

State advances to Sweet 16 for the 4th straight year



(L to R) Anriel Howard, Teaira McCowan, Jazzmun Holmes, head coach Vic Schaefer, Zion Campbell and Jordan Danberry

By Brian Ogden
Assistant Coordinator/Communications

Mississippi State sent the winningest senior class in school history out with a resounding 85-61 victory against Clemson in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Sunday, March 24.

Teaira McCowan shone in her final game in Humphrey Coliseum, becoming the first SEC player since the 2010 Elite Eight with 30 points and 10 or more rebounds in a Tournament game. The Brenham, Texas, native finished with 30 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks while breaking MSU's Tournament record with 14 field goals made.

"I couldn't be prouder of my team. I thought defensively, the

first half, that may be as good as we've been in a while. I am extremely proud of my team. You win a game in the NCAA Tournament like we did tonight, you know you are doing some things right," said Vic Schaefer, head coach.

Anriel Howard added 21 points and a game-high 14 rebounds for her 45th career double-double. State is 12-0 when the duo of Howard and McCowan record double-doubles in the same game. Jordan Danberry poured in 18 points with three assists and three steals in her final game in the Hump.

State (32-2, 15-1 SEC) took control of the game early with a 12-4 run over 4:42 in the first quarter to build an 18-8 lead

with 2:19 on the clock. The Dawgs scored 11 points off eight turnovers in the opening 10 minutes while holding Clemson (20-13, 9-7 ACC) to just 38.5 percent shooting (5-of-13).

The teams traded baskets in the second quarter before MSU sparked a 9-0 run to close the half and take a 41-22 lead into the locker room.

The Tigers fought back in the third, scoring eight unanswered points in just 14 seconds to trim State's lead to 59-46 with 1:05 left in the quarter. State sunk three free throws to close the half, and the Bulldogs would never lead by less than 16 again.

McCowan and fellow senior Jazzmun Holmes closed their Humphrey Coliseum careers in

style, sparking a final 8-0 run in the closing moments of the game. McCowan added an emphatic block on the other end with 1:11 to play before she and the seniors exited the game to a standing ovation.

Holmes and McCowan have now tied the school record for career games played (148) set by Morgan William and Victoria Vivians last year. The 2019 class has now won 131 games with just 17 losses in their four years and have made the Sweet Sixteen every season.

MSU play No. 5-seed Arizona State Friday, March 29, in the Portland Regional at the Moda Center. Tipoff times and broadcast information will be released later this week.

Mueller Report remains a mystery as NAACP, black Congressional leaders call for full release

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

A two-year wait for the results of an investigation into whether then presidential candidate Donald Trump and/or his campaign staff colluded with Russia has now fizzled down to four pages.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller finally released his findings this week – but not to the general public; nor to the U. S. Congress. Instead, he sent his full report to Trump-appointed Attorney General William Barr, who reduced the findings to a four-page letter to leading members of Congress. That letter, Barr said, outlined Mueller's "principle conclusions."

The first of the conclusions stated that Mueller "did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities." This is the finding that came as a shock to those who had hoped for clarity on why so many Trump associates either lied about meetings or conversations with Russians.

It is also a mystery why Trump refuses to criticise Russian President Vladimir Putin and why he is so secretive about their private conversations.

With no clear answers the NAACP and Congressional leaders are demanding the release of the full report.



Johnson

"The nation must consider the Mueller report in its entirety. Anything short of complete transparency is unacceptable," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement March 24. "Attorney General William Barr's principal conclusions submitted to Congress today raise more questions than answers. The American people deserve to see the full report and findings from the investigation, not just a summary from Trump's hand-picked attorney general."

The fizzling of the long-awaited so-called "Mueller Report" has now become new fuel for Trump, who has contended all along that there was "no collusion" and who called it all a "witch hunt" repeatedly.

"After a long investigation, af-

Mueller Report
Continued on page 3

Additional white supremacists convicted for threatening to kill Rep. Maxine Waters

NMPA Newswire

Two racist and potentially murderous men are the latest in a series of men – many of whom are white nationalists and/or supporters of Donald Trump – who have been convicted in federal courts for threatening to kill Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43).

On March 21, Caesar Sayoc – a man who reportedly once called himself a white supremacist and drove a van covered in pro-Trump images – pleaded guilty in federal court for mailing potentially explosive devices to Rep. Waters' Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices, and to the offices or residences of 12 other Democratic elected officials, private citizens and media figures.



Waters

Sayoc pleaded guilty to 65 counts, which include illegal mailing of explosives with intent to kill, and using weapons of mass destruction. He is being held without bail, and faces

Waters
Continued on page 3

Perry J. Miller officially named interim JMAA C.E.O.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

"Your Connection to the World."

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) Board of Commissioners officially named Perry J. Miller as interim C.E.O during a called meeting March 26. Miller has served in the capacity of chief operating officer handling daily operations for the organization since his tenure began in 2015.

Miller is postured to maintain the momentum of the organization with thirty years of aviation experience and a



Miller

leadership style to support a smooth transition.

Miller is known as a cham-

pion of "Living the Values," which includes: Customer Focus, Continuous Improvement, Communication, Collaboration and Commitment.

"On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we have complete confidence in Mr. Miller's ability. He has distinguished himself in this industry and he is poised to execute the strategies identified for our continued success," said Chairwoman LaWanda D. Harris. "This organization remains steadfast in our upward flight."

Miller currently serves on the board of directors for both

the National and Southeast Chapters of the American Association of Airport Executives (A.A.A.E.) and he is a delegate for North-America Air Transport Research Society. He is also a lieutenant, and soon to be captain of the Civil Air Patrol.

"I believe in this organization and I believe in our plan. I am confident that with this belief coupled with my passion for aviation, JMAA will continue to stay on this path of positive change to provide a best-in-class experience for all of our customers," said Miller.



Jackson (MS) we have a problem! Ranked #4 in HIV rates with silence from MS Legislature

By Deja Abdul-Haqq
Contributing Writer

Recently, during his State of the Union address, the president of the United States announced that the federal government plans to end the HIV epidemic in the US by 2030. Many AIDS services organizations across the country expressed their recollections of the same administration terminating the entire HIV prevention staff in 2017 and cutting prevention funding in 2018. Thus, the new charge to eradicate HIV in 10 years appeared to oppose the sentiment expressed during the last two years of the current administration. Nevertheless, in response to the new found energy being poured into ending the epidemic (or ETE) advocates, journalists and community champions from across the country began a chorus of concerns regarding the city that ranks #4 in HIV rates among US cities: Jackson, MS.

In 2016, a study released by Emory University indicated that four out of 10 gay and bisexual men in Jackson, MS had HIV. The rate, at the time, was the highest in the nation. When that data was announced, the same chorus of concerns rang out across the country; a thunderous concert of concerns about how a modern country could harbor HIV rates that mimic those in other countries with less resources or access to modern healthcare.

What was Mississippi's response to America's thunderous



President Trump delivering State of the Union Address. CNN

call and concerns? Crickets.

Mississippi Rep. Dan Eubanks recently shared with Media his support of a bill (HB 1523) that gives Mississippi clinical and social service providers a legal right to refuse health services to vulnerable populations living with or at high risk for HIV.

The Mississippi legislature just passed a bill (SB 2116) that would make it a crime for doctors to provide an abortion once a heartbeat has been detected. But there is no legislative effort or resource to date focused on preventing HIV or unplanned pregnancy that both occur as a bi-product of the same activity: risky sexual

behavior (e.g., condomless sex).

And though Eubanks also believes ending HIV requires education about abstinence and personal responsibility, no other elected official has shared a plan that respects the fact that half of the 20 million new STDs reported each year are among already sexually active young people between the ages of 15 to 24.3.

In 2016, reports reflected STD cases had risen for the third year in a row after steadily decreasing since 2006 with young women (ages 15-24) accounting for nearly half (46 percent) of reported cases. The CDC reported the most notable increases in gonor-

rhea cases in the US were among men that have sex with other men. And Mississippi had the highest rate of gonorrhea in the country.

And with 40 percent of our youth reporting having sexual intercourse, only 10 percent also claim having had an HIV test and nearly half report they did not use a condom the last time they had sex.

Gov. Phil Bryant did catapult a teen pregnancy prevention task force in 2013 to address unplanned pregnancies resulting from risky sexual behavior (e.g. sex without a condom). But the entire initiative was based on mythical ideas about sex and who

was having it with whom. And the effort – though well intended – completely missed a vital opportunity to provide a platform for the focus – young people in Mississippi – to express and explore when, why, where and how they have sex.

Understanding how and why young people have sex may provide insight into why young people are having unplanned pregnancies. These same young people having condomless sex are also at risk for exposure to STDs and HIV.

In short, Jackson, MS, though extensive data indicates that the youth are having sex without condoms, abstinence is celebrated as a viable antidote; not condoms.

We would rather create a world where a young person without access to state-of-the-science pregnancy prevention options is held completely accountable for any outcomes.

It appears we also believe that not talking about HIV in Jackson, MS is a part of the eradication solution. Actually, it is one of the largest parts of the problem. How will your HIV positive cousin be comfortable enough to tell you they need to get in to clinical care? How will your uncle be able to ask you for a ride to pick up his medicine that is part of the antiretroviral therapy that keeps him healthy and reduces the probability of HIV transmission? How will your niece be able to share with

you that she is interested in PrEP (the preexposure prophylaxis that reduces HIV exposure up to 99 percent) and wants your help telling her mother? How will your widowed grandfather ask you for condoms? Where will any of these vital conversations start if not with you?

Jackson, we have a problem. But we also have a solution. And it starts with all of us talking about those solutions: HIV testing, ART, PrEP, condoms and abstinence education. Then, we have to exercise these solutions; start with getting an HIV test. And finally, we have to increase access to these solution by raising our collective voices to promote comprehensive sexual and reproductive health respect and options in Mississippi for everyone – no matter your race, ethnicity, sexual or gender identity, religion or socioeconomic status.

The silence scream of sex and HIV in this city is creating a vulnerability that could cripple some of our communities. And you can actually do something about it. Just say the word.

Deja Abdul-Haqq is the director of the Office of Organizational Development with My Brother's Keeper, Inc. For more information about their work in HIV prevention and how you can help, email MBK at info@mbk-inc.org.

For more information about HIV testing and PrEP, call Open Arms Healthcare Center at 601-500-7660.



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Mueller Report

Continued from page 1

ter so many people have been so badly hurt, after not looking at the other side, where a lot of bad things happened, a lot of horrible things happened, and a lot of bad things happened for our country, it was just announced there was no collusion with Russia – the most ridiculous thing I’ve ever heard.” Trump told reporters shortly after the announcement. “It was a shame our country had to go through this. To be honest it’s a shame that your president has had to go through this since before I even got elected it began.”

Trump also added that there was “no obstruction” and said, “It was a complete and total exoneration.” But Mueller apparently did not go that far.

According to Barr’s summary, Mueller’s report, “leaves unresolved what the Special Counsel views as difficult issues of law and fact concerning whether the president’s actions and intent could be viewed as obstruction.”

Without the full report on findings of the detailed investigation, members of Congress say they and the general public have been shorted.

“We should not construe a four page letter from the attorney general with the complete findings of Special Coun-

sel Mueller’s investigation,” wrote U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn in a statement. “The entire findings of the report must be made public to Congress and the American people before we draw any conclusions. In the meantime, Congress will continue to fulfill its oath to uphold the constitution by providing oversight of this administration.”

The announcement of the closure of the report appears to have started more than it finished. As civil rights leaders have encountered yet another attack on the freedom of black people; they are gearing up for yet another fight.

“It is even more imperative that we have full access to the Mueller report and evidentiary basis to learn the facts surrounding Donald Trump’s actions and potential attacks on the integrity of our democracy,” concludes Johnson. “We are entitled to know everything about Russia’s brazen attacks on our political system. This includes how Russia manipulated voters in the United States, fomented racial division among voters through social media and other means and targeted the African-American community in extraordinary fashion to suppress voter turnout.”

Ministerial Alliance president stresses healthcare

Rev. Johnson says pray, consult doctors and take care of your health



Claiborne County Ministerial Alliance

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In his characteristic soft-spoken but articulate, humorous and satiric style, Claiborne County’s Ministerial Alliance president, Rev. Hugh Johnson, reiterated the importance of health care to colleagues and observers. Speaking at their monthly meeting and service held Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and March 24, respectively, in Port Gibson, he made a passionate plea to attendees and asked God for his mercy and grace.

Whereas the Saturday meeting took place at the compact multipurpose building with Johnson as the chair on Saturday morning; the Sunday service was held at Christian Chapel Church under the tutelage of Rev. Rufus Thomas who led the evening program.

Consult Health Experts

While closing the summit, Johnson fluently stressed that wellness is important and demands, “that we focus on our health, consult doctors, seek their advice and ask questions if you need help. Early disease dictation matters and God places doctors in our paths for a reason,” Hugh reiterated.

Scholarship

Johnson reminded members that Jefferson and Claiborne

County students, should be notified of two available scholarships the Ministerial Alliance offers adding that they apply through their churches and pastors. Additionally, they should abide by the terms and conditions of the scholarships.

Earlier on, members reviewed minutes, planned activities and made decisions on matters pertaining to the accociation.

Office Campaigners

They agreed to invite candidates running for elective office to come and share their plans and visions with them. “This will provide a good forum for candidates to present and explain their platform,” Hughes added.

Present at Saturday’s meeting were: President Hugh Johnson; Vice President Elijah Brown; Secretary Rev. Sadie Wilson; Treasurer Micheal Herring, and Rev. Joyce-Wilson.

At the Sunday gathering, marked by Rev. Yarborough’s short, precise and persuasive sermon, music, prayers and information attracted more ministers. They included pastors White, Yaborough, Dee, Thomas, Mcgriggs, (Harried, Brown, Hughs).

Purpose

Claiborne County Ministerial Alliance is a Christian organization which assembles religious leaders of diverse denominations

to help develop churches and the community. Blending males, females, blacks and whites, they offer scholarships to Claiborne and Jefferson County students, and support various charities. Additionally, members assist each other as well as individuals, clubs and associations that seek their aid. If you have any issues or questions contact them at your convenience, through their churches.

Challenges

Like most groups, the alliance faces challenges. These include: attracting and retaining members, garnering resources for projects, limited resources, denominational differences, time and inadequate funds.

Notwithstanding, it is a marvelous group which strives to serve worthy roles, like counseling, guiding, mentoring and just rendering services groups, associations and churches need.

Jerry Komia Domatob is a professor of Mass Communication, Alcorn State University, Lorman-Mississippi. An author, journalist, photographer, poet and researcher, he is currently working on three projects. His latest publications are Communication, Culture and Human Rights and Positive Vibrations. Contact him at: Jdomatob@yahoo.com.



Rev. Hugh Johnson, Claiborne County Ministerial Alliance president

Waters

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a maximum possible sentence of life in prison.

On March 20, Stephen Taubert was found guilty by a federal grand jury after calling Waters’ Los Angeles office in July 2018, stating, “I’m gonna be at every event that stupid f##### nigger b#### is at and I’m gonna kill that f##### b#### and all you stupid f##### niggers that work for her.” He also threatened former President Barack Obama in a separate call. Taubert was convicted for three federal charges: influencing, impeding or retaliating against a federal official; making a threat in interstate commerce; and, making a threat against a former president of the United States. The jury also found that Taubert selected his victims because of race, which provides an enhancement under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines for hate-crime motivation.” He now faces up to twenty years in prison for the three convictions.

The Sayoc and Taubert convictions follow those of Anthony Scott Lloyd, a Trump supporter in California, who pleaded guilty in April 2018 to threatening Waters in a voicemail, during which he stated, “What you said at your little faggot conference, if you continue to make these threats towards the president, you’re going to wind up dead, Maxine, because we will kill you...You can call the FBI, you can call the NSA, you can call whoever the f### you want and report this.... B####, you do it again, you’re dead. You’re a f##### dead ass nigger;” Richard Mel Phillips, who pleaded guilty in November 2018 to leaving a threatening voicemail message with Waters’ office stating “there is nothing stopping me from killing your f##### ass,” and that he would travel to her home state and “stick a bullet through your f##### skull;” and, Coast Guard Lieutenant Christopher Hasson – a self-described white nationalist who advocated for “focused violence” in order to establish a white homeland – who was charged in February 2019, for plotting to kill Waters, several Members of Congress, and television anchors. Following his arrest, federal agents found 15 firearms, including seven rifles, and over 1,000 rounds of ammunition in his home in a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Congresswoman Waters’ statement on the convictions follows:

“I am pleased by the identification, arrest and conviction of the men who threatened me, my family and my staff in support of their racist, white supremacist, and hate-filled agenda. Let these convictions be a lesson to all those who would threaten to kill or cause bodily harm to us: you will be identified and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

“Unfortunately, these types of violent threats – and other acts of hate – by ultra right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world. This disturbing trend is only made worse by the violent rhetoric and bullying tactics of the current President of the United States.

“Violence and all forms of hate have no place in our political discourse and our society. I applaud the efforts of the U.S. Capitol Police, FBI, Secret Service, federal prosecutors and other law enforcement entities, as well as my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, who are united in the effort to identify and bring to justice all those responsible for violent threats and all acts of hate.”



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“Behind The Big House” tour to interpret slavery April 4-6

Mississippi Link Newswire

Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc.’s (PMCHS) preservation initiative: the “Behind the Big House” program, now in its eighth year, is set for Apr. 4-6, 2019 as it continues its educational outreach efforts towards interpreting the legacy of slavery.

With much thanks for the continued grant-assistance funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council, there will be two program sites for 2019 – the slave quarters, kitchen and adjacent domestic areas for both the Hugh Craft House, located at 184 S. Memphis Street and Burton Place, located at 248 S. Memphis in Holly Springs, Miss. The Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Alliance is a grantor for the first time this year as well.

“We will have quite an active site this year,” said Cheliys Carter, president of PMCHS. “Culinary Historian Michael W. Twitty will be returning for his fifth year to conduct antebellum cooking demonstrations, following his recent publication: The Cooking Gene. Michael’s well-received work earned the 2018 James Beard Awards’ Book Of The Year.”

Twitty will be conducting his antebellum cooking demonstrations from Thurs-Sat. (Apr. 4-6) on the side lawn of the Hugh Craft House. Some attendees will even be able to sample his culinary creations.

Twitty is at the forefront of reviving traditional African-American food-ways through seed-keeping, growing heirlooms and heritage crops, raising heritage breeds and sustainably gathering and maintaining wild flora and fauna that numerous ancestors relied upon.

“Responsible exploration of Southern food heritage demands that the enslaved people charged with cooking for antebellum America be honored for their unique role in giving the South-land her mother cuisine,” added Carter. “We are honoring food’s history – all while serving up, as Michael calls it, “culinary jus-



tice.”

From Thurs. through Sat., Carolyn Freiwald, from the University of Mississippi’s Department of Sociology & Anthropology, will be on site with student volunteers conducting an active excavation in the slave quarters and kitchen areas and will have table exhibits of past excavation finds. Their goal is to help interpret the lives of the enslaved people who lived and toiled this area with no end in sight.

Joseph McGill, founder of The Slave Dwelling Project, Inc., is returning for his eighth year with the “Behind the Big House” program and will be stationed within the slave quarters and kitchen of the Hugh Craft House and Burton Place from Thurs. through Sat. McGill will be on hand to discuss the lives of the enslaved people.

In a 2010 interview with NPR’s Michele Norris, McGill conveyed his realization that,

“For so long folks have been visiting the plantation and going into the big house, and without these structures, the big house could not have existed.”

Local artisan, Dale DeBerry and colleague Wayne Jones, will talk about 19th century brick making and will have on-hand his own artworks in clay for purchase. De Berry and Jones will be on site from Thurs.-Sat.

Historic interpreter Tammy Gibson will demonstrate and discuss the role of an enslaved laundress during the antebellum era from Thurs. through Sat.

On Thursday night (Apr. 4) from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc. will host its welcome reception at historic Chalmers Institute, (no charge) at 151 S. West Boundary St.

For more information or questions, please contact info@preservemarshallcounty.org.

Bunnies and butterflies abound at the Mississippi Children’s Museum



Mississippi Link Newswire

Join the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) as we welcome spring with Bunnies & Butterflies Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Our beautiful garden spaces will spring to life for this special weekend celebration.

Children are invited to dig into the warm soil to plant their own garden, discover the science behind bubbles, and cre-

ate their own unique costume of silly bunny ears or whimsical insect wings.

In our Literacy Garden, children will be invited to experience movement as hopping bunnies and fluttering butterflies. Coming to life will be the newly planted Pollinator’s Garden, with unique plants attracting butterflies, birds and a variety of pollinating creatures. The magical events of the

day will conclude with an aerial silks performance by Kat Wilson in our Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden.

All activities are included with \$10 general admission or MCM membership.

For more information, visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org, or contact Susan Branson, director of External Affairs, sbranson@mcm.ms or 601-709-8354.

Jackson Fire Department to host 19th Annual Kids Fire Academy Camp

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Fire Department is getting ready to host their 19th Annual Kids Fire Academy Camp, geared towards educating children between the ages of 7-14. The goal is to ensure they are well-informed as it relates to the Jackson Fire Department, Community Relations, Fire Safety Education, and the City of Jackson in a fun, learning environment.

Eight out of ten people who perish in fires die in the very place where they feel the safest, their home. Many of these tragic deaths could have been prevented.

It is the goal of the Jackson Fire Department to ensure that every home in the City of Jackson has working smoke alarms to help prevent any loss of life

due to a house fire. Through the camp, valuable information will be presented about what to do in case of a fire emergency.

The camp will be held at the Jackson Fire Department Training Academy, located at 1244 S. Gallatin Street, June 3-14. Along with fire safety education training, the camp will provide participants with a daily lunch, field trips, an academy t-shirt and a certificate of completion.

Currently, the camp is only made possible through generous funding from members of the community. In order to continue offering the Annual Kids Fire Academy Camp for free, the Jackson Fire Department is asking for donations in the amount of \$500, \$250, \$100 or \$50, though any size donation

would be greatly appreciated.

In partnership with the community, the Jackson Fire Department is also accepting other items such as toys, blankets, paper/pencil and other items you would like to donate to ensure kids will have all of the materials needed to have a great experience.

Donations should be made out to the Jackson Fire Department (Annual JFD Kids Academy Camp), and can be mailed to the Jackson Fire Department, 355 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson. MS 39213.

For more information, please contact Malcolm Alexander, Division Fire Chief of Community Relations & Fire Safety Education via phone at (601) 960-1399 or email at malexander@jacksonms.gov.

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Hinds CC Hinds CC Vicksburg-Warren Campus programs on display in expo

Mississippi Link Newswire

Rodtresse Vaughn is in the 11th grade and already drawing up quite the plan for what he'll pursue after high school. "I'm studying animation simulation here," said Vaughn, among about 500 students from Vicksburg, Warren Central, Porters Chapel and St. Aloysius high schools in attendance for the College Carnival recruiting event March 22 at Hinds Community College Vicksburg-Warren Campus. Vaughn was among several high school students at the event who is dually enrolled in college credit courses at Hinds, giving him a leg up on earning his college credentials on the way to building a career. "I've always loved drawing cartoons."

Held each spring, the event gives prospective students a chance to find out about admissions, majors, financial aid, registration and more from faculty and staff during the come-and-go event. Alaina Huskey, a senior at Porters Chapel, did so with advisors with the college's nursing and allied health programs. "I want to go into neonatal care," Huskey said. "I've



grown up around hospitals and healthcare." Students heard from college officials and fellow students about the many advantages of starting college at Hinds before enjoying activities outside the Loviza Building. "Starting your education here versus a four-year university can save your parents thousands of dollars on your education overall," said Emily Mitchell, in recruiting for

the college. "You can get hundreds or even \$1,000 just for a good ACT score, but if you don't apply, you get zero dollars." Ariana Coleman, studying business management technology, stressed the small class sizes and individual attention students receive at Hinds. "You get a lot of one-on-one time with your instructors and all the tools you need to advance in school and in life,"

Coleman said. Candice Moore, a Hinds student and member of the campus Student Government Association, told students she's enjoying the benefits of having started her college life close to home. "I was in the same position a few years ago as you guys are now," Moore said. "You can start here at Hinds, save money and have great relationships with your teachers."

Women of Excellence honored at Diabetes Foundation's Ultimate Fashion show



Candie Simmons, Regions Bank



Robin Robinson, Sanderson Farms

"I didn't get there by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it."
— Estee Lauder

Mississippi Link Newswire

Every year the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi selects two "Women of Excellence" to honor at the Ultimate Fashion Show. These two women fearlessly blaze a trail in their career paths and passionately pursue the bettering of their communities, and this year's honorees are Candie Simmons and Robin Robinson. Candie L. Simmons is from Ridgeland, Mississippi and a graduate of The University of Mississippi. Simmons started her career as an admissions counselor at Ole Miss for three years before making a change. She started a new career at Regions Bank in Grenada as a marketing coordinator, before quickly climbing the ranks and moving to the Regions in Jackson expanding her territory even further. Simmons is now the senior vice president, geography marketing strategist and covers South Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana. She has received honors including: Mississippi Business Journal Top 40 Under 40, Mississippi Business Journal's Top 50 Leading Business Women, 2017 Outstanding Young Alumni of the Year for the University of Mississippi, and Delta Sigma Theta Madison Alumnae Chapter Champion

of Change. Robin Robinson is from Laurel, Mississippi and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. Robinson has worked at Sanderson Farms since the beginning of her 40-year career, where she has paved a trail for female leadership within the company and the industry as a whole. From her first day of work, Robinson made history by being named the first female cost accountant, later to be named the first female chief accountant, chief internal auditor, manager of Human Resources, and even the first female member of the company's executive committee. Throughout her career she has been named as one of America's 2000 Notable Women and received: Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential People, Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women, Most Distinguished Alumnae Award of Phi Theta Kappa, Volunteer of the year from Economic Development Authority and Outstanding Leadership Award from the International Women's Leadership Association. The Ultimate Fashion Show is April 11. If you are interested in buying a ticket and paying tribute to these two women, call 601-957-7878 or visit msdiabetes.org

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WE POWER LIFE

The 2019 JPS Cadet Of The Year



Brandie Wigley



Jamela Windom, Callaway



Darlisia Williams, Forest Hill



Essence Byrd, Jim Hill



Kaiyanna King, Lanier



Katelyn Russell, Murrah



Kendra Sutton, Wingfield

Mississippi Link Newswire

Brandie Wigley is the 2019 JPS Cadet of the Year. Wigley has been promoted to the rank of cadet colonel and will serve as the JPS JROTC brigade commander for 2019-2020.

A junior at Provine, Wigley stands out as a leader, scholar, athlete and volunteer. She is an LET (Leadership Education Training) 3 cadet with a 3.80 GPA. She was the Top LET 1 in her freshman year and was named Provine's superior cadet during her sophomore year.

She is also part of the JROTC STEM and Academic teams. She is an involved member of the National Honor Society and the National Honor Society for High School Scholars. She also participates on the cheer squad and the track and field team.

Adding to her achievements, Wigley was also recently named one of the two statewide student representatives who will serve as advisors to the Mississippi Department of Education in 2019-2020.

In addition to striving for academic excellence and providing

leadership, she is a faithful community servant. She mentors students in first and second grades at John Hopkins Elementary as part of the Teen Trendsetters Program. She volunteers with Stewpot Community Services in meeting the needs of the people the organization serves.

She regularly joins her church, New Jerusalem, in feeding the hungry and holding clothing drives.

After graduation, Wigley plans to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and pursue a commission in the United States Air Force.

Wigley is the daughter of proud parents, Patrick and Beulah Wigley.

The 15th Annual JPS JROTC Cadet of the Year Awards Dinner was held in February to announce the Cadet of the Year and to celebrate all seven of the top cadets representing each JPS high school.

The six remaining school-level Cadets of the Year for 2019 are:

C/MSG Jamela Windom of Callaway

C/MAJ Darlisia Williams of Forest Hill

C/CPT Essence Byrd of Jim Hill

C/LTC Kaiyanna J. King of Lanier

C/MAJ Katelyn M. Russell of Murrah

C/ILTC Kendra Sutton of Wingfield.

These cadets were promoted to the rank of cadet lieutenant colonel and will serve with Wigley on the district brigade staff for next school year.

At the district-level, the Cadet of the Year competition becomes more involved and intense.

Cadets were required to submit a comprehensive portfolio that included a resume with references, examples of academic work, GPA, class standing, evidence of academically challenging coursework, an essay, proof of community service work, physical fitness and more.

Additionally, each cadet delivered a five-minute oral presentation before a selection panel on the topic "How JROTC Has Influenced My Preparation for Successful Living After High School." Afterward, they responded to questions from

each member of the selection panel.

Serving on the 2019 Cadet of the Year selection panel were:

Morris Stanton, assistant superintendent, Jackson Public Schools

Lt. Col. Dexter Brookins, professor of Military Science, Jackson State University

Edwin Butler, JROTC Bureau director, Mississippi Department of Education

Stanley Griffin, U.S. Army 6th Brigade, JROTC representative for Mississippi

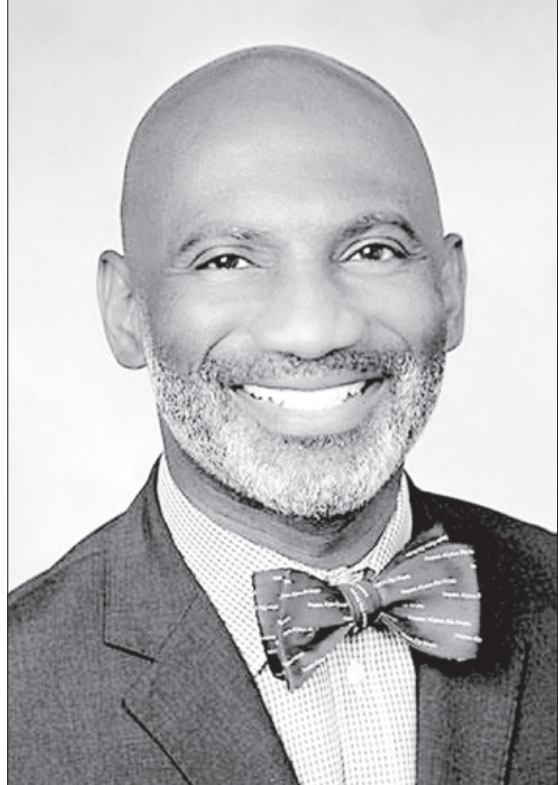
Jennifer Trammell, coordinator of K-8 Counseling Programs, Mississippi Department of Education

Juanita Ward, head girls basketball coach, Hartfield Academy, Flowood, Mississippi

Christine Bye, a strong supporter of JPS JROTC.

"The Cadet of the Year program was implemented to recognize and reward the district's most outstanding students and to inspire others to strive for excellence in all their endeavors," said Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis, director of JROTC Programs.

Spring address delivered by JPS Superintendent to encourage district's teachers



Greene

Mississippi Link Newswire

As I moved about the district and visited classrooms over the last few months, I've been struck by the many educators and young people who are eager to learn and demonstrate excellence. I'm so proud of the leaders and educators who continually give of their personal time and talent to ensure that all JPS students are more than prepared for the next stages of their lives.

I'm sending you this message, first, because I want you to know that I see you, and I'm excited to be a part of the team with you. I have every confidence that hard and smart work will serve our students well. Secondly, I know that this work is challenging and sometimes we lose sight of the impact that we can have if we just stay the course.

I know lots of educators around the country right now are focused on test preparation, and while I agree that there's a place for that, I want to encourage you to focus on high-quality instruction with appropriate differentiation, rigor and checks for understanding. In short, keep teaching. The test shouldn't be a surprise to our students, but more importantly, with high-quality and joyful bell-to-bell teaching and learning, our students will rise to the occasion.

Amazing things are destined for Jackson Public Schools. Let's work together to achieve greatness for our children and for this city.

Thank you,

Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Award-Winning artwork of Forest Hill alum part of nationwide tour

Mississippi Link Newswire

Forest Hill graduate Brandon Miner received a Scholastic Gold Key Award and a National Gold Medal for his mixed media piece "Hear, Speak and See" as a high school senior in 2018. Recently, the piece has been chosen by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers for its ArtWrite.

NowTour Exhibition. It was one of only 50 works chosen for the national touring exhibit.


The tour showcases a selection of works from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. It is intended to convey the issues of importance to today's youth as depicted in their artwork.

As a 2018 National Gold Medal winner, Miner had his work on display in New York City in the summer of 2018. He also received tickets to the National Awards ceremony held at Carnegie Hall that same year. It's worth mentioning that on the regional level, Miner received a second Gold Key award in 2018 for a work in photography that he titled "Proud and Bold in Monochromatic."

Miner is the son of Leslie and Ray Miner. He is currently enrolled at Hinds Community College where he is majoring in photography/film media production. Miner was also profiled in the March/April 2019 edition of "Scholastic Art."

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

How does Brandon's composition support the theme of this work?



Brandon Miner is always looking for creative ways to tell a story with his camera. "I work a lot with angles, pictures within pictures," says the 19-year-old Brandon as a freshman studying photography at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. He hopes to someday own his own portrait studio.

Are the materials you used significant? I wanted to create a sense of danger. The three colors are vibrant and worked well with the need to clarify. They represent noise, chaos, and bad things. I added gold leaf as an irregular pattern to heighten the sense of danger and chaos.

Did you face any challenges? My biggest challenge was learning how to use Photoshop. My teacher taught me a basic sketch called the backstroke and also the

Positive Focus

This artist uses mixed media to make a big statement.

Brandon Miner is always looking for creative ways to tell a story with his camera. "I work a lot with angles, pictures within pictures," says the 19-year-old Brandon as a freshman studying photography at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. He hopes to someday own his own portrait studio.

Are the materials you used significant? I wanted to create a sense of danger. The three colors are vibrant and worked well with the need to clarify. They represent noise, chaos, and bad things. I added gold leaf as an irregular pattern to heighten the sense of danger and chaos.

Did you face any challenges? My biggest challenge was learning how to use Photoshop. My teacher taught me a basic sketch called the backstroke and also the

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Member:



Delta State University's Inaugural Spring for Success Online Giving Day meets and surpasses goal to raise money for three good campus causes

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Numbers don't lie. Delta State University's inaugural Spring for Success Online Giving Day was a resounding success, thanks to more than 100 generous donors who supported three good, diverse campus causes: replacing the Statesman mascot suit, replacing the equipment for a Virtual Dementia Tour® offered by the Social Work Department and replacing the bulletproof vests for the university's police officers.

All three microgrant projects met the fundraising goal of \$2,500 apiece. In fact, all three topped the goal. Most people – alumni, faculty, staff, students, community members – gave on online giving day March 20, 2019; some also gave in the days leading up to the event. Several people gave to all three endeavors.

Here are the final giving totals:

- \$3,125 to replace the Statesman mascot suit (125 percent of the goal)
- \$2,690 to replace equipment for a Virtual Dementia Tour® offered by the Social Work Department (108 percent of the goal)
- \$2,555 to replace the bulletproof vests for the university's police officers (102 percent of the goal)

Additional money raised beyond the \$2,500 for each project will go to the General Scholarship Fund.

Delta State's Foundation is matching up to \$2,500 raised for each project. Plus, the team that raised the most money receives an additional \$1,000 for its project.

That means athletics has \$6,000 to replace the Statesman mascot suit.

The Social Work Department has \$5,000 to replace equipment for a Virtual Dementia Tour® and DSU's Po-

lice Department has \$5,000 to replace bulletproof vests for 10 law enforcement officers.

Thanks to everyone who joined in on one – or more than one – of these efforts that help make Delta State stand out.

Check out our videos about each microgrant project and our fundraising tote board at <http://www.deltastate.edu/spring-for-success/>.

MARCH 20, 2019

About Delta State University

Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose more than 3,500 students come from most U.S. states and more than 50 countries. The university offers numerous unique programs, including the Delta

Music Institute entertainment industry program, and is the only university in Mississippi to offer undergraduate and graduate aviation programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, which is recognized as the birthplace of American music, Delta State has become the center of music and culture for the state and the region. The university is also the academic center for the blues, offering an online blues studies curriculum that leads to a certificate for advanced study of blues music.

In addition, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, and education, among other areas.

Steve Martin hired as commissioner of Mississippi Community College Athletics and Affiliated Activities

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) has hired Steve Martin to serve as commissioner of Mississippi Community College Athletics and Affiliated Activities. He replaces Jim Southward who retired in December after working at the MCCB for 16 years. Martin's appointment is effective April 1, 2019.

Martin has an extensive background in athletics, both as an administrator and an athlete. He is currently commissioner of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference. In this role, he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the conference including staff supervision, scheduling games, management of all championship events, marketing partnership development, televised and live stream game negotiations and production, social media strategies, financial oversight, profitability, establishing strategic platforms, new business development, positioning the conference as a viable sports property and interpreting and defining policies.

Prior to his appointment with the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, he served as senior vice president for the National Basketball Association's New Orleans Hornets, director of Athletics at Dillard University



Martin

and director of Corporate Affairs for 14 years at the National Basketball Association.

As an athlete on the basketball court, Steve was an All-American, All-State and city MVP at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. He went on to play basketball at Georgetown University and was later drafted by the Washington Bullets.

"Steve Martin will make a great addition to the Mississippi community college athletic system," said Andrea Mayfield, executive direc-

tor of the Mississippi Community College Board. "His background in athletic administration and as a basketball player will help continue to make our athletic system among the best in the nation. We have an exciting future ahead of us under the leadership of Steve."

"Athletics is such an important part of the community college mission in Mississippi," said Mary Graham, chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) and president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. "The college presidents are looking forward to working closely with our new commissioner to ensure that our athletic programs retain the quality and integrity expected in our MACJC."

Martin added: "I am excited to join the Mississippi Community College Board in the role of commissioner of Mississippi Community College Athletics and Affiliated Activities. I'm honored to be a part of such a prestigious group of presidents, athletic directors, coaches and student-athletes."

The mission of the Mississippi Community College Board is to advance the community college system through coordination, support, leadership and advocacy.



Education students attended "The Climate Leadership Corps Atlanta Training" March 14-16, 2019. This professional development experience afforded students the opportunity to participate in skill-building sessions on topics such as community-based sustainability, advocacy, organizing and engaging with the media. Students also connected with fellow activists to share victories, struggles, and best practices, while building and strengthening regional networks and partnerships.



Sociology and Psychology students and faculty attended the Mississippi Academy of Sciences 83rd Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 21st.



TOUGALOO COLLEGE Social Justice Week Division of Social Sciences



MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

Opening Ceremony: Open House
Meet the Professors, Staff and Students in the Division of Social Sciences
Galloway Hall, 2nd Floor, 10 AM – 2 PM
Light Refreshments

Speaker Series
Youth Services: Disparities in Systems Delivery
Speaker: Mario Johnson, MSW
Bureau Director II, Youth Transition Support Services
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
Woodworth Chapel Conference Room, 11AM

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

Panel Discussion
"If Not Me, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?"
Activism & Advocacy in the 21st Century
Moderator: Jamil Johnson, Student Activist
Panelists: Joshua Dedmond, Jennifer Riley-Collins, Albert Sykes, Wendy White, PhD
Bernie G. Thompson Auditorium, 11AM – 1PM

Speaker Series
"Low Enforcement with at-Risk Populations and Trends with Police Brutality"
Trooper Eric Henry
Mississippi Highway Patrol
Library 302, 6PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

Wednesday Convocation
"Making Democracy Work: Social Justice Work, Then & Now"
Speaker: Leslie B. McLemore, PhD
Woodworth Chapel, 10AM

Tougaloo Nine Remembrance
Sit-Out and Read
Professor Frederick L. Hunter Jr.
Woodworth Chapel Memorial Plaza, 12PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

Research Symposium
Undergraduate and Faculty in the Social Sciences Division
Holmes Hall Auditorium, 9:30AM – 2PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

Closing Ceremony
"A Salute to Mississippi History Makers & Change Agents"
Organizer: Department of History & The Fannie Lou Hamer Museum (Belzoni, MS)
Woodworth Chapel, 10AM – 11AM

ALL EVENTS
FREE AND
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!

Social Justice Week (SJW) is a series of events dedicated to addressing some of the world's most pressing social/human rights issues and an opportunity to engage with the division. The goal of SJW is to not only educate the student body and the community, but to inspire people to take action to help end these grave global issues.



JSU Global will host a picnic on the lawn near the tennis court. Free food, games and lots of FUN! Then attend the JSU vs Alcorn State University baseball game where Interim Director Dr. Dianne Everett will throw the first pitch and international students will be recognized. Let us know you are coming by RSV'ing.

Assists at State Capitol



(Back row) Amari Gaynor of Jackson and Garrick Thomas of Byram, (Front row) Jireh Woods of Jackson recently served as junior pages for the Mississippi Senate. Pages assist in the day-to-day operations of the senate, generally running errands for officials and staff.

Amari, Jireh and Garrick

are pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator Hillman Terome Frazier who sponsored their visit.

Amari is the son of Kehinde and Nadia Gaynor and attends Forest Hill High School, Jireh is the daughter of Jackie Woods and attends Murrah High School, and Garrick is the son of Bridgette Thomas

and attends Terry High School.

When asked about the week, they said, the experience at the Capitol was very informative. They were honored to have been chosen to serve the Mississippi legislature, learn more about state politics and meet other young leaders in the state. They hope to return next year.

Mississippi State Hospital Employee of the Month Jessie Slaughter

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jessie Slaughter has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for clinical service.

Slaughter, a Vicksburg native and resident, is a registered nurse III working at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital. The Alcorn State University graduate has been employed at MSH for a year and a half.

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

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



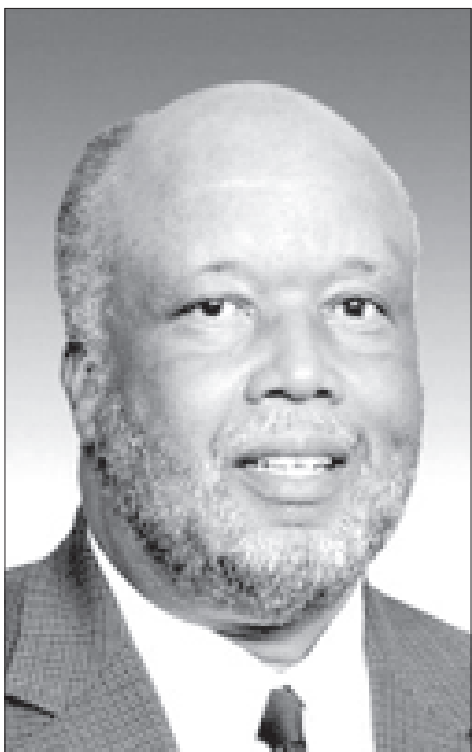
Slaughter

Congressman Thompson announces REAP Funds to Leflore County company

Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$20,000 in Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Funds to Walter Pillow and Sons Planting Company of Leflore County.

This Rural Development investment will be used to make energy efficient improvements to its grain drying and storage facilities.



Thompson

The following statement may be attributed to Jennifer Riley Collins, ACLU of Mississippi executive director:

"Governor Bryant and other state leaders are creating room for danger and harm to women with Senate Bill 2116. This legislation will limit a woman's right to make her own personal reproductive healthcare decisions.

"It is not the government's place to dictate belief. In fact, this is not about personal beliefs at all. This is about legal access to a medical procedure, and our elected leaders should not callously insert themselves into a family's private reproductive decision-making.

"We ask that our state leaders focus on helping Mississippi families, rather than wasting more time and resources on this unconstitutional crusade against reproductive freedom."

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Paying a debt to society?

After incarceration, former prisoners face a tough journey home to find work, reunite with family and begin again

Plan for transitional support to ex-convicts stirs not-in-my-backyard protests in Washington, D.C. showing complexities of criminal justice reform

By Rachel Holloway
TriceEdneyWire.com

Try to imagine what freedom must be like for many prisoners who've been released after serving sentences of 10, 15 or 20 years behind bars.

Sure, there is the initial sense of elation among some of the men and women about the prospect of a second chance in society. But that elation frequently gives way to frustration, dismay and even fear over how to begin picking up the pieces of their shattered lives.

Indeed, the questions and obstacles they face can be overwhelming. Will they ever find a job, especially if they lack the skills employers need? What about affordable housing? And where will they find money to pay for food and transportation?

Then there are all the societal changes, starting with the disappearance of transit tokens, not to mention the array of other new technologies, including smartphones, social media platforms, video streaming, e-readers, GPS devices and tablets. These technologies are often dizzyingly unfamiliar to individuals who in many cases went to prison at a time when the lowly flip phone was a high technological achievement. And yet being able to use these technologies – from Microsoft Word for a resume to LinkedIn for job searching – is critical.

Thousands of ex-convicts face this reality in communities across the country, from Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, Atlanta and Miami to Chicago, Detroit, Houston and Los Angeles. To hear these sort of coming home stories is the first step to understand the daunting journey undertaken by these individuals – often unsuccessfully – to rebuild their lives and re-establish ties to family, friends and community after prison.

With tens of thousands of prisoners being released each year from jails and prisons across the country, experts agree that a major test on the journey home for these individuals is navigating rocky shoals of the transition between prison and society. Will they be productive citizens, or will they engage in a repeat offense and return to prison? Or will they end up homeless in the streets – or worse?

Ex-convicts continue to pay after release

How to help ease the transition for inmates returning home has become part of the growing national debate on reforming the criminal justice system at a time when critics say it has incarcerated a disproportionate number of black and Hispanic men while focusing on punishment rather than rehabilitation.

That debate is playing out in Washington, D.C.'s predominantly black Ward 5, where a proposal to open a residential reentry facility for ex-prisoners has provoked a not-in-



my-backyard furor. It has also sparked a larger discussion about the need for programs that confront systemic needs of ex-convicts – including providing housing, job training or drug treatment – while helping them work through the psychological issues that returning home can provoke.

At the center of this debate is CORE DC, a minority-owned, social-services group seeking to open a residential reentry center in Ward 5. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on November 1, 2018 awarded CORE DC the contract to open a 300-bed center and the facility was scheduled to start taking in residents on March 1 of this year.

But plans were put on hold amid concerns from some community members. The delay dealt a blow to efforts to address the pressing needs of former inmates returning home with what CORE DC and supporters say is the organization's humane approach to helping the former prisoners assimilate into a society with obsolete notions of crime and punishment.

"How do you genuinely engage in criminal justice reform when you still have ancient and outdated attitudes?" CORE DC chairman and CEO Jack Brown said. "These are the kind of monsters under the bed that CORE has to deal with. If you have an organization that is providing these services and their reputation is questionable, of course the community should have concerns. But that is not what the community is getting with CORE."

Lingering concerns about past service providers

The only reentry center in Washington, D.C., today is Hope Village, located in Southeast Washington. Opened in the late 1970s, it has faced criticism in the past on issues ranging from the treatment of residents to its security practices. In a 53-page 2013 memo, the independent agency in charge of monitoring conditions inside of district correctional facilities found that Hope Village lacked "job readiness resources" and substandard care for residents with mental health needs. In 2016, a nonprofit criminal jus-

tice advocacy group called the Council for Court Excellence implored the BOP to end its contract with Hope Village.

When Northeast Washington residents got word that a new reentry center would open in Ward 5, some expressed reservations. Chief among their questions was whether CORE DC's reentry home would be a good neighbor, a concern that seemingly reflected lingering concerns the community had from past experiences.

In fact, just weeks after CORE DC's Ward 5 project was announced, two former Hope Village residents who had escaped and committed crimes were sentenced to prison, one for a 27-month term and the other for 33 months. The episode seemed to fuel falsehoods and misconceptions about the indispensable role that experts say transitