-old granddaughter. She'll be seeing Dr. Onyekachukwu Osakwe when pediatric cardiology is available at the clinic next month.

"Having cardiology care so close to home will be convenient," said Anna's mother, Kristen Armstrong. "It's wonderful that this will be offered here in Meridian."

Dr. Joe Anderson, chairman of Anderson's board of directors, agreed. "This virtually guarantees better health care for our children," he said.

Meridian Mayor Percy Bland welcomed Children's of Mississippi specialists to the city. "The heart and soul of our city is the delivery of health care," he said. "I've been up and down



**Dr. Guy Giesecke speaks to attendees of a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Meridian specialty clinic.**



**Dr. Deanna Price speaks on the importance of having Children's of Mississippi specialty care close to home.**



**Celebrating the opening of a new Children's of Mississippi specialty clinic in Meridian are, from left, Dr. John Purvis, UMMC pediatric orthopaedist; Archie McDonnell, East Mississippi Business Development Corp. board chair; Percy Bland, Meridian mayor; Dr. Joe Anderson, Anderson Regional Health System board chairman; Dr. Guy Giesecke, Children's of Mississippi CEO; John Anderson, Anderson president and CEO; Anna Armstrong, John Anderson's granddaughter; Jonathan Wells, Lauderdale County supervisor; Dr. Mary Taylor, UMMC chair of pediatrics; Dr. Deanna Price, Meridian pediatrician; Keith Parker, Children's of Mississippi director of ambulatory operations; Karen Dowling, Children's of Mississippi chief ambulatory operations officer; and Dr. Christopher Blewett, Children's of Mississippi chief of surgery.**



**Nurse Ashley Hester gives Children's of Mississippi patient Sybil Cumberland a tour of the new Meridian specialty clinic.**

I-20 many times to see children of friends and family at Batson Children's Hospital, and the care there is second to none."

Health care, said Archie McDonnell, president of the East Mississippi Business Develop-

ment Corp., "is a huge part of the regional economy. We are excited about the affiliation of Anderson Regional Health System and UMMC and what this brings to the region."

Anderson Regional Chil-

dren's Clinic pediatrician Dr. Deanna Price, who earned her medical degree at UMMC, welcomed the clinic not only as a physician but as "the mother of a child with chronic health care needs."

"Traveling out of town for care means taking time off work," she said. "Having this care available closer to home will make life easier for patients and their parents."

The clinic, at 1516 23rd Ave., is staffed by nurse Ashley Hester and medical office assistants Hayleigh Gardner and Karen Auton, with orthopaedist Dr. John Purvis and neurologists Dr. Tarif Bakdash and Muhammad Ubaidulhaq currently offering clinics each month.

"We care for children from Meridian every day," Purvis said of Children's of Mississippi and Batson Children's Hospital. "It is a privilege to bring that care into the Meridian community."

## Get a jump start on spring allergies

By Glenn Ellis  
TriceEdneyWire.com



Even though you may be still dealing with the ominous remnants of winter, it might seem a little early to talk about spring and allergies that seem to accompany warmer weather – but not really. Depending on where you live in the U.S., allergy season can start as early as February.

While the majority of America experiences spring allergies in early April, warmer regions often see pollination rise in late February to early March. Most often, the culprit is ragweed, a plant that grows wild all over the country, but especially the East Coast and Midwest.

Those with allergies in the spring are typically allergic to pollen that begins to appear in the air. You may have started seeing tree pollen, one of spring's main offenders, in the early weeks of February. In the latter part of the season, we will begin to see grass pollen, and the combination can make the spring a miserable time for allergy sufferers. High season usually kicks into gear when the thermometer hits 60 degrees for 3-4 days.

Around 50 million Americans struggle with seasonal allergies each year, and the latest research shows that these rates are increasing, affecting as many as 30 percent of adults and 40 percent of children.

As you transition from cold winter to warmer spring, not only will you go outside more often, you'll also let the outside in by opening windows for fresh spring air.

Here's a little information you need to know to be prepared for this spring's allergy season:

When there are higher traces of pollen and dust particles in the air, your body often goes into defense mode. Your immune system's reaction is to attack these particles by releasing chemicals known as histamines into your bloodstream. It's these histamines that trigger the symptoms of allergies we know all too well.

Your immune system signals your body to make more mucus membranes to protect your eyes, ears, mouth, nose and throat (hence the itching, sneezing and running). Pollen comes from budding and blooming trees, grass, weeds and other plants.

