

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Riley Collins



Collins

Mississippi Link Newswire

**Editor's Note:** As part of our monthly series spotlighting women making a difference during the month of March. We thought we would re-introduce you to Jennifer Riley Collins the first African-American candidate for attorney general in the state of Mississippi. She's the first African-American and female democratic nominee for this position. Her bio, as pulled from the ACLU website, is our feature.

Jennifer A. Riley-Collins is a native of Meridian, MS. She is a 1987 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Alcorn State University. In 1993, she earned her Masters of Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Central Texas in one year while serving on active duty as a primary staff officer. In 1997, she returned to Mississippi after receiving a merit based scholarship and in 1999 received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Mississippi College School of Law, graduating a full semester ahead of her classmates.

Collins is an attorney licensed to practice in both state and fed-



eral courts. An advocate for quality representation and equal justice for all she has been a speaker both across the country on issues related to providing zealous representation to juvenile clients. She has coordinated the legislative advocacy efforts aimed at reforming Mississippi's juvenile justice system and de-institutionalizing at-risk youth.

Collins has studied and written about the Mississippi juvenile justice system. She has authored a number of professional publications and training materials to include Mississippi, An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Youth Court Proceedings, published Fall of

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Senator Elizabeth Warren delivers Stellar performance at town hall event



Warren addresses audience at JSU while CNN's Jake Tapper looks on. PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

By Othor Cain  
Editor

Looking for that perfect comeback?

That's what Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has been doing since her botched handling of claims of Native American heritage. She has watched other senators that are 2020 presidential hopefuls zoom past her in their quest to take on President Donald Trump next November.

Warren might have found her mojo.

At a CNN-sponsored town hall event held on the campus of Jackson State University, Monday, Warren delivered a very strong performance. Her strength in the policy arena was

on full display as she told heart wrenching stories of her childhood struggles.

Jake Tapper, Chief Washington Correspondent for CNN, host of The Lead with Jake Tapper and host of CNN's Sunday morning public/political affairs program State of the Union, served as the moderator for the town hall. During one exchange with Tapper, Warren became very emotional as she shared her early childhood struggles.

**Tapper:** You talk about how your family stood at the brink of financial disaster through a good part of your childhood. How has that shaped your life in the Senate?

**Warren:** I'll tell you about

that. I have three older brothers. They all went off and joined the military. That was their ticket to America's middle class. I was the late-in-life baby. My mother used to call me the "surprise" and about the time I was in middle school, my daddy had a heart attack and it was serious. Thought he was going to die. The church neighbors brought covered dishes. It was a scary time. He survived but he couldn't go back to work. We lost our family station wagon and at night I would hear my parents talk and that's where I learned words like mortgage and foreclosure and I remember the day that I walked into my parents' bedroom and laying out on

the bed is the dress. And some people here will know the dress. It's the one that only comes out for weddings, funerals and graduations and my mother is in her slip and in her stocking feet and she's pacing back and forth and she's crying. She is saying "we will not lose this house. We will not lose this house." She was 50 years old. She had never worked outside the home. She was truly terrified. And I watched her while she finally just pulled it together, put that dress on, put on her high heels and blew her nose and walked to the Sears and got a minimum wage job, and that minimum wage job saved our

Warren  
Continued on page 3

NAARC applauds reparations conversation by 2020 presidential contenders

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

The National African-American Reparations Commission (NAARC) applauds several presidential contenders for their recent expressed interest in reparations and calls on all the candidates to prioritize reparatory justice as an issue of importance to black voters in the weeks and months ahead.

NAARC is also calling on all 2020 candidates, as well as other lawmakers, to support HR40, the reparations bill authored by former US Cong. John Conyers, which has languished in Congress since 1989. HR-40, which was reintroduced in the 115th Congress, was developed in consultation with NAARC.

It calls for establishing a federal commission to study reparations proposals for African Americans that would repair the horrific socio-economic damages caused by the enslavement and generations of racially exclusive/discriminatory policies and practices post-emancipation.

The current reparations conversation,



Dr. Ron Daniels, IBW president

namely being forged by candidates Sens. Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren and former Housing Secretary Julian Castro, is especially relevant in light of the fact that 2019 marks the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of Africans in chains in Virginia, which opened the era of slavery, one of the most sordid chapters in U.S. history.

"In general, the recent statements by presidential candidates are a positive development," said Ron Daniels, Conve-

ner of NAARC and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW). "They reflect an increasing body of scholarship that definitively draws the connection between the enslavement of Africans and the persistent wealth-gap and underdevelopment of Black America."

Candidates are also responding to the growing, multifaceted reparations movement in this country and to the fact that in recent public opinion polls, reparations now enjoys the support of a majority of African Americans as well as from a growing percentage of young white millennial voters.

"NAARC stands ready to educate and orient candidates and legislators on the definition, background, process, internationally accepted norms and historical precedents for reparations to repair damages inflicted on peoples and nations. Hopefully, this will enrich the public dialogue on this vital issue," added Daniels.

NAARC was established in April 2015 at a National/International Repara-

tions Summit convened by IBW in New York City. The nonpartisan commission is comprised of distinguished black leaders from across the U.S. in the fields of law, education, public health, economic development, religion, labor, civil and human rights.

For decades, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) has been a leading force advancing the struggle for reparations in the U.S. Kamm Howard, national co-chairperson of NCOBRA and a NAARC commissioner, welcomes the surge in support for reparations by the presidential candidates but insists that the discussion and debate be centered around reparations as full repair.

"The international standard holds that reparations 'must wipe out all consequences' of the wrongful acts committed against enslaved Africans," said Howard. "To get us to full repair, policies programs and practices must be developed to produce the following outcomes: cessation and guarantees of non-repetition, restitution, compensation, satisfaction,

and rehabilitation. These are the intended outcomes of HR 40. The candidates, some of whom are Senators, should craft a Senate companion bill. This can be done now if they are serious about their support for reparations."

To help frame the public discourse and as a guide for action by governmental and private entities, NAARC has devised a comprehensive and detailed 10-point reparations program that addresses the issues of repair and restitution. The creation of a National Reparations Trust Fund is among the proposals outlined in the NAACRC Reparations Program.

The authority would receive funding grants, scholarships, land and other forms of restitution to benefit the collective advancement of Black America. It would be comprised of a cross-section of credible representatives of reparations, civil rights, and human rights, labor, faith, educational, civic and fraternal organizations and institutions.

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## JSU student Stacey Lanthrip named MCM February Volunteer of the Month

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Jackson State University (JSU) student Stacey Lanthrip has been named the Mississippi Children's Museum's (MCM) Volunteer of the Month for February.

"Volunteering challenges us to work with new people and explore different surroundings," explains Sharon Griffin, volunteer coordinator at MCM and adjunct professor at JSU. "Stacey Lanthrip only recently began volunteering at our museum and jumped right in and tackled many different tasks presented to her. She is passionate, positive and genuinely enjoys helping children."

MCM is one of the approved sites at which JSU students can volunteer within the community. Students are required to complete 120 hours of volunteer service in order to graduate.

"At first, I was a little nervous, because I wasn't familiar with the MS Children's Museum," reflected Lanthrip. "Now I'm glad I chose MCM. Everyone has made me feel so welcome. I wouldn't trade my experience for anything."

"I have really enjoyed seeing the smiles on faces of children who visit the museum," shared Lanthrip. "The highlight of my time volunteering at

MCM was during Dr. Seuss' Silly Birthday Celebration when a little girl walked up to me while I was wearing my Dr. Seuss hat and gave me a hug. That melted my heart and made me so glad that I decided to volunteer at the museum."

"Volunteers are a vital part of the MCM team," said Griffin.

"They assist us with special programs and activities, and they help us carry out our mission within the community. We are very thankful for all of our terrific volunteers."

*For more information about volunteer opportunities at MCM, go to [www.mschildrensmuseum.org](http://www.mschildrensmuseum.org).*



Lanthrip



## Reverend Marquette R. Wells delivered opening Prayer to the state senate

Reverend Marquette R. Wells, Pastor of Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, delivered an opening prayer to the state senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the invitation of Senator David Blount, who led the Pledge of Allegiance before Lt. Governor Tate Reeves guided lawmakers into the day's business.

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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

# The Mississippi Senate honored Civil Rights icon and blues advocate Dr. Edgar E. Smith

The Mississippi Senate, Monday, March 18, 2019 honored Civil Rights icon and blues advocate Dr. Edgar E. Smith of Jackson, with presentation of Senate Concurrent Resolution 541 saluting his longtime dedication to promoting the blues and seeing that blues musicians could find financial assistance when needed.

Smith, a retired biochemist, is chairman of the Mississippi Blues Commission's Blues Musicians Benevolent Fund, supported primarily by the sale of Mississippi Blues Trail license plates, a \$10,000.00 yearly gift from the Mississippi Blues Marathon, and private donations. Smith

"As a son of the Delta, I am keenly aware of the challenges that confront these artists on a daily basis. Many musicians, especially the older ones, have no health insurance and no other source of income other than what they get from blues gigs," said Smith, who has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to assist struggling blues artists.

Smith said since 2011, they have gifted \$92,000 to blues artists in need.



**Dr. Edgar E. Smith, (4th from right), accepted Senate Concurrent Resolution 541 from Senator John Horhn, as Malcolm Shepherd, a member of the Central Mississippi Blues Society, (6th from right), holds Senate Concurrent Resolution 633, presented to him by Senator Horhn recognizing the cultural contributions of the organizations, as retired Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan looks on.**

## Warren

Continued from page 1

house, but more importantly, it saved our family.

This exchange with Tapper gave America a clearer perspective of who Warren is as a person and not just a candidate. It offered a glimpse into her heart.

For more than an hour, Warren hit on issues ranging from the future of health care in America to her plan to break up tech giants like Amazon, Facebook and reparations.

Warren launched her presidential campaign ear-

ly but has struggled to break through in the initial round of primary polling. She used the national stage to show off the energetic stage presence and affecting personal story that have become a hallmark of her presence on the stump.

Warren said Monday she believes Mississippi should adopt a new state flag without the Confederate battle emblem.

"Mississippi's the only state in the country that

still has the confederate battle emblem on the state flag – do you think Mississippi should adopt a new flag?" Tapper asked.

Warren replied with one word – "Yes" – and was met with loud applause from the crowd.

A question from an audience member went deeper.

"As a presidential hopeful, do you have any plans on addressing the removal, or lack there of, of the

reminders of this nation's dark past, or have any plans on preserving the nation's history in a way that explains it in a more educational sense versus showing praise to the losing side?"

Warren said she would "support removing Confederate celebrations from federal land and putting them in museums, where they belong."

Warren found her momentum.

*See related story page 16.*

## Reparations

Continued from page 1

The authority would be empowered to establish subsidiary trust funds to administer projects and initiatives in the areas of culture, economic development, education, health and other fields as deemed appropriate based on the demands of the Reparations Program (<https://bit.ly/2T0MhZt>).

To increase public awareness of the Program, NAARC has convened initial hearings and town hall meetings in Atlanta and New Orleans and plans to hold additional sessions in a number of cities across the country.

Pan-Africanist and international movements in support of slavery reparations have emerged across the globe, from the Caribbean and Latin America to Africa, Asia and Australia. In that regard, it is significant to note that NAARC works closely with the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) which is claiming reparations from the former European colonial powers for Native genocide and African enslavement.

Advocates for reparatory justice explain that the issue covers both the past and the present and it contains the potential to defend and protect American democracy at a time when it is being threatened by a rise in white nationalism, autocracy and oligarchy. In a recent meeting, NAARC commissioners also took note of the fact there are external forces that seem intent on sowing confusion within the American electorate to suppress the black vote to favor the ascendancy of these reactionary forces.

NAARC Commissioner Iva Carruthers, gen-

eral secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference stressed, "Reparations is a process that affirms the humanity of people of African descent and the healing of communities from trans-generational trauma. It is unquestionably the right and just thing to do. Reparations also carries a gravitas that the country as a whole can benefit from as it searches for a moral compass to guide it through these turbulent times which are exacerbated by deeply entrenched bigotry, institutionalized racism and structural economic disparities."

"As the richest country on the planet, America has more than enough resources to sustain a comprehensive, national reparations program," says NAARC Commissioner Julianne Malveaux, noted political-economist and educator. "America needs to accept its moral responsibility to repair and rectify the lingering damages of African enslavement and racially discriminatory policies after Emancipation."

Daniels concluded that "reparations is as relevant to our political agenda as any other issue. Finally receiving our '40 acres and a mule' is a matter of 'national emergency' when dealing with the profound crises afflicting marginalized black communities across this nation. The time for reparatory initiatives based upon the principles of justice and equality is now, and NAARC calls on all of the 2020 presidential candidates to endorse and vigorously support HR-40 as a vehicle to move the United States towards redressing one of the original sins of its founding."

## Collins

Continued from page 1

2007; In the Interest of Joshua Brown: An Interactive Juvenile Defense Training Module, published Spring of 2008; Double Jeopardy, A Tactical Clog in the School House to Jail House Pipeline; Avoiding the School-House to Jail-House Track, A Self Help Handbook for Children, Parents, and Community Leaders; and Train the Trainer, Juvenile Justice Advocacy Training Manual.

In 2008, she was nominated for recognition as one of Mississippi's Most Outstanding Women Lawyers. She is member of the Project Equity Advisory Board.

Her military career exceeds 20 years of both active and reserve duty. Assignments include Counterintelligence Platoon Leader, 504th MI BDE; Commander, Special Security Group, Ft. Meade, MD with assignment at the Test and Experimentation Command; Battalion S2, 2-2 Air Defense Artillery Battalion; Security and Intelligence Officer, 549th MI BN (TXNG); SIGNET/EW and Operations Officer, 255th Military Intelligence Company (MSNG); Intelligence Officer, 3rd Personnel Command (USAR); Plans and Operations Officer, 3rd Personnel Command (USAR) Deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; and Brigade S2, 177th AR BDE (USAR - Mobilized). Her last assign-

ment was Command Inspector General for Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (USAR – Mobilized).

She has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Cluster).

Collins' military education includes Basic Training (as Private Riley) -1985, Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course - 1988, Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course Jun1994, CombinedArms and Services Staff School, -1997 Command and General Staff Course 2009, and the Inspector General School -2010. She has also completed the following Naval War College courses: Joint Military Operations Course - 2013, the Strategic and Warfare Course – 2012, and the National Security Decision Making Course – 2011 earning 12 hours toward a Master of International Relations.

Collins is a member of New Horizon Church International, Leadership Jackson and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has been a racial diversity trainer for Leadership Madison. In January 2014, Collins was appointed as a member of the US Commission on Civil Rights Mississippi Advisory Committee.



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# MVLP to co-sponsor free “Restoration Day” Expungement Clinic in Hinds County

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP), the Clinton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Magnolia Bar Association are hosting a “Restoration Day” Expungement Clinic to assist low-income residents with clearing their record. The clinic will be held Saturday, March 30, 2019, 9 a.m. at Belmont Baptist Church-Raymond, 14011 MS-Hwy 18, Raymond, MS 39154. Participants must bring the following documents to receive services:

- Your driver’s license or

state issued ID

- A copy of your abstract (obtained from municipal/justice court in the city where the charges were received) or sentencing order (obtained from Circuit Court in the county where the charges were received) and copies of any and all documents related to the incident you want to be expunged
- Record(s) of any previous expungement and
- Proof that terms of sentence have been complied with/completed (obtain abstract from court or certificate showing that you have completed terms of probation).

This clinic is free and open to individuals with misdemeanor and felony charges received in Mississippi. Individuals should not have any new or pending charges. Individuals who qualify may be eligible to meet with a volunteer attorney one-on-one to have their expungement documents drafted. The services are free; however, the individual is responsible for their court filing fees.

For more information on MVLP or the legal clinics, please contact 601-882-5001 or visit <http://www.mvlp.net/pro-se-legal-clinic-schedule/>.

# 2019 Mississippi Spelling Bee winner, runner-up announced

Mississippi Link Newswire

Yolanda Ni is the winner of the 2019 Mississippi Spelling Bee. Ni is an eighth-grade student at Oak Grove Middle School in the Lamar County School District. She spelled the word “apothecary” for the win. The first runner-up was Soyeon Park, an eighth-grade student at Armstrong Middle School in the Starkville Oktibeha School District. Park was the 2017 winner of the Mississippi Spelling Bee. Mississippi Public Broadcasting broadcast the spelling bee live on MPB Television as well as online. The event was sponsored by the Mississippi Association of Educators and took place at the MPB Auditorium, 3825 Ridgewood Road in Jackson.

Ni, who was competing for the fourth time in the state bee, will vie for a chance to become the nation’s top speller during the 92nd Scripps National



Pictured are the 2019 Mississippi Spelling Bee Champion Yolanda Ni (from left), Mississippi Association of Educators. President Joyce Helmick and the 2019 Mississippi Spelling Bee runner-up Soyeon Park. | MPB

Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May. The winner of the national competition will emerge from a pool of 11 million spelling bee participants. For additional information

concerning the Mississippi Spelling Bee, contact MAE Director of Communications Hannah Orlansky at 601-354-4463 ext. 3009 or email her at [HOrlansky@maetoday.org](mailto:HOrlansky@maetoday.org).

# “Couture Cares” presents HER PROM CLOSET Experience – Jackson

Mississippi Link Newswire

Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Couture Cares will present Her Prom Closet Giveaway at Cade Chapel MB Church Family Life Center, 1000 Ridgeway Street Jackson, MS 39213.

In addition to several community events and awarding of scholarships to high school students, Couture Cares presents a free prom closet each year in Memphis for young ladies in the Memphis and Shelby County School Districts. This is the 5th year the organization has presented the event in Memphis. Additionally, for the 2nd year, the organization presents the event in Chicago, IL and the 1st year for Jackson, MS.

On the day of the event, there will be a welcome from Rev. Reginald Buckley, introduction of CEO, guest speaker and plenty of giveaways. Afterwards the young ladies will have an opportunity to select a prom dress and accessories at no cost along with a free lunch sponsored by McAlister’s and much more.

The 2019 Couture Cares Her Prom Closet will host about 80



local high schools’ girls from the Jackson Public School District. The young ladies will be trying on dresses to find their perfect fit. There will be a complete shopping experience setup. This will be a life changing experience for a lot of girls, where they can say “Yes To The Dress” simply because they have never experienced something such as this.

“I am committed to making a difference to our youth and Couture Cares has given

me the platform to help young ladies,” said Davina Jones, founder and CEO of Couture Cares.



For anyone wanting to donate we accept donations year round of dresses and monetary at [couturecares.org](http://couturecares.org). #ROCKIT.WEARIT.GIVEIT #HPC2k19

Point of contact for more information is Colonel Martha McRavin-Oliver, [mother1217@yahoo.com](mailto:mother1217@yahoo.com) or at 601-207-4352.

RIDER ALERT

ALL DAY DETOUR  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019  
ROUTE # 1 INBOUND/ OUTBOUND


To accommodate the St. Paddy’s Day Celebrations Saturday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, Rt. #1 – North State St., will be DETOURED (Inbound/ Outbound) as follows.  
Detoured to Gallatin St., right to Fortification St., resuming regular service at State St. and Fortification St.  
Please add time into your travel plans.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:  
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RIDER ALERT

ALL DAY DETOUR  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019  
ROUTE # 4R INBOUND/ OUTBOUND

To accommodate the St. Paddy’s Day Celebrations on Saturday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, Rt. #4R, will be DETOURED (Inbound/ Outbound) as follows.  
Detoured to Gallatin St., right to Fortification St., right to N. State St., left to High St., left on Monroe St., right onto Harding St., right onto Larson St., right to High St., following the mentioned detour back to Union Station.  
Please add time into your travel plans.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:  
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House District 71 Representative

Ronnie Crudup Jr. Swearing-In Ceremony

March 18, 2019 • House of Representatives Chamber • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY KEHINDE GAYNOR



Crudup and family with Speaker of the House Phillip Gunn



Crudup taking oath from speaker Gunn



Crudup addresses chamber after swearing-in



A legacy of family



Crudup and wife Andrea

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# Congratulations to the 2019 Reading Fair winners



Arielle and Arianna Brumfield of Bailey APAC Middle School

## Mississippi Link Newswire

Jennifer Walker of Spann Elementary and twin sisters Arielle and Arianna Brumfield of Bailey APAC Middle School were winners of the Regional Reading Fair held February 1 in Jackson. They also qualified to compete in the State Fair

held February 26.

The Mississippi Reading Fair originated at the Mississippi Department of Education in 1998.

The purpose of the competition is to provide students in grades K-12 the opportunity to share their favorite fictional

book through a storyboard display.

The goal of the Reading Fair is to enhance and encourage reading at all grade levels and to allow students to collaborate with their peers.

There are four levels of competition: Level 1 – School,

Level 2 – District, Level 3 – Regional and Level 4 – State. Only first place winners in each division proceed to the next round of competition.

Students’ participation in the school and district reading fairs prepares them for the regional and state competitions.

JPS District Reading Fair Winners				
Congratulations to the 2018-2019 District Reading Fair Winners from Jackson Public Schools.				
Storyboard Winners				
Category	Book/Project	Name	School	Grade
A13	Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss	Michael Junior	Watkins Elementary School	04
B16	Magic Treehouse-Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne	Jayden Fisher	Spann Elementary School	02
C15	The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling	Jennifer Walker	Spann Elementary School	03
D16	Alice Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll and Ken Campbell	De'Anna James	Galloway Elementary School	05
E-S12	Lost in Paris by Cindy Callaghan	Arianna Bell	Siwell Middle School	06
F-S9	The Mortal Instruments: The City of Bones by Cassandra Clare	Mariah Johnson	Early College High School	09
G-12	Roberto Clemente by Montrew Dunham	Jacob Jefferson	Power APAC School	04
I-S6	Muhammad Ali by Thomas Hauser	Gregory Murray	Capital City/Callaway High School	11
J-12	Gifted Hands by Gregg Lewis and Deborah Shaw Lewis	Acelia Donerson	Timberlawn Elementary School	05
J-12	Gifted Hands by Gregg Lewis and Deborah Shaw Lewis	Ashantia Donerson	Timberlawn Elementary School	05
K-S10	The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas	Arianna Brumfield	Bailey APAC Middle School	07
K-S10	The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas	Arielle Brumfield	Bailey APAC Middle School	07
L-S5	Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson	Maurica Woods	Early College High School	09
L-S5	Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson	Taniya Adams	Early College High School	09
Digital Media Winners				
Category	Book/Project	Name	School	Grade
E-D4	Delirium by Lauren Oliver	Ethan Wells	Northwest Jackson Middle School	08
F-D2	The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis	Caleb Rhodes	Forest Hill High School	09
I-D4	Eli: The Boy Who Hated to Write by Regina G. Richards	Raeonna Carson	Murrah High School	11
K-D2	Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold	Aleasha Magee	Hardy Middle School	08
K-D2	Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold	Javon Moore	Hardy Middle School	06
K-D2	Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold	Markezia Tarriso	Hardy Middle School	07

# City Of Jackson awarded \$1.2 M grant to introduce Universal Pre-K pilot program

## Mississippi Link Newswire

On Monday, March 18, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba along with Chief Administrative Officer Robert Blaine and Director of Human and Cultural Services, Adriane Dorsey-Kidd announced plans to develop a Universal Pre-K pilot program in Jackson, funded by a \$1.2 million grant awarded to the city by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

During the announcement, Lumumba said, “We are excited about the partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support the city’s initiative to provide universal pre-K. We have recognized that one of the significant deficits in our children’s ability to learn in Jackson Public Schools is that they are entering into the school system at different levels of preparation, and we need to assist our community in preparing our young people to start the learning process. To take a quote from Frederick Douglas, it is said that it is a lot easier building strong children than repairing broken men. And so, as we try to build a dignity economy, we need to prepare our children from the start.”

While research shows that 90 percent of children entering grade school are ill-equipped for learning, the Universal Pre-K pilot program, Ready To Learn, seeks to ensure that every child in Jackson is well-prepared to enter kindergarten by the age of five.

“Ready to Learn creates the



A \$1.2 million W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant awarded to the City of Jackson will be used to introduce universal pre-K programs in Jackson.

opportunity to develop a program that ensures that all five-year-olds enter kindergarten ready for the learning environment. One of the greatest enhancements that we can make to our educational system is to make sure that students enter kindergarten on grade level. If we can make this transition, it will both enhance what happens in our public schools and provide a foundation of educational success for all of our students,” said Blaine.

The Ready To Learn pilot program will undergo a two-year development process with the first year dedicated to building data and coalitions of early childhood educators across the city. The second year will focus on implementing the pilot universal pre-K program at two early childhood development centers in Jackson.

“I think the grant from Kellogg is going to be life-changing.

It gives us an opportunity to level the playing field. Our kids are invested just as any other child would be. I think their brightness will shine through because if given the same opportunity, we can perform at the same rate or better according to research,” said Kidd.

The Ready To Learn program will be made available to home-schooled children through child television programming and curriculum offered on the City of Jackson’s PEG Network.

Additionally, the grant seeks to offer technical assistance for early childhood development centers to become certified universal pre-K facilities.

Through the implementation and success of Ready To Learn, the City of Jackson hopes to expand the program with federal funding.

The Mississippi Link™

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# MVSU to honor WIST founder Dr. Constance G. Bland during annual celebration March 22

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi Valley State University will host its 22nd celebration of the Women in Science and Technology (WIST) Conference Friday, March 22.

The conference, themed “Women in Science and Technology Taking a Stand in STEM,” will take place in the Claude G. Perkins Auditorium, located in the William Sutton Administration Building, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During the morning session, the conference will feature a special ceremony to remember and honor the contributions of WIST founder, the late Dr. Constance G. Bland, by renaming the conference in her honor.

This year’s keynote speaker will be Bland’s daughter, Hillary Bland-Spivey.

The WIST is a student-led organ, comprised of undergraduate female students majoring in STEM disciplines, designed to promote women in science and technology. These students are committed and devoted to making a difference in the scientific community.

The goal of the annual conference is to show middle and high school females that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers are exciting, attainable and rewarding as well as to increase the awareness of STEM disciplines and MVSU.

Latonya Garner, chair of MVSU’s mathematics, computer and information sciences department, said she is extremely excited about this year’s event because it will expose young females to successful women in the fields of STEM, including obstetricians and gynecologists, physician assistants, computer scientists, nurses, biologists and mathematicians.

“The WIST Organization aspires to become a motivator to young ladies who yearn to be different in shaping the world in the 21st century,” said Garner. “We hope this conference will improve young females’ attitudes about STEM and increase their interest in MVSU.”

Spivey is a Leflore County native and alumna of St. Francis of Assisi, Leflore County High School and MVSU.



**Bland**

Having received a full academic scholarship, she decided to attend Valley to earn her bachelor’s degree. With aspirations of becoming a physician, Spivey majored in biology. During summer breaks, she participated in multiple internships to enhance her interest in medicine and the sciences.

In the summer of 2008, Spivey received an internship opportunity at one of the top medical schools in the country, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Over the next two summers, she interned at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

Additionally, during her time at MVSU, Spivey became involved in several organizations at MVSU, including Women in Science and Technology (WIST). She also attended and participated in many research conferences, presenting work from her summer internships. It was during these conferences that she discovered the career path of a physician assistant.

Upon her last year at MVSU, she ultimately decided to pursue the career path of a PA, or physician assistant. She graduated from MVSU in 2010 with summa cum laude honors.

In May 2011, Spivey was accepted to be a part of the inaugural physician assistant class at Mississippi College. She graduated with a Master of Science in Medicine degree in December

2013, becoming one of the first PA’s to be trained within the state of Mississippi.

After graduating from PA school, Spivey sought positions in the Houston, Texas area and was offered a position at the University General Hospital as a surgical PA. Over the span of three years, Spivey filled several positions as a surgical PA, then later transitioned to the medical specialty of urgent care in March 2018.

Spivey is currently employed at Next Level Urgent Care servicing the greater Houston area. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and recently took on the role of vice president of MVSU’s Houston-area alumni club.

Spivey is the daughter of Edgar Bland, Jr. and the late Dr. Constance Bland. She currently resides in Houston with her husband, Derio, and two daughters, Blake and Bailee.

Other presenters for the conference include: Mary Crump, Jacquilyn R. German, Jackie Henne-Kerr, Dr. Nneka Okezie Okeh, Dr. Manju Pande, Sabrina Phillips, Muriel R. Pollard, Margaret Reynolds, Dr. Hattie Spencer, Dr. Candace Carter Stevens, Yolanda Harvey-West, and Dr. Stacy White.

*For questions or more information, contact Earlean Anderson, director of academic support for STEM departments, at (662) 254-3638.*

# Retention efforts help students reach finish line

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The cost of not graduating on time is high, both in terms of additional tuition, room and board, and lost wages due to the delay in entering the workforce. Mississippi Public Universities understand this and work hard to ensure that students have access to the support services they need to stay in school and graduate on time.

Helping students stay in school and complete their degree is at the heart of **Delta State University**. DSU faculty and staff create a welcoming environment conducive to teaching and learning that serves as a path to student success. Due in part to campus-wide efforts, since 2013, fall-to-fall retention rates have improved by 3 percentage points, and graduation rates from the 2009 cohort to the 2011 cohort improved by 5 percentage points. Fall 2017 to spring 2018 retention rate of first-time full-time freshmen increased to 89.6 percent and first-time full-time transfer students increased to 89.1 percent – the highest percentage recorded for these groups of students.

Retention efforts focus on big picture items, such as First-Year Seminar, academic maps, and supplemental instruction, to name a few.

Because Delta State believes good teaching and student retention go hand in hand, in March 2018, DSU opened the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning with an endowment gift of \$3 million by the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation. The center provides faculty and chairs with resources, facilitated conversations, workshops, programs, networking opportunities, and individual consultations – all of which have a direct correlation to student retention.

In one example, DSU conducted a study of 4,602 student grades from 314 course sections and found that students taught by faculty who earned a teaching credential through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) had significantly higher success rates (i.e., better grades, fewer failures and withdrawals) than students taught by faculty who are not yet participating in the program. Delta State improved the prospects of 88 students – approximately 12 percent of the first-year class – and increased the odds of graduating nearly 3 percent more DSU students. Delta State is credentialing all of its new faculty through ACUE and working on a plan to credential all current faculty.

Delta State furthers student retention in many other ways. It has identified two writing-enhanced required upper-level courses for each major to help students fulfill the writing obligations unique to the given discipline. Delta State’s Quality Enhancement Program annually sponsors up to 100 diversity and inclusion campus events – and these opportunities not only educate, they also make students of all backgrounds feel welcome.

Also, Delta State’s McNair Scholars received a highly competitive \$1.12 million TRiO grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2018 to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students who are under-represented, first generational and low income. McNair Research Scholars receive numerous benefits in travel, research stipends, in-

ternships, and mentoring – all of which keep them not only in school but also realizing their potential.

**Mississippi State University** emphasizes the importance of class attendance, beginning in orientation when President Mark Keenum and others echo the same advice: “Go to class.” Parents and students are shown historical data showing the relationship between class attendance and grades. They are shown retention and graduation rates for students who have 0-1 absences per class, 2-3, 4-5 and so on. The university makes it clear – the first step to academic success is to go to class. It’s not the only step; it’s just the first one.

The Pathfinders at MSU program has over a 20-year history of working with students and teachers to improve class attendance. Pathfinders staff encourage attendance reporting by teachers, then monitors attendance data daily. Both Pathfinders staff and residence hall advisors interact with any student who exhibits a class attendance problem. Pathfinders is based on research that showed that missing as few as four classes in one course by a freshman had a substantial negative impact on freshman GPA and graduation six years later.

The Pathfinders program has produced a significant change in the attitudes of students and faculty regarding the importance of regular class attendance and its impact on student success. This change has led to a substantial improvement in graduation rates. Prior to Pathfinders, the six-year graduation rate at MSU averaged 50 percent. Several years after the program began the graduation rate reached 60 percent and has averaged 60 percent since that time.

MSU piloted a summer program during 2018 which encouraged students with ACT sub-scores below 17 to attend the summer II (second summer term, basically the month of July) to take care of their IHL-required remedial class prior to the start of the fall semester. These students lived together in one residence hall, interacted with Center for Student Success staff regularly, and had several group activities each week. The goal of this program was, of course, to enhance their transition to MSU.

MSU enrolls at-risk students in one of several high-interaction classes or programs during their first semester. Using incoming characteristics such as ACT scores and high school grades, at-risk students are identified, and advised during fall registration with the goal of getting each of those students into an appropriate First Year Experience, True Maroon, Freshman Success Strategies, or similar class or program, which is specifically designed to help the student in the transition to college.

Every incoming freshman at Mississippi State is assigned a freshman year navigator – an upperclassman student who helps that student progress through the freshman year. Navigators contact their students at least once a week through email, texting, phone calls or face-to-face meetings.

MSU began offering Supplemental Instruction (SI) in selected classes in 2013. This fall, the university offered SI

in 23 classes, providing additional academic support to 4,201 unique students (2,401 of those being freshmen this fall). The Learning Center offers individualized tutoring for over 100 additional subjects.

The university as a whole supports the focus on class attendance – it’s not just something that is preached during orientation and then exercised by the Pathfinders staff. Much like the reporting of progress grades, MSU had 89 percent attendance reporting for freshmen in their classes at the end of the 5th week of classes this fall, and 63 percent for all undergraduates.

**Mississippi University for Women** recently received a \$1.5 million grant over a five-year period from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title III program to implement processes that will improve retention and graduation rates and streamline the student advising process. This nationally competitive grant, under the “Strengthening Institutions,” program is the first of this kind to be awarded to The W.

Among the programs that The W’s grant will cover will include redesigning intermediate education courses, professional development for intermediate education instructors, release time for faculty-led enhancements and improvements, establishing a peer mentoring program and implementing a web-based tutoring program. A major component covered under the grant is streamlining the advising process.

Goals include expanding targeted counseling services and outreach to faculty, implementing comprehensive training and support program for faculty advisers, establishing advising fellows program for continued professional development and implementing an electronic degree audit and data analytics system titled Degree Works.

All students enrolled in **Mississippi Valley State University-College** upon entering the university participate in academic support programs that will ensure for academic success. Their intervention and support programs consist of the following: EMAP, Tutoring, Mentoring, and shared department programs and interventions.

Students are also advised to take advantage of summer school and utilize their summer Pell and other academic recovery opportunities. The university has restructured its retention initiatives to intervene and help students stay on course and works collaboratively with MVSU trio programs to maximize interventions for student success. Tutoring and mentoring programs are vital to intervention, and the university is using the GradeFirst program to help the university track student academic progress and attendance.

**The University of Mississippi** has made significant progress in increasing retention and graduation rates over the past several years. The 2017 Freshman Cohort achieved the second highest retention rate, 86 percent, in university history. These increases have led to several Center for Student Success & FYE staff members publishing and presenting nationally regarding our student success and persistence efforts.

*Some of the tactics used*  
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[www.themississippilink.com](http://www.themississippilink.com)

# Carmen J. Walters named new president at Tougaloo College

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Board of Trustees of Tougaloo College is pleased to announce the selection of Carmen J. Walters as the the 14th president of this historic institution.

As the college celebrates its Sesquicentennial Anniversary and embraces what lies ahead in the new era of higher education, Walters brings a depth of executive-level leadership and knowledge in such vital areas as strategic planning in enrollment, facilities management, grant and budget management, workforce development, community and diversity relations and athletics management.

Walters succeeds Beverly Wade Hogan, who is retiring June 30. Hogan has served as Tougaloo’s president since May 2002. She is the first woman and the 13th president to lead Tougaloo.

“This position is a dream come true for me,” Walters said. “Tougaloo has such a rich and powerful history. You can feel it when you arrive on the campus and walk these hallowed grounds. It’s



a great challenge and opportunity for me to help preserve that wonderful history but also carry Tougaloo forward so that it’s here another 150 years.”

Walters has served more than 24 years in community college education. She spent the past six years at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, where she is executive vice president of Enrollment Management, Student Success and Institutional Relations. Prior to that

she worked 18 years at Delgado Community College in New Orleans.

Hogan said: “I am tremendously excited about the selection of Dr. Walters, and it will be my privilege to pass the baton of leadership to her. She brings a combined level of experiences, commitment and mature judgement that are useful in any leadership role. Her understanding and appreciation of the college’s history and mission, as well as her demonstrated commitment to faculty and student success, will be impactful in moving the college into its best years.”

Walters received a Bachelor of Science in accounting and business administration from Southern (La.) University in 1984, a Master of Arts degree in postsecondary counseling from Xavier College in New Orleans in 1990 and her PhD in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University in 2009.

She is married to Wayne Walters, and the couple has two grown daughters – Taeshaun Walters and Tierra Walters Mackie.



The organization's first Annual Meeting was held at Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA in May 1970.



# Stennis 2019 ASTRO CAMP® announces community collaboration opportunities

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The NASA Stennis Space Center Office of STEM Engagement has announced collaboration opportunities for “2019 ASTRO CAMP® In the Community.”

The ASTRO CAMP® program combines an evidence-based curriculum with a proven out-of-school learning methodology to provide universities, schools, museums and youth-serving organizations with a hands-on, NASA-unique STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) engagement experience for 2nd-12th grade

students across the country. Currently, organizations from six states comprise this year’s list of collaborators: Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Texas and South Carolina.

ASTRO CAMP® activities are aligned to Next Generation Science and College and Career Readiness Standards that support the work of NASA’s four mission directorates (science, science technology, human exploration, and aeronautics) in an effort to produce a more “STEM-centric” workforce. Particular emphasis is placed on increasing the par-

ticipation of learners traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented in STEM fields and students in special needs populations.

The theme for this year’s ASTRO CAMP® is “Next Generation Exploring the Moon Today ... Mars Tomorrow!” It includes the pilot of the new MOON to MARS curriculum modules directly supporting NASA’s four mission areas. ASTRO CAMP® also incorporates math and science principles through fun, hands-on activities that teach teams of campers to work to-

gether to complete NASA science-directed missions with real-world applications.

ASTRO CAMP® sessions provide campers the NASA experience of aeronautics from first flight to space flight; space technology engineering design with robotics applications; and Solar System-and-Beyond activities featuring planets, moons, stars and galaxies, with an encompassing survey of the Earth. Human exploration in space activities include real-world applications for living and working in low-Earth orbits and for preparing the next

generation of explorers who will travel deeper into space to live and work on the moon today and Mars tomorrow.

ASTRO CAMP® provides collaborators professional development, the 2019 ASTRO CAMP® Facilitators Guide, activity supply lists, on-line resources, NASA completion certificates and the on-line support of education specialists (as needed). Collaborating organizations must provide: 1) a camp leader, 2) support staff, 3) facilities, 4) supplies/materials and 5) camp management for each camp site.

Camp leaders and facilitators must take part in a one-to-two-day Educational Professional Development workshop provided by NASA education specialists in order to be designated as an official NASA Stennis 2019 ASTRO CAMP® Site.

*For more information about becoming a community collaborator contact:*

*Maria Lott at maria.m.lott@nasa.gov or 228-688-1776.*

*For more information about Stennis Space Center, visit:*

*www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/*

## 2019 fishing forecast for Northeast Mississippi

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) fisheries biologists expect another good year for anglers in Northeast Mississippi.

“Supplemental forage stockings of bream and threadfin shad in 2018 should enhance the bass populations at lakes Lamar Bruce, Monroe and Elvis Presley,” said MDWFP Fisheries Biologist Trevor Knight. “Last year, Lamar Bruce, which is popular with bream anglers in the area, started producing bass over 10 pounds and we anticipate that Monroe will do the same in this year.”

Anglers who do not want to fight the crowds should

consider checking out Lake Lowndes State Park.

“Our fall surveys indicated a healthy crappie population that is often overlooked,” Knight added. “Trophy-sized bass and catfish are also present due to an abundant gizzard shad population.”

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway will continue to provide consistent results for crappie, bass and catfish anglers. Bay Springs and Columbus Lake boast healthy populations of bass and crappie.

“We see more out-of-state crappie anglers fishing these lakes to get away from the crowds on the more popular, larger reservoirs,” Knight said.

Pickwick Lake should continue to produce quality bass,

crappie, and catfish in 2019. Crappie anglers should expect Bear and Yellow Creeks to produce good numbers of crappie, as they have in years past.

The heavy rainfall in the region during the past year may result in less aquatic vegetation coverage in 2019. As a result, bass anglers should focus more on fishing Pickwick’s famous ledges to catch largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass.

*For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) or call us at (601) 432-2212. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdwfp](http://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline](http://www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline).*

## Employees honored for service at Mississippi State Hospital



Mississippi State Hospital March service award recipients include: Front row (left to right): Cassandra Myles (Byram, 20 years), Angie Ware (Whitfield, 30 years), Eddie Williams (Pearl, 10 years). Back row (l-r): Leroy Evans (Jackson, 30 years), Tracy Dotson (Jackson, 1 year), Vicki Payne (Brandon, 10 years), Suzanne Blakely (Brandon, 10 years).

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with March anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital.

Service awards are given to MSH employees in the month of their date of hire, beginning with

one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin.

The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mis-

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

## Assists at State Capitol

Shelby Carson of Raymond recently served as a junior page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages assist in the day-to-day operations of the senate, generally running errands for officials and staff. Shelby is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, who sponsored her visit. Shelby is the daughter of Fulton and Raquel Carson and attends Raymond High School. When asked about the week, Shelby said, “Being able to page for the senate has deepened my understanding of the legislative process. I plan to return next year to further my interest in state politics.”



Azalea Scott of Raymond recently served as a junior page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages assist in the day-to-day operations of the senate, generally running errands for officials and staff. Azalea is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, who sponsored her visit. Azalea is the daughter of Willie and Donna Scott and attends Raymond High School. When asked about the week, Azalea said, “This experience has been great. I enjoyed watching senators display a tireless effort to get bills passed through the democratic process. This opportunity has inspired me to take a proactive role in the future of our state politics.”





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## Helping missing black girls

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

**Have you seen Iniaya Wilson?**

Just 14, Iniaya has been missing from her Columbus, Ohio home since January 25.

She's African American, has brown hair and brown eyes; standing 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 120 pounds.

**Have you seen Skylar Mannie?**

From Lancaster, Calif., Skylar is also black and just 13 years old. She was last seen Feb. 14.

She has black hair, brown eyes, stands 5 feet 5 inches and weighs 130 pounds.

The two are among the estimated 64,000 black girls and women across the United States that have gone missing. Iniaya and Skylar are also among an unfortunately growing number of young people listed in the "critically missing" section of the expansive database of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

That includes girls and women of all backgrounds, an important distinction because of the lack of media coverage of African Americans who've gone missing.

That has spurred activists and some in Congress to action.

In efforts to address the problem of missing black children nationwide, Reps. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.), Robin Kelly (D-Ill.) and Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) initiated the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls in 2016. Through the caucus, they hope to create public policies that "eliminate significant barriers and disparities experienced by black women."

According to BlackNews.com, members of the caucus believe that more federal assistance and collaboration is needed to further eliminate the problem.

"I feel like knocking on every attic, every garage to see where those girls are," House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi said. "Let's be an example to the world that we can't rest until these girls are found."

Further, the nonprofit Black and Missing But Not Forgotten,



Iniaya Wilson



Skylar Mannie

also has focused its attention on spotlighting and finding missing African Americans.

Since 2007, the organization has sought to develop relationships with media, government agencies and the public to ensure that missing African Americans receive prompt attention and concern to garner the best possible outcomes for each case.

A 2010 study about the media coverage of missing children in the United States discovered that only 20 percent of reported stories focused on missing black children despite it corresponding to 33 percent of the overall missing children cases.

The report revealed that missing black youth — especially black girls — are underreported in the news and it seems that many people don't even care.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said that in 2018 alone, there were 424,066 reports of missing children made to law enforcement around the country.

John and Revé Walsh and other child advocates founded the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children as a private, non-profit organization to serve as the national clearinghouse and to provide a coordinated, national response to problems relating to missing and exploited children.

Walsh, who formerly hosted "America's Most Wanted," now does similar work with his show, "In Pursuit."

The show, which airs on the Investigation Discovery network, has remained relentless in its pursuit of missing children.

"I'm excited to see our co-founder John Walsh back doing what he does best — catching

fugitives and bringing justice to victims," John F. Clark, NCMEC's president and CEO, said in a blog on the NCME website.

So far, the nonprofit has helped law enforcement find more than 284,000 missing kids, and NCMEC's 24/7 Call Center has handled more than 4.8 million phone calls and has access to 190 languages.

Walsh founded NCMEC nearly 35 years ago after his 6-year-old son, Adam, was abducted and later found murdered.

With the expanding power of social media, Walsh said people are more involved now than ever before. "Call me. Contact me... You tell me where the bad guy is, and we'll go get 'em," Walsh said on the blog.

According to multiple reports, when black girls go missing, it's often unclear whether they have run away from home, were inflicted violence, abducted, sent into the sex industry, among others. Essentially, according to BlackNews.com, their safety and assurance to be brought back home was commonly ignored and not an utmost concern.

That concern heightened when investigators in California announced that they were trying to identify the body of a young black girl who was found dead inside a duffel bag in a suburb of Los Angeles. The girl was eventually identified as Trinity Love Jones.

Investigators said the circumstances of her death are still being determined.

The discovery combined with the lack of any new missing person reports that match the girl's description shed further light on the plight of missing black girls.

Trinity's body was found

near a hiking trail in Hacienda Heights but authorities said initially that they had little information to help identify her. She was found wearing a long pink shirt with the words "Future Princess Hero" and grey pants with panda prints.

Because Hacienda Heights isn't far from Lancaster, where Skylar Mannie went missing, the Los Angeles Sheriff Department did release a statement clarifying that the body found did not belong to Skylar.

"LASD confirms the victim found in Hacienda Heights is not Skylar Mannie who was reported missing in Lancaster. Homicide investigators are working diligently to solve the case of the girl found in Hacienda Heights and we ask our residents to keep an eye out for Skylar," the sheriff's department said in the statement at the time.

"We've detained two people of interest who may be connected to the case," a subsequent statement said.

While she has not been named a suspect in the death of her daughter Trinity, Taquesta Graham, 28, arrived in California for questioning after being detained in Texas on an alleged parole violation.

Deputy Michelle Sanchez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Information Bureau said in a statement, "Graham remains to be held in Los Angeles County custody on the unrelated warrant. Homicide investigators continue to vet community tips and follow up on additional evidence obtained during the investigation. The criminal case naming Taquesta Graham is being prepared for presentation to the District Attorney's Office on a later date."

Graham's boyfriend, Emiel Lamar Hunt, 38, was charged with murder for the death of Trinity Love Jones. He is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles County Superior Court to enter a plea April 26.

Hunt served more than a decade in prison following a conviction for abusing his own son in San Diego County in 2005, according to sheriff's Detective Marc Boivert.

## Yes, Herenton is serious about wanting to be mayor of Memphis again

By John Semien  
Special to The New Tri-State Defender

As the incumbent talks about accelerating momentum, and a first-term Shelby County commissioner rides an out-of-the-gate buzz about "we can't wait," former mayor Willie W. Herenton is putting things in place to "do it again."

It's been almost a year since Herenton, who has been elected Memphis mayor five times, declared that he wanted back in.

Since then, incumbent Jim Strickland has formally launched his reelection bid. And last week, District 7 Commissioner Tami Sawyer staked her mayoral claim, one that would make her the first woman to serve, if she navigated a path to victory. Lesser-known announced candidates include Pam Moses and Lemichael Wilson.

The *New Tri-State Defender* hooked up with Herenton at his campaign headquarters on Third St. recently. The exchange lasted about an hour and came to a close with Memphis' longest serving mayor choosing not to supply individual answers to a series of questions drawn from an informal survey of TSD readers.

"My team is developing position papers on all of these issues and others that are in the minds of Memphians," Herenton said. "And as the campaign moves along our plans will be revealed to the public."

The interview was in a conference room. An office administrator that has been aligned with Herenton for years was setting up her office. Others involved in the campaign were putting pictures on the walls. The first question was why he was running.

"To make a long story short, I left (public office) before completing the agenda," Herenton said. "You are going to hear me talk in this campaign about how I left an unfinished agenda. If you notice I didn't have a clear succession pattern..."

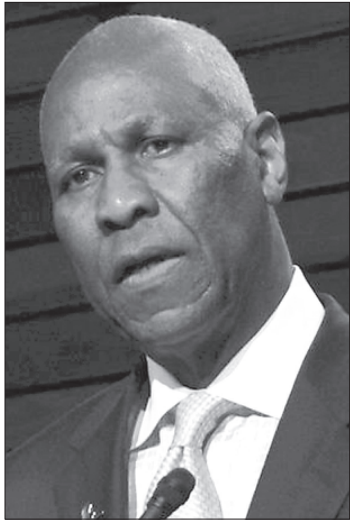
The first African American elected mayor, Herenton served from 1992 until 2009, resigning about a year into his fifth term. He made reference to the resignation, which came amid a federal investigation into a real estate deal involving him. The probe didn't yield any charges against him but took its toll.

"It weighed very heavily on my family and my ability to perform my duties as a mayor in the manner that I wanted to do," Herenton said. "If you will recall, I submitted my resignation in the second half of my fifth term as mayor."

He has since determined that his life's purpose is still public service and that he has more to contribute as mayor of Memphis. He noted that his candidacy was announced April 5, 2018, the day after the 50th commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Going back into public service as the mayor of Memphis, given this historical significance to the life and the legacy of Dr. King, I felt a sense of rededication to Dr. King's mission and my own personal mission," Herenton said. "I marched with him... I participated in the Black Mondays at a very young age."

Without calling any names, Herenton said today's "so-called activists" don't know "a damned thing about activism."



Herenton

Marching with Dr. King meant "putting my job on the line," he said. "We were real activists. I put everything on the line when I was very young."

"At the age of 78, I'm still here," Herenton said. "I still have the passion and the energy...to go back and finish the unfinished agenda."

That unfinished agenda includes economic empowerment for "people who have been left out of the economic growth of this community," he said.

"The current administration keeps boasting about momentum, and you've heard the old adage about a rising tide lifts all boats. There are boats in Memphis that are not being lifted. In fact, there are some people who don't even have a boat."

Never mentioning Strickland by name, Herenton said the current administration talks about the billions of dollars in construction within the city limits of Memphis.

"We will focus on building strong families. That's going to differentiate us," he said. "We want to get at the root causes of poverty and crime."

Herenton said he has seen three generations of poor people and "90 percent didn't make it." Success, he said, has more to do with instilling the right values in children than making sure there is a father in every household. He grew up with a strong mother and grandmother, who stressed the importance of education, hard work and going to church.

"This generational poverty, we've got to break (it), and I think it starts by identifying the root causes of the poverty and putting together a plan of action that gets at those root causes."

He also wants to address what he sees as the city's deteriorating infrastructure.

"It wasn't like that during my tenure. Something happened," he said. "All you have to do is drive the streets of Memphis."

Herenton said crime is worse now than it was when he was mayor.

"When I was mayor we aggressively fought the crime problem. ...We had aggressive police programs; Blue Crush did a phenomenal job. ... I don't see that aggressive crime fighting today. We're going to aggressively fight crime while addressing the causes of crime."

Saying his administration would invest in the youth of Memphis, Herenton said a lot of people received their first job in summer youth programs sponsored by his office.

"...My life continues to be a purpose-driven life...and I wanted people to know I resigned with a cloud that was not of my own choosing," Herenton said. "I know history will be somewhat kind to me but I'm still not through with the legacy and history."

## Southern Poverty Law Center fires co-founder Morris Dees

*Organization is among the nation's premier trackers of hate groups*

By Frederick H. Lowe  
TriceEdneyWire.com

The Southern Poverty Law Center has announced that Morris Dees, the organization's co-founder, has been fired, but officials of the Montgomery, Alabama-based organization did not explain why.

"As a civil rights organization, the SPLC is committed to ensuring that the conduct of our staff reflects the mission of the organization and the values we hope to instill in the world," said Richard Cohen, SPLC's president. "When one of our own fails to meet those standards, no matter his or her role in the organization, we take it seriously and must take appropriate action."

Dees' biography has been removed from the organization's website.

Dees, who is 82, co-founded SPLC in 1971 and was the chief litigator. The organization tracks hate groups and regularly publishes "Intelligence Report."

The issue, which was published in Spring of 2019 was titled "The Year in Hate: Rage Against Change: White Supremacy Flourishes amid Fears of Immigration and the Nation's Shifting Demographics."

The magazine published articles, photographs, and maps where most hate groups operate. The SPLC blew the whistle on the rise of white hate groups that were often ignored by law enforcement officials because some of their employees were members of



Dees

the hate groups.

The groups listed were the Klu Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, Skinheads and white nationalists. Under his leadership, the SPLC bankrupted the nation's largest Klan organization.

The SPLC also said Chicago-based Nation of Islam was involved in hate speech.

"The black nationalist movement is a reaction to centuries of institutionalized white

supremacy in America," SPLC explained.

Dees could not be reached for comment, but a series of articles in Montgomery Advertiser newspaper reported Dees was more concerned with raising money than fighting hate. In 2017, SPLC had \$450 million in assets according to federal tax records.

SPLC's black employees also charged that Dees was a racist.



# Bitterness-killing the root

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



“See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” (Hebrews 12:15)

Christians are to be known as peacemakers. Rebelling and lack of faith can produce dissension and disharmony among the people of God. Therefore, the author exhorts them to pursue peace.

- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)
- “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1)

The root of bitterness grows

in the soil of hurt that has not been dealt with properly. The roots absorb and store in the heart hurt, anger, hatred and thoughts of revenge. Love keeps no record of wrongs but bitterness keeps detailed accounts.

When you pull a weed from the ground, if you don’t get the roots, weeds will return. So it is with bitterness. Fortunately, Scripture shows us how to kill the root of bitterness. According to Ephesians 4:31-32, the only way to eliminate the root of bitterness is forgiveness. “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.”

No one is going to see the inside of Heaven with a bitter spirit. Bitterness is a destroyer. It destroys homes,

congregations and the chiefest of friends. It will set you back spirituality in your life. One has well said, “Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is the power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.” Another quote says this: Bitterness is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die.” You cannot have bitterness in your heart and have a good relationship with God at the same time. They just don’t mix.

What does the Bible say about attitude?”

Writing from a prison cell in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote about the attitude a Christian should have: “Whatever happens conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Philippians 1:27)

No matter what unexpected disruptions, frustrations or

difficulties come our way, we are to respond with a Christ like attitude. We should be standing firm and striving for the faith. Paul later writes, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 2:5). He is talking about demonstrating humility and selflessness in relationships. He also encourages us in Ephesians 5:1 to be “imitators of Christ as dearly beloved children.” “3, Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

*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.*

# God wastes nothing

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Through my years as a student, writer and teacher of English, I’ve learned many things. I’ve learned about the beauty of creativity and the power of choosing the right word to share your thoughts. However, I think the most important thing that I’ve learned as a writer is that God wastes nothing. For writers, this means revisiting earlier rough drafts of writing projects. Often, there may be a sentence or a phrase on the rough draft that ends up being just what I was looking to add to the final draft.

My life experiences as an administrative assistant at a jail, french fry “specialist” at McDonald’s, radio show producer and host, and earring piercer seem so unrelated. However, even though some of these jobs were over 30 years ago, I see how they all taught me things that I’m using in my life today. For example, I learned to deal with fear when I worked at a jewelry store my summer freshmen year in college and had to pierce ears as a part of the job.

I just thought it would be great to get a discount on jewelry, but what I really learned was how to deal with fear...mine and others. In some instances, the ear-piercing customers wanted their ears pierced but were afraid that it would hurt. What they didn’t know is that I was also afraid that I would hurt them. I had to learn to gently console the parents of the fearful crying children or, in some cases, crying and anxious

adult customers. Even though it was sometimes hard, I couldn’t lie about the pain but had to convince them that the pain wouldn’t last forever.

Over 20 years later, I now find myself having to use that same logic in my college English classes. I know that my students are fearful and anxious about writing. They don’t know that I’m just as afraid to read them sometimes. But I convince them that the pain of writing the paper and correcting their mistakes won’t last forever...just a semester. In the end, they learn how to combine selected sentences and create great papers.

God also allows our “left over” experiences to be a blessing to others. What we think are random negative experiences can be a blessing to others who may be going through the same thing. We may think that the disappointment, set back or failure we’ve suffered is the worst thing to happen to us, but in the end if we allow Him to teach us wisdom about that experience, God will use it to encourage us and others.

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Part of God “working it out for good” means that we will eventually see the good that might come from those negative and stressful situations.

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



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# Blacks on white privilege

By E. Faye Williams  
*Trice Edney Newswire*



For many years many black people have been denied opportunities for no reason other than the color of their skin. I’ve been guilty like many others who said, “It must be nice to have white privilege.” Now, I’m not so sure. I’d rather not have anybody knocking on my door with evidence that I’ve violated the law by cheating somebody to get something I didn’t deserve. In other words, I wouldn’t feel good about stealing something from someone who was more deserving via honest means than I was.

Most of us thought white privilege was a good thing for those with the privilege and never having to worry about their next meal, being able to pay utility bills, being able to pay for medicine they needed, and not worrying about where to find funds to pay for their child’s college education. That must have been nice. I guess white privilege was good while it lasted.

In the last few days, white privilege has come to be a bit uncomfortable. As some of us struggle for everything we’ve ever had in life, we probably slept better not having been the recipient of white privilege. Though some of us have worked to achieve justice and equality all of our lives, we’d rather be in our shoes than in the position of the privileged ones who’re flashed across TV screens for cheating to get their children in so called “good schools.”

We probably feel better that the Russians didn’t help us win an election we didn’t deserve. Those of us without the benefit of white privilege are probably happy that we’re not Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort, Rick Gates – or the occupants in the White House. Just being the daughter of #45, Ivanka and her husband received at least a cool 82 million dollars last year. Now that’s super white privilege, but I still think my clothing are just fine so I don’t need to have white privilege to attract others to buy my brand of clothing while I sweat it out wondering if white privilege might not keep me out of jail for breaking laws.

I feel more comfortable trying to live up to the 10 Commandments, trying to use my resources helping family honestly, serving my community, treating all with respect, honesty and fairness. When I make a mistake, I do all I can to not make any privilege I may have to excuse myself. I asked several black friends, and none wanted unfair privilege. One of those with whom I spoke said, “The most phenomenal aspect of white-privilege is that its benefactors are oblivious to it. They get exceptional privileges without the psychological drain of being aware of it. They get a huge dopamine drip as if they accomplished things on their own merit, but did not.

Lately, white-privilege has been laid bare. Most cannot fathom how ugly this is going to get. Shame is a much greater burden than pain. Mommy and daddy’s money can’t fix this. The entire system is complicit. This is the tip of the white-privilege iceberg. It permeates every sector. White-privilege needs its own truth and reconciliation committee, but I won’t hold my breath.”

I studied at two of the “best schools” in the news. I did it the way it should be done. Submit credentials, pay fees, study hard. Do your work once there. Expect nothing you didn’t earn honestly. Pray that you’re judged fairly. Graduate and let your work speak well for you. Those are not things I learned at the schools in the news now. I learned them at Grambling University, Howard University School of Law, my church and from my mother.

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

# Let’s call the white terrorists out

By Julianne Malveaux  
*NNPA News Wire Columnist*



An Australian white nationalist man who says he hates immigrants acted out his hate by murdering at least 50 people and seriously injuring dozens more. He directed his ire at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, after posting a hate-filled manifesto that was replete with anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim ranting. It is important to know that it was a white man, not a person of color, who perpetrated the most deadly mass shooting in New Zealand. It is essential to call out the white terrorists that too many are too timid to call out by name.

They are called nationalists, but when they go on gun-toting rampages, especially in places of worship, this is not nationalism; it is terrorism, plain and simple. Why are so many so willing to put adjectives around heinous acts, and to describe these terrorists as mentally ill. Why are so many willing to soft-pedal the abhorrence of these acts?

To his credit, the 45th President did acknowledge the “horrible massacre” in New Zealand, which

is much better than he did when Heather Heyer was murdered in Charlottesville, and 45 said that there were “good people on both sides” of that insanity. The Charlottesville murder of Heyer is relevant because the man who slaughtered 50 people in New Zealand embraced our President as a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose.”

Had 45 a speck of sense, he might have addressed his inclusion in the shooter’s manifesto and condemned it. But how could 45 actually condemn the actions of a white nationalist when, heretofore, he has embraced them, riled them up, supported them, and even used the word “nationalist” himself when it has suited him.

The New Zealand terrorist also referenced Dylan Roof in his manifesto. Roof, of course, was the man who has been convicted for his attack at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The way that law enforcement chose to coddle Roof, and the way the media sought to “explain him” is a textbook case in how white privilege works, even for terrorists.

Upon his arrest, Roof was taken to get a fast-food meal. Perhaps his

blood sugar was low, and someone hoped to attribute his terrorism to the fact that he may have forgotten to eat. In any case when have you know an African-American perpetrator of anything to be fed before he gets to jail? There is, of course, a professional courtesy that “law enforcement” officials treat white terrorists, while the FBI stirs up anti-black sentiment with their bulletins about “Black Identity Extremists.”

The word terrorist has rarely been applied to Roof (instead, he is described as a murderer and white supremacist) but his massacre of nine black people in church was nothing less than terrorism. But if we call Roof a terrorist, we must also look at the police who coddled him as terrorist-enablers. We have to look at the media who rushed to explain his background as terrorist-explainers. We have to ask white people why such terrorism is acceptable.

Let’s consider the massacre at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh last year. The assailant, Robert D. Bowers, killed 11 people and wounded several others, including four police officers. For all the talk of the anti-Semitism that supposedly comes from Muslims, African Americans and others, it was a

white terrorist who killed all those people at the Tree of Life Congregation. But for all the talk we hear about terrorists, we rarely experience people calling terrorists just what they are.

A white man kills 49 at two mosques. A white man kills 11 at a synagogue. But the people who are being accused of hate are black and brown. What if black, brown (Muslim, Palestinian, Latino) and Jewish people decided to fight the white supremacy that permeates our nation? Then, do you think, we could all get along?

We may not all agree, but we must call out the white terrorism that leaves too many dead or maimed. We must say “enough” to a president who fans the flames of white nationalism, thus white terrorism, for sport and to inflame his base. When will he stop? When will it end? And, equally importantly, when will some folks call white nationalism for the terrorism that it is?

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.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com)

# College admissions scandal highlights rampant inequality in educational access

By Marc H. Morial  
*President and CEO  
National Urban League*



*I have probable cause to believe that the defendants conspired with others known and unknown: (1) to bribe college entrance exam administrators to facilitate cheating on college entrance exams; (2) to bribe varsity coaches and administrators at elite universities to designate certain applicants as recruited athletes or as other favored candidates, thereby facilitating the applicants’ admission to those universities; and (3) to use the facade of a charitable organization to conceal the nature and source of the bribe payments. –FBI College Admissions Bribery Scheme Affidavit*

In a few weeks, the National Urban League will release report cards on states’ plans to address inequity in their education system – plans they are required to submit to the federal government under the Every Child Succeeds Act.

The task is daunting, as inequities are stark, everywhere in the United States.

That’s why the nation was outraged by the news that wealthy parents – whose children already have inconceivable advantages over low-income families – allegedly resorted to outright bribery and fraud to get their children into elite colleges.

More than 50 people, including two Hollywood actresses, were charged on allegations that ranged from cheating on entrance exams and bribing college officials to claim falsely that certain students were athletic recruits.

That money plays a big role in elite college admissions has been no secret. A donation of \$500,000 or more can equal 500 points on the SAT, according to journalist Daniel Golden, author of *The Price of Admission: How America’s Ruling Class Buys Its Way into Elite Colleges* – and *Who Gets Left Outside the Gates*.

Given the outrageous advantage wealthy families already legally have, the cheating scandal throws new light on the disparity of opportunity for low-income students and children of color. Disadvantaged students and their families who are striving with all their might and resources to over-

come systemic challenges viewed the scandal with particular despair.

“Just knowing that due to circumstances outside of school, you do give your best in all that you can, but you also have to kind of balance being an adult,” High school senior Khiana Jackson of Kansas City told *The New York Times*. “To know that these parents are throwing money at all of these people and being like, ‘Can you do this for my child,’ it’s kind of discouraging. Some of us will probably have to work our whole lifetime to see money like this.”

African-American students have far less access to college preparatory courses. According to the United Negro College Fund, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

When black students do attend schools that offer honors or advanced placement courses, they are vastly underrepresented. Black and Latino students comprise 38 percent of students in

such schools, but only 29 percent of students enrolled in at least one AP course.

African-American students are often located in schools with less qualified teachers, teachers with lower salaries and novice teachers, according to UNCF.

Black students are twice as likely to have their education disrupted by suspension, nearly four times as likely to receive out-of-school suspensions and more than twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement or subjected to a school-related arrest.

Students of color are much more likely to attend schools where three-quarters of the students or more are poor or low-income, and poor districts with a higher proportion of students of color have been shown to receive substantially less state funding than comparably poor districts that have more white students.

Anyone convicted of engaging in criminal activity to bypass an already-rigged college admissions process should be punished to the full-extent of the law. But more importantly, we need to address a system riddled with bias and inequality.

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## To halt HIV, advocates push for PrEP outreach to black women

By Heather Boerner  
NPR

In 2013, not quite a year after the Food and Drug Administration approved the drug Truvada for HIV prevention, a coalition of 50 experts in HIV and women's health called on U.S. public health agencies to promote the pill and its approach, called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, explicitly to women.

Not much happened. "No one until recently spent time talking about PrEP for women," says Dr. Dawn K. Smith, biomedical interventions implementation officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I think we need to have a clearer message: If you're at risk for HIV, you should consider this. It can work for you."

And women are at risk, especially black women. After gay men and transgender women of any race, who have the highest risk of infection, black women are the group most vulnerable to HIV, according to the CDC. And while PrEP has been proven to reduce new HIV diagnoses when used consistently, it's mostly white gay men who have benefited so far.

So as President Trump pledged Feb. 6, 2019 to reduce HIV rates in the U.S. by targeting HIV transmission hotspots, black women say that their communities ought to be a focus.

"The unequal roll-out of PrEP to women must be resolved in the new plan," says Leisha McKinley-Beach, a national HIV/AIDS consultant and a member of the the coalition that argued for PrEP for women in 2013. McKinley-Beach says she has been frustrated to see little change in the rates of HIV transmission among blacks, both men and women, while rates among white men dropped by 10 percent since 2011. "We want the same outcomes for our communities," she says.

No matter what comes of the Trump administration's plans, public health researchers and grassroots advocates are already tackling the problem. McKinley-Beach works with a group of black women in Atlanta, where some neighborhoods have high HIV rates, raising awareness among women that PrEP is for them too. Nationally, groups like the Black AIDS Institute and the Black Women's Health Imperative, have started campaigns to reach women. And they're using different tactics than those that work to reach gay men.

### The PrEP gap

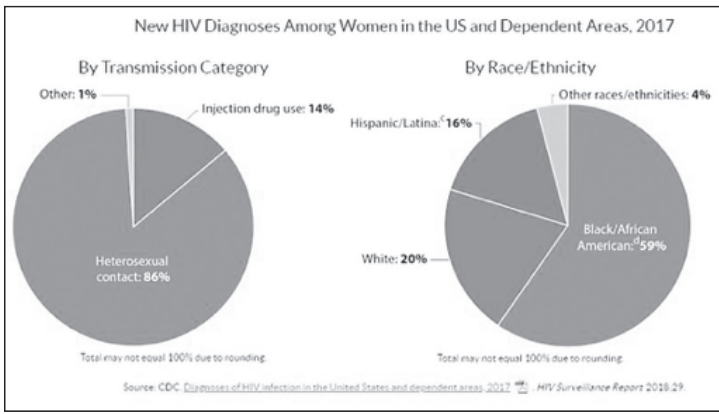
About 1.1 million Americans are at high risk for HIV and could benefit from PrEP, according to the CDC. Around half of those are black men and women, who have the highest HIV risk burden of any race. But only 1 percent of PrEP prescriptions have gone to black people of any gender, according to data the CDC's Smith presented at an HIV conference in 2018. And only 10,000 women of any race were using the pill to prevent HIV.

The CDC suggests people consider PrEP if they have any of several risk factors for infection, including if they are in a relationship with someone who is HIV-positive or whose status they don't know, if they are in a relationship that's not mutually monogamous, are dating and having sex with more than one person, or don't use condoms consistently.

There's one more risk factor that often affects black women even if they have none of the others, explains Dr. David Malbranche, an HIV researcher at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Simply living in an



Dr. Rasheeta Chandler is a researcher at Emory University, who specializes in women's sexual and reproductive health. In a small recent study, Chandler learned that 67 percent of college-age black women had never heard of the HIV prevention drug PrEP. PHOTOS BY LYNSEY WEATHERSPOON FOR NPR



Brittany Williams, a doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia, started taking Truvada when she began dating a man living with HIV. Even though the relationship ended, she continues to take it.

HIV hotspot area, such as those that the president's plan aims to reach, can raise your odds of exposure. In Atlanta, for instance, there are some ZIP codes where the HIV rate is as high as 1.9 percent, while others are as low as 0.14 percent.

Black women make up 62 percent of all new HIV diagnoses among women – despite accounting for just 13 percent of women in the U.S. And yet, according to a study published in January, knowledge about PrEP among women is low, particularly for black and Latina women.

Perhaps this lack of knowledge stems from the fact that PrEP has been talked about almost solely in the context of gay men, "particularly white gay men," says Rasheeta Chandler, a researcher at Emory University specializing in women's sexual and reproductive health and an advance-practice nurse in HIV care.

Even she didn't connect the dots between the new HIV prevention pill and the women she was studying and treating until years after first hearing of Truvada. "I just filed it away as a new prevention effort that had a biomedical capability," she says.

Now it's the focus of her work.

In Chandler's most recent study presented at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Conference in 2018, two-thirds of the college-age black women she spoke to had never heard of PrEP. And while a chunk of them said they would probably "pass on the pill," 67 percent said there was a chance they might take PrEP in the future.

If low rates of PrEP use continue among the women who could most benefit from it, it may undermine efforts to ease

the HIV epidemic for those women, says Rachel Jones, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Northeastern University.

"If we don't adequately promote HIV prevention in black women, we risk seeing HIV infection boomerang in this population," she says. "We have got to stop the epidemic in men. We've got to stop it in [gay and bisexual men]. But we cannot forget about HIV infection in women."

### Black women helping black women

At a conference room in an Atlanta hotel recently, a group of black women gathered to talk to each other about how to protect themselves from HIV.

The event, put on by local nonprofit SisterLove is just one local effort, led by black women for black women, to spread the word about PrEP. Another group, called Atlanta Black Women Leaders on PrEP, which McKinley-Beach is part of, is also mobilizing to raise women's awareness of PrEP. McKinley-Beach is creating palm cards – small cards about the size of a business card that women can keep in their purses – listing the handful of Atlanta clinics that offer PrEP to women.

Later in 2019, SisterLove plans to open a clinic dedicated to prescribing PrEP to women, particularly black women. When it does so, it will significantly increase women's access to PrEP in the city.

Meanwhile, the local Planned Parenthood office is looking into offering PrEP to women in Atlanta. And all these efforts are being amplified by national efforts by Planned Parenthood and other public health nonprofits to get PrEP in the hands of women.

This all comes as the nation's preeminent organization for health prevention efforts, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, recently endorsed PrEP in a draft recommendation as a recommended HIV prevention method for all people of any gender at high risk for HIV.

In almost all of these programs, the messages to black women are different than those public health officials are using to reach gay men. While for gay men, the message has often been about alleviating anxiety about dating and sex, the messages to black women present PrEP as part of an overall health and wellness strategy, and focus on empowering them to protect themselves.

"The momentum is building," McKinley-Beach says. "It's getting birthed out of a need."

### Black women 'deserve good sex'

If more Atlanta clinics offering PrEP to women were around a year ago, Brittany M. Williams' experience might have been different. Williams, 28, a doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia, heard there was a pill that could prevent HIV from her gay black male friends years ago. But at the time, she was more focused on her general health.

"If you look at [all the health conditions] that African Americans can have, that's what my family history looks like," she says, listing diabetes and hypertension among other conditions.

"I'm trying to make sure I'm not that person," she says. "I'm out here running half marathons and I'm vegan every now and then."

And she's been insisting on HIV tests since she was an undergrad in college.

Last year, she was dating a man who was living with HIV. He was on treatment and had an undetectable viral load, which meant he couldn't pass it on to her. Still, it got her thinking about her favorite uncle, who died of AIDS-related complications. And she thought of friends, women who had acquired HIV the first time they'd had sex.

But when she went to a women's clinic on campus, where she gets her HIV and STIs tests, they told her they didn't prescribe PrEP. For that, she'd have to track down a doctor at another clinic who was known to prescribe the pill. It took a trek across campus and all afternoon, but she left that evening with a prescription for Truvada. A self-admitted germaphobe ("I follow the CDC on all social media," she says), she also uses condoms to protect herself from other STIs and pregnancy.

She and her boyfriend have since broken up. But she continues to date. And she continues to take Truvada.

"It just makes me more comfortable," she says. "I'm doing something for me. It's not dependent on anyone else."

She even mentions it in her online-dating profile. If PrEP was more visible and accessible, she says, it would have been clearer to her that "women can and should use PrEP." As it was, she had to forge the path on her own.

And maybe she would have had better answers for the women who quietly messaged her on Twitter and Instagram, asking her about the pill and how they could get it, too. (Those women declined to comment for this story.)

"Black women deserve sex and they deserve good sex," she says. "But it should always be safe, and this is another way to ensure that."

## Little appetite for food freedom in Mississippi

By Brett Kittredge  
msspress.org



those who bake goods at home and then sell to the public, into the light.

Cottage food operators, who have annual gross sales of less than \$20,000, are given the freedom to sell goodies they bake in their own home, without the government inspecting their kitchen or providing a certificate.

Because of this law, those who had long been baking without asking government now had permission from the state. However, the law is limited. Many states don't have limits on sales. Mississippi does and such limits are artificially low. Additionally, cottage food operators aren't allowed to post images of their products for sale on Facebook, Instagram, or anywhere else on the web. These are just two of the many restrictions.

As a result of the internet exclusion, the Department of Health has sent cease and desist letters to the rogue operators who posted pictures of their creations online. The legislature attempted to mend this peculiar prohibition this year.

A bill sailed through the House that would have permitted online postings of food you bake at home. It also slightly raised the cap for gross sales to \$35,000. It quietly died in the Senate without a vote.

Who could be against these entrepreneurs trying to earn a living or perhaps making extra money at home? Naturally, the established food industry. The Mississippi Restaurant Association, on their own website, has called the cottage food industry "problematic," citing "widespread abuse creating an uneven playing field."

They like to point to the fact that cottage food operators aren't regulated by the government. That is true. But is that a bad thing? Instead of the cookie police, bakers are best regulated by the free market. An individual who sells an awful-tasting cookie or cake won't be in business long.

This isn't much different than the fight to limit food truck freedom. During much of 2018, the city of Tupelo debated restrictions on food trucks that were operating, and thriving, in the city. Were consumers unhappy with the food they were receiving? No, it was the brick-and-mortar restaurants who were unhappy.

The Tupelo city councilmen who were pushing for restric-

tions acknowledged they were interested in protecting established restaurants. Never mind the fact that any thriving downtown should welcome and encourage food trucks, it is simply not the business of government to prefer one industry, or one sector of an industry, or one participant, over another.

If the residents in Tupelo didn't want food trucks, there would be no food trucks. All food trucks are doing is responding to market demands. In doing so, they are serving a consumer niche the way any prospering entrepreneur will. Fortunately, the city council relented and didn't adopt burdensome regulations that would have driven food trucks out of business.

The legislature could have adopted statewide regulations that would have pre-empted local ordinances limiting food trucks, but they, again, decided it was not something they wanted to do.

The legislature also, once again, passed on a bill that would have allowed intrastate sales of agricultural products directly from the producer to consumers and would have prevented local governments from restricting those sales. This would have also opened the door for the legal sale of raw milk for human consumption.

Again, there was a much larger segment of the industry that didn't want to see small farmers providing competitive pressure. And they won.

Whenever new entrepreneurs enter the arena, whatever the arena might be, the response from the established interests are generally the same. It doesn't matter whether it's restaurants not liking food trucks or cottage food operators, the fight waged against Uber and Lyft by the taxi monopolies, or the fight against Airbnb by the hotel lobby, incumbents will always seek government partners to protect their positions. We should recognize it when we see it.

Every incumbent industry will portray their request for protection as merely seeking fairness or consumer safety. But taxpayers are not simpletons; they are on to this game. They understand that much of these regulatory hurdles are about defending the insider's market.

Unfortunately for consumers, too often the response by lawmakers is to agree to protect the established interests rather than letting the market choose the winners and losers. That was certainly the case this year.

Brett Kittredge is the director of Marketing & Communications for Mississippi Center for Public Policy, the state's non-partisan, free-market think tank.

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1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
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11					12				
13				14			15		
			16			17			
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21				22			23	24	25
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29						30			
31						32			

1. Particle
2. Tempt
3. A wager (2 wds.)
4. Change the clothing
5. Hen-peck
6. Distribute
7. Inscribed pillar
8. Ancient Indian
10. Crooked
14. Diner
17. Family tree
18. Glens
19. Avoid
20. Passion
23. Indonesian island
24. Quieted
25. Otherwise
27. American Federation of Teachers (abbr.)

## Sudoku Solution

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

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

I ' M A S E L F . T A U G H T M U S I C I A N  
 F Z V P D L B G V Q T U G Z Q P F X F V E

A S I D E F R O M W H A T I ' V E B E E N  
 V P F J D B W H Z C U V G F I D M D D E

A B L E T O P I C K U P F R O M O T H E R  
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Week of March 17, 2019



# Journalism students get hands-on training by helping CNN with live town hall forum

By L.A. Warren  
Jackson State University

Presidential contender Sen. Elizabeth Warren told JSUTV Monday that HBCUs are “powerfully important,” and her message became evident as journalism students assisted CNN with its production of a town hall forum on Jackson State University’s campus.

Warren credited the HBCU for “shaping not just educational opportunities but the future leaders of America.”

Elayne H. Anthony, chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, worked with University Communications and CNN to involve students. About 12 undergraduates labored for several days assisting with lighting, sound, setup and other aspects of the live production that aired nationally as well as abroad.

## Students gain experience

“We worked with every dimension of the broadcast,” Anthony said. “Students also served as runners by gathering information for CNN. As well, they got a chance to work hand in hand with the technical crew.”

One of the student volunteers was Miss JSU Gabrielle Baker, a senior mass communications major from Memphis.

“It was nothing short of amazing. I got to see how a world-renowned network puts together a town hall. This was awe-inspiring. The way CNN transformed the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium was awesome. It didn’t seem like the same place.”

Baker said her responsibilities included assisting the production director and working with the audio and sound crew by doing voiccers.

Also, she said she was thrilled to meet Warren and her team, which took an interest in Baker’s skills and urged her to connect with them in the near future.

“I’m grateful and blessed to have people at an institution like JSU guide us. My department works tirelessly to see students like me blossom and develop. If it had not been for my department, I would not have been afforded this opportunity.”

Another JSU mass communications student was equally enthralled by the experience of working with CNN.

## ‘Steppingstone for my future’

Clement Gibson, a senior from Minneapolis, is an aspiring filmmaker, and described his experience as a “perfect opportunity.”

“Going through pre-production and seeing how things work – good and bad – and the



Elayne H. Anthony, far right, chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Jackson State University, led her students in working with CNN’s production director. SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



The “crew in black” represents faculty and staff in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies who helped CNN with several logistics. SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren addresses the audience during a live town hall forum inside JSU’s Rose E. McCoy Auditorium Monday with CNN anchor Jake Tapper. PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

amount of people it takes to put something like this together, was simply extraordinary,” Gibson said. “I will remember this forever. This is a steppingstone for my future.”

Gibson said watching the political forum was a first for him, but he was inspired by Warren’s enthusiasm. “I set up her dressing room. She was lively and a joy to be around. The event

itself was good because the demographics included a good mix of people – white, black, young and old. I’m grateful to Dr. Anthony and the mass communications department for let-

ting me be part of this.”

Meanwhile, Anthony is hoping for more opportunities for future graduates and her staff to gain practical experiences.

“This was a great learning

exercise for students. It was wonderful to see faculty at work with them. Anything that puts us in a real-word situation is good for everyone,” Anthony said.



Clement Gibson, a senior from Minneapolis, described his experience of working with CNN for the live broadcast as a “perfect opportunity” because he’s an aspiring filmmaker. He also helped set up Warren’s dressing room. SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



Miss JSU Gabrielle Baker, a mass communications major from Memphis, assisted the production director and worked with the audio and sound crew. SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



An audience member interacts with Warren during the forum. Photo courtesy of CNN

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. It was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York December 4, 1906.

During the week of March 21-24, 2019 over 1500 delegates, their spouses, and guests, representing the fraternity’s Southern Region, will be meeting in Mississippi’s Capital City for their 88th Annual Southern Regional Conven-

tion. This week’s events have an estimated economic impact of \$1.8 million.

The purpose of the conference is to share ideas, build on the fraternal bond, and engage in the personal and professional development of fraternity members. This year’s theme is: “Committed Brothers ... Changing Lives ... One Community At A Time.”

This meeting of the Southern Region is specifically special because it provides an opportunity for the Southern Regional

Vice President, Kelsey Rushing, Esq., to convene the meeting in his hometown. Rushing, a Metro Jackson resident states, “I am honored to have the opportunity to host my fraternity brothers in my hometown. One of our goals during this year’s conference is to galvanize the synergy of our membership to continue the Alpha Phi Alpha legacy of community uplift.”

During the conference there will be several opportunities for community and open programming including:

- Thursday, March 21 - A F.O.C.U.S. HBCU College Fair and Public Program, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- Friday, March 22 - Southern Region Gala: The Gold Affair, Honoring Mississippi forerunners & trailblazers, 7 p.m.
- Southern Region Stroll-Off & College Brothers Party, 9 p.m.
- Brotherhood Smoke @ the Downtown Smoke Shop, 10 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23 -

Southern Region Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Competition, 8 p.m.

All conference events will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson. For information regarding tickets to the public events you may contact the region’s executive director at executive-director@alphasouth.org or by calling 601 818-1926.

The Southern Region of Alpha is represented by college and alumni chapters seated in Alabama, Florida, Georgia,

Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Everett B. Ward, Ph.D. serves as the 35th general president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Kelsey L. Rushing, Esq. serves as the 27th Southern Regional vice president.

For more information regarding the convention, please contact Rickey Thigpen, MSL Life Membership Committee chairman, 10th District of Mississippi director, at 601 906-1645 or by email, rthigpen@visitjackson.com.

# Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. brings major economic impact to the city





By Kam Williams

Columnist

Dennis “D” Campbell (Aml Ameen) had the misfortune of growing up in the slums of Kingston, Jamaica in the Seventies at a time when the ‘hood was infested with drugs. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by an older brother he admired, Jerry (Everaldo Crea-ry).

Besides serving as a surro-gate father, Jerry was a peace-maker who risked his life pres-suring the gangs ruining the community to end their bloody turf war. But Dennis was left traumatized at 13 when his sib-ling was senselessly shot dead

by Clancy (Raheem Edwards), a young member of the Tappa crew.

Fast forward a half-dozen years and we find D doing the bidding of King Fox (Sheldon Shepherd), the leader of Spicer, Tappa’s rival gang. When he is asked to smuggle a kilo of co-caine on a plane bound for Lon-don, he leaps at the opportunity because not only does Clancy live there now, but so too does Dennis’ daughter (Myla-Rae Hutchinson-Dunwell). So, the risky assignment will afford him an opportunity to avenge his brother’s murder while re-uniting with loved ones.

That is the intriguing set up

of Yardie, a coming-of-age drama marking the noteworthy directorial debut of Idris Elba. Adapted from Victor Headley’s 1992 novel of the same name, the film is narrated by its in-trepid protagonist, a conflicted soul eternally torn between good and evil.

A gritty tale of survival slightly marred by a tendency to telegraph its punches.

Very Good (3 stars)  
Unrated  
Running time: 101 minutes  
Production Companies: Warp Films / BFI Film Fund / Studio Canal  
Distributor: Rialto Pictures





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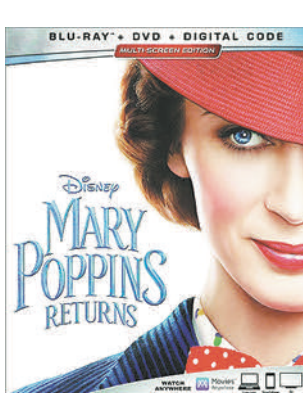
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# Top Ten DVD List


## March 19, 2019




Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse




Mary Poppins Returns




The Last Resort




The Rundown



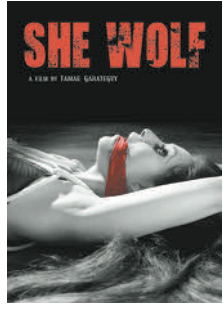
PawParazzi



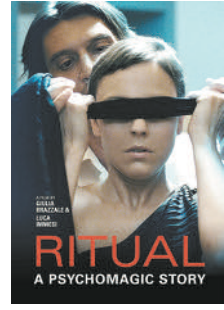
Accident




The Quake



She Wolf



Ritual



Big Kill

### 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 Walter Becker

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

F ' Z ' A ' P D L B ' G V Q T U G ' Z Q P F X F V E

A ' V P F J D ' B W H Z ' C U V G ' A T ' F ' I D ' M D D E

A ' V M L D ' G H ' N F X R ' Q N ' B W H Z ' H G U D W

A ' N L V Y D W P '

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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.

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

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### Crossword Puzzle

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

**ACROSS**

1. Winged

5. Rocket builders

9. Hose

10. Dance

11. Mined metals

12. Metal tip on the end of a lance

13. Strong point

15. Bullfight cheer

16. Southern Mexican Indian

18. Greek version of Ceres

21. Wing

22. Nontoxic

26. Relating to the moon

28. France and Belgium, anciently

29. Instruct

30. Evils

31. Place to rest

32. Egyptian river

**DOWN**

1. Particle

2. Tempt

3. A wager (2 wds.)

4. Change the clothing

5. Hen-peck

6. Distribute

7. Inscribed pillar

8. Ancient Indian

10. Crooked

14. Diner

17. Family tree

18. Glens

19. Avoid

20. Passion

23. Indonesian island

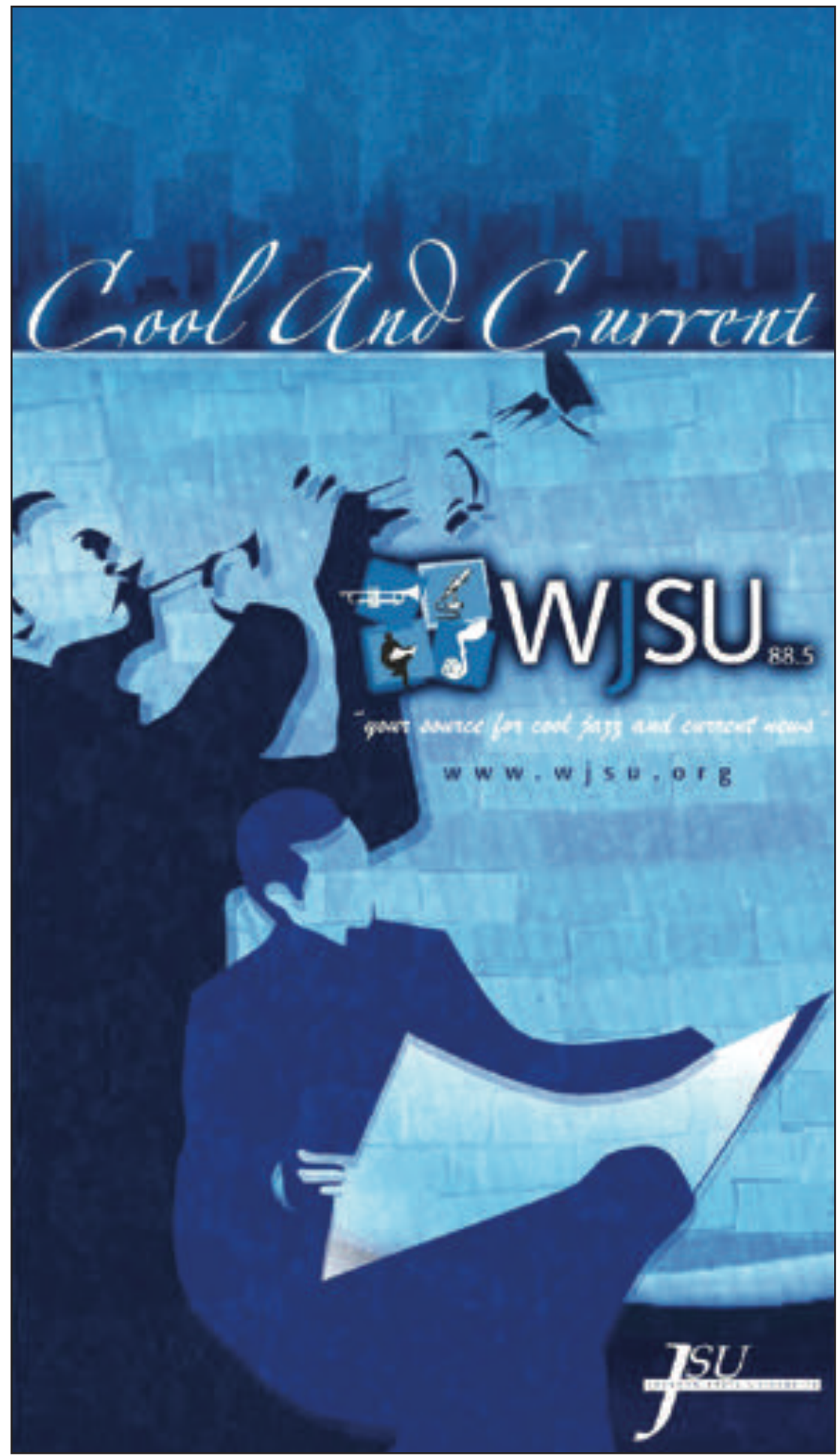
24. Quietude

25. Otherwise

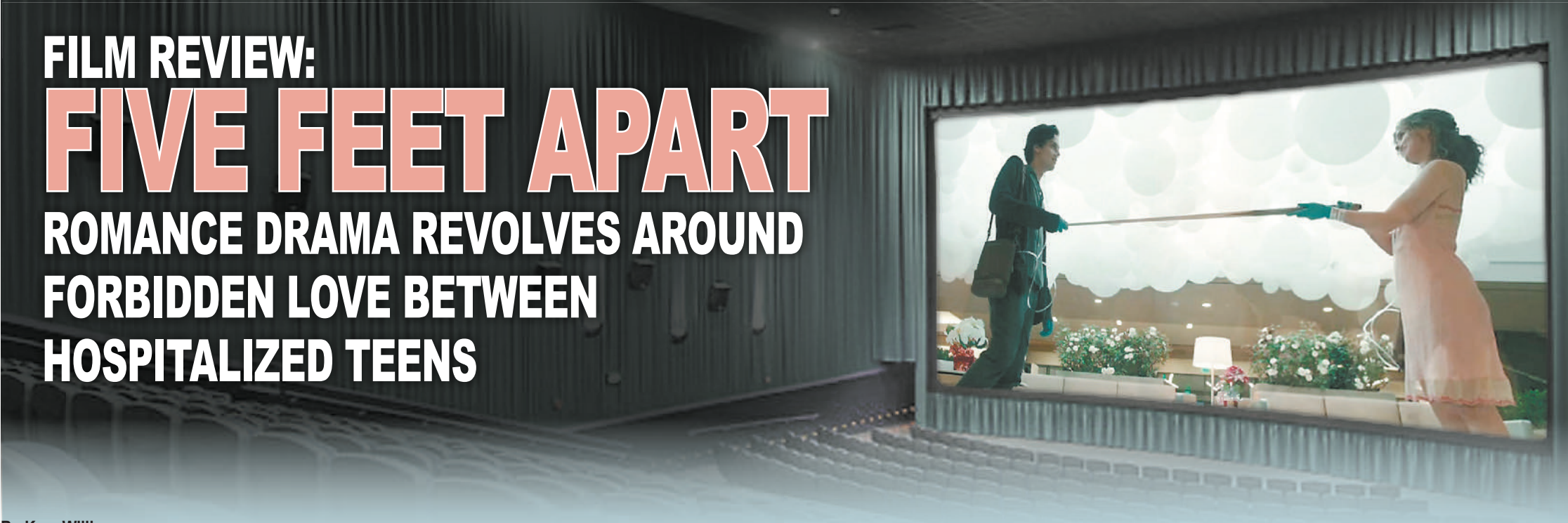
27. American Federation of Teachers (abbr.)

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)







By Kam Williams

Columnist

Stella Grant (Haley Lu Richardson) is a typical 17 year-old in most regards. However, she is also suffering from Cystic Fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease which makes her very susceptible to a variety of breathing disorders. Consequently, she spends much of her time in the hospital receiving a “tune up” for this or

that malady. She’s currently receiving treatment for bronchitis on a ward with several fellow CF patients, including her gay BFF, Poe (Moises Arias), although there is a strictly-enforced rule that they stay at least six feet apart at all times, because they could easily infect each other.

That regulation is put to the test upon the arrival of newcomer Will Newman (Cole Sprouse),

a CF victim with a bacteria which would prove fatal should Stella catch it from him. For, the two kids fall in love at first sight, so they find it hard to resist their raging hormones’ urge to merge.

Luckily, nurse Barb (Kimberly Hebert Gregory) is there to monitor the movements of the young patients. She has been particularly vigilant to prevent any rendezvous on her watch,

ever since an incident that led to a tragic ending.

Thus unfolds Five Feet Apart, a bittersweet romance drama marking the noteworthy, feature film directorial debut of actor Justin Baldoni (Jane the Virgin). Baldoni deserves considerable credit for coaxing impressive performances out of Haley Lu Richardson and Cole Sprouse who manage to generate con-

vincing chemistry in challenging roles where they can’t touch each other.

The movie’s sole flaw rests in its unnecessarily adding a melodramatic twist more appropriate for a soap opera. During the picture’s climactic moment, we suddenly learn that Stella’s prayers for a lung transplant might have miraculously just been answered. A distracting

rabbit-out-of-the-hat development that almost ruins an otherwise poignant love story.

Very Good (3 stars)

Rated PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and suggestive material

Running time: 116 minutes

Production Companies: CBS Films / Wayfarer Entertainment

Distributors: CBS Films / Lionsgate

## Kam’s Kapsules | Weekly Previews That Make Choosing a Film Fun

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For movies opening March 22, 2019

Wide Releases

**Us** (R for violence, terror and profanity) Jordan Peele wrote and directed this suspense thriller, set in Santa Cruz, about a vacationing family that finds itself haunted by identical strangers. Co-starring Lupita Nyong’o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss and Anna Diop.

**Independent & Foreign Films**

**Dragged across Concrete** (R for profanity, sexuality, nu-

dity, grisly images and graphic violence) Action thriller about a couple of cops (Mel Gibson and Vince Vaughn) who turn to a life of crime after being suspended without pay for police brutality caught on camera. With Don Johnson, Fred Melamed, Michael Jai White and Jennifer Carpenter.

**El Chicano** (Unrated) Crime saga, set in East L.A., about twins (Raul Castillo) who choose to live their lives on opposite sides of the law. Cast includes Jose Pablo Cantillo, Aimee Garcia and Marlene Forte.

**Hotel Mumbai** (R for profanity, bloody images and pervasive violence) Fact-based drama recounting the 2008 terrorist attack at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel by radical Islamists which claimed 174 innocent lives. Co-starring Dev Patel, Armie Hammer, Amandeep Singh and Jason Isaacs. (In English, Hindi, Punjabi, Marathi, Greek, Russian, Arabic, Urdu and Persian with subtitles)

**Maze** (Unrated) Historical drama, set in Northern Ireland in 1983, recreating the infamous jailbreak of 38 IRA members from a maximum security pris-

on. Ensemble cast includes Barry Ward, Martin McCann, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Eileen Walsh and Aaron Monaghan.

**Ramen Shop** (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama revolving around a grief-stricken young chef (Takumi Saitoh) who travels from Japan to Singapore in search of his late parents’ recipes only to also uncover some deep family secrets. With Seiko Matsuda, Jeanette Aw and Tsuyoshi Ihara. (In Japanese, Mandarin and English with subtitles)

**Sunset** (R for violence) Character-driven drama, set in 1913,

about a young woman (Juli Jakab) who ventures to Budapest hoping to secure a job at the hat store once owned by her late parents, only to be turned away by the shop’s new owner (Vlad Ivanov). Cast includes Susanne Wuest, Bjorn Freiberg and Urs Rechn. (In Hungarian and German with subtitles)

**Trading Paint** (R for profanity) Action adventure about a legendary father (John Travolta) and son (Toby Sebastian) car racing team who end up facing each other in a high-stakes contest following a falling out. With

Shania Twain, Michael Madsen and Kevin Dunn.

**Triple Threat** (R for profanity and pervasive graphic violence) Action thriller about three down-and-out mercenaries (Tony Jaa, Iko Uwais and Tiger Chen) recruited to protect a billionaire heiress (Celina Jade) from a team of professional assassins (Scott Adkins, Michael Jai White and Michael Bisping) hired to take her out. Supporting cast includes Michael Wong, Daniel Whyte and Selina Lo. (In English, Mandarin and Thai with subtitles)

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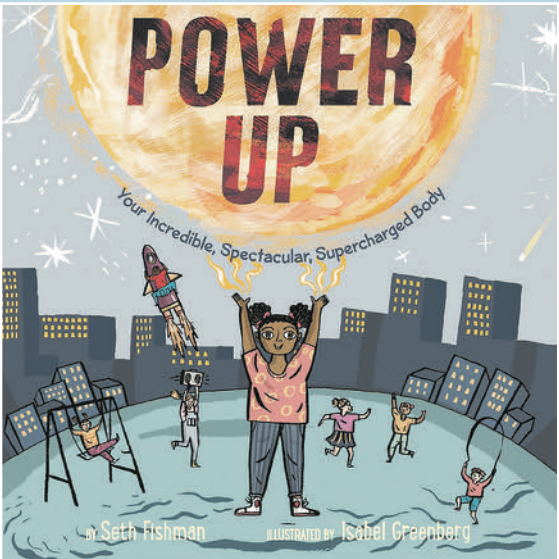
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BOOK REVIEW:

“POWER UP: YOUR INCREDIBLE, SPECTACULAR, SUPERCHARGED BODY”

BY SETH FISHMAN, ILLUSTRATED BY ISABEL GREENBERG

C.2019, HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN’S BOOKS

\$17.99 / \$21.99 CANADA • 40 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

You are a really great kid. You can run fast and jump high. You can smile and sing and catch a ball. You might even know how to make a sandwich or help out around the house. You’re pretty awesome all around, but in “Power Up” by Seth Fishman, illustrated by Isabel Greenberg, your insides are especially incredible. Here’s something you might not know: You’re a fireball from the skies. No, really. If you could look

inside your body, you’d find the same ingredients that make stars. And get this: if you could harness it properly, your littlest finger on your right hand has energy enough to run millions of refrigerators and TVs, light up hundreds of schools and run an entire city’s worth of stop-lights. All on the same day. It takes energy to do everything; even just sitting and listening to music or reading a piece of paper takes energy. The bones and muscles inside you take energy to keep you singing and jumping and smil-

ing, from the smallest bone inside your head to the largest bone in your thigh, from the smallest muscle in your ear to your largest muscle, the one you’re sitting on. Human beings have energy to run longer than the fastest animal on earth. They can create musical instruments and make songs. Humans learned to cook food, to invent cars and trains, to build cities and sidewalks and to look for stars in the skies. Maybe we’re even looking for another fireball... The thing to remember about

the energy inside your body is that sometimes, it needs to replenish. That can be done by eating food that’s good for you, getting a full nights’ sleep, and being active every day. If you get all these things and you take care of the energy machine that is your body, then your brain is cared-for, too. And that brain? It lets you imagine and invent, do math, work on a computer and understand science, remember important things and unimportant things. It keeps you interesting, funny and smart. It makes you

powered up. Time and again, in a dozen ways, you’ve told your child that he or she is important and special. He knows it’s true. Let “Power Up” show her in even more ways. Through quickly-read pages brimming with facts, and artwork that’s as action-packed as the words it accompanies, author Seth Fishman and illustrator Isabel Greenberg teach their audience with a “gee-whiz” tone that takes information to kid-level but without dumbing it down. Young readers may be

skeptical at what they’ll learn (you might, too!) but Fishman takes care of that by including two pages in the back of his book to further explain the science and biology involved. That underscores what’s mentioned in earlier pages and it will encourage a deeper curiosity and interest in further exploration. For the 4-to-8-year-old who goes nonstop, this is a great introduction to STEM learning, and it’s fun to read, too. “Power Up” could be the right book for the greatest kid you know.

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### HCSD Employees Recognized for Service to the District

The Hinds County School District recently hosted its third annual awards and appreciation breakfast and luncheon for its employees. The recognition event is designed to recognize and award those employees with five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years of services to the HCSD.

#### Highlights from the Annual Awards and Appreciation Luncheon



#### Highlights from the Annual Awards and Appreciation Breakfast