Allergy symptoms can also increase in response to increased pet dander because both cats and dogs shed more as the weather turns warmer.

While the exact cause of allergies is not known, an allergy occurs when your immune system produces antibodies when exposed to harmless foreign matter. Your immune system is mistaking allergens like pollen and dander for dangerous substances and fighting them off with the "immunoglobulin E" or IgE antibodies. These produce histamine that can cause the allergic reaction and the telltale symptoms of allergies.

Common asthma symptoms include chest tightness, coughing (especially at night), wheezing and/or shortness of breath. However, many of these symptoms are also seen in other conditions.

Why wait until your eyes are red and itchy and your nose

won't stop running to get medical help? You don't have to wait until you are suffering to do something about your allergies. Whether you make an appointment with an allergist or start taking medication, it's important to get ahead of the pollen. Preparing now can help ease your symptoms throughout the season.

If you've never been allergy tested now is a great time to do it. Learn what you are allergic to and how to treat it before your symptoms get worse.

Start taking medication around two weeks before you typically start to feel your allergy symptoms. Over-the-counter antihistamines and nasal steroid sprays can help manage your symptoms by reducing your allergic reaction after it starts but also before. Antihistamines reduce or block histamines that cause your allergy symptoms. Pretreating with allergy medication before symptoms begin can help prevent inflammation and help ease your stuffy nose, itchy, watery eyes and other allergy symptoms.

When venturing outside, as frustrating as it may be, try to plan your schedule so that you can avoid outdoor activities when the pollen count is highest, typically 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.

It can also help to minimize spring allergies inside your home by shutting out pollen. As tempting as it may be to let the spring breeze in, keep doors and windows closed to minimize allergy symptoms. When spring cleaning, focus on areas in your home where allergens tend to accumulate – air filters, bedding, upholstered furniture, and carpeting. Vacuum often – floors, furniture, rugs – and use a vacuum with a HEPA filter.

Pollen isn't the only spring allergy culprit. Mold can also kick your allergy symptoms into overdrive. Keep mold out of your home by focusing on areas where mold is most common – basements, bathrooms, kitchens and any areas with leaks.

Not only will April's showers bring more flowers, it might also cause more symptoms for spring allergy sufferers. Rain can promote plant and pollen growth. Wind accompanying a rainfall can stir pollen and mold into the air, also heightening symptoms.

Anyone with allergies and asthma should be able to feel good, be active all day and sleep well at night. No one should accept less. Don't wait for spring allergies to play havoc with your head. Get set for allergy season now.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham, or visit: [www.glennellis.com](http://www.glennellis.com)

## Forrest General's Spirit Girls hosted annual Prom-A-Polooza

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Prom-A-Polooza was opened February 24 at Bliss Bridal in Downtown Hattiesburg for high school girls to shop and try on dresses, which were available to rent for \$12.

The funds collected from dress rentals was used for dry cleaning and storage for the following year.

"This event is a way for our Spirit Girls to help their peers and give them an example of

what it looks like to encourage other women. The girls renting dresses will take away memories that will last a lifetime without the financial burden of buying a dress," said Tyra Wilamoor, Spirit Girls and Sweeteas

coordinator.

The Spirit Girls collected over 300 gowns for the event in addition to formal shoes, dress racks, hangers and full-length mirrors.

All of these items were donated for Prom-A-Polooza.



# College Hill Annual Heritage Banquet

College Hill Baptist Church • February 16, 2019 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON







## New Hope Baptist Church



**Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor**

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**Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer -**

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019

*Celebrating the Civil Rights Movement*



William Henry Lanier High School



Barack H. Obama Elementary School

*In observance of Black History Month, Jackson Public Schools would like to share a brief history of the notable African-American namesakes of several of our schools.*

### William Henry Lanier High

William Henry Lanier was born a slave in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1851. He attended Tougaloo College, Oberlin College and Fisk University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Roger Williams University. For six years, he was president of Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, which we now know as Alcorn State University. He taught in Forest, Winona, Black Hawk, Carrollton, Yazoo City and Jackson. He served as principal of the Smith Robertson School in Jackson from 1912 until the year he died in 1929.

### Barack H. Obama Elementary

A native of Hawaii, Barack Obama attended Columbia University in New York and graduated with a political science degree in 1983. He was elected to the Illinois Senate and served from 1997-2004. Later, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served from 2005-2006. In 2009, Obama became the 44th President of the United States and the first African American elected to that office. In the first year of his presidency, Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." He served as the U.S. president for two terms.



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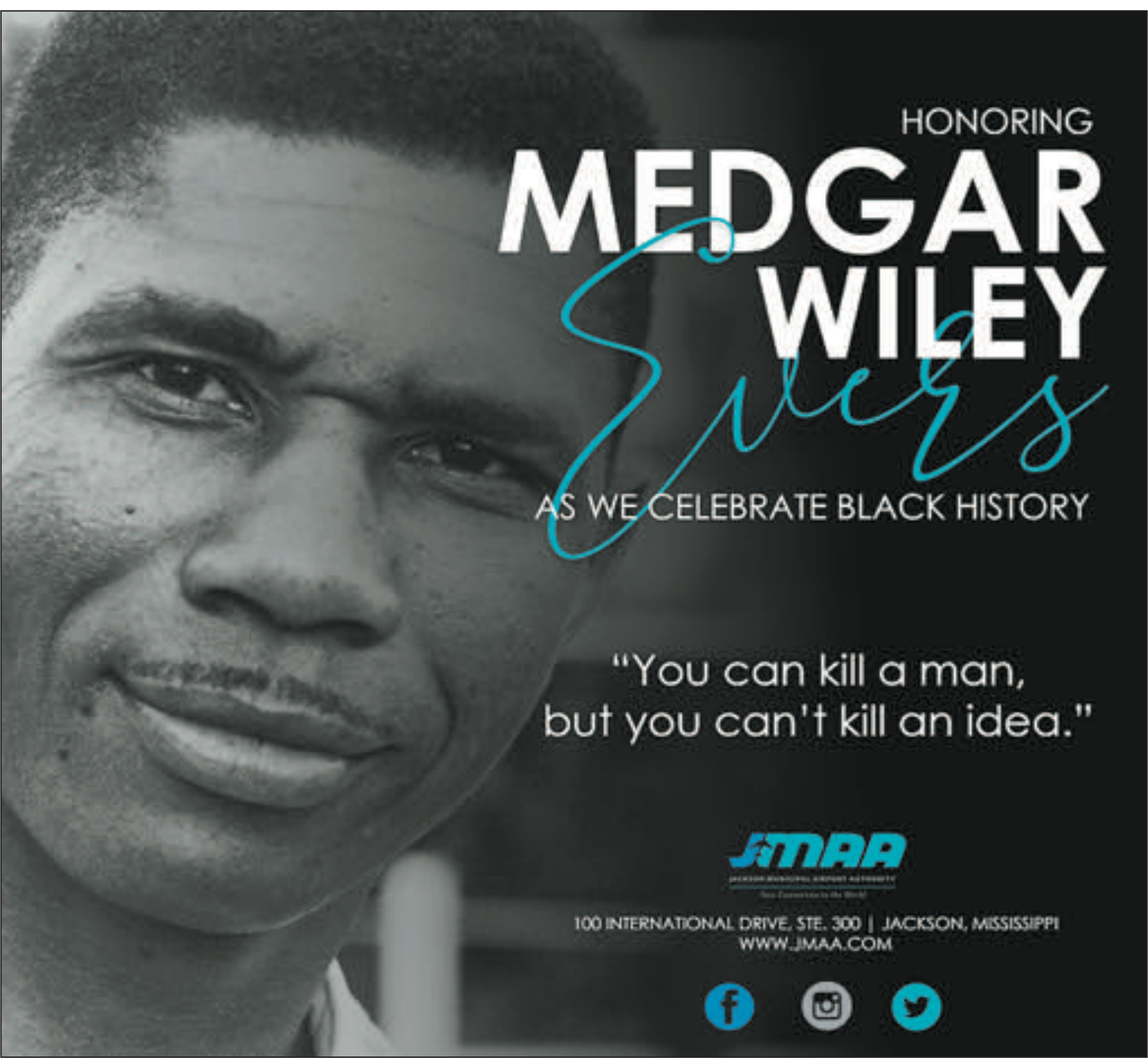
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but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”**

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Our history of innovation is a story of people from all walks of life and backgrounds coming together to connect customers with their loved ones, their work and their world. Our diverse, inclusive culture welcomes all points of view and helps to make us who we are: a great place to work, a desired business partner, and a committed member of the communities we serve. AT&T is honored to show our support for Black History Month.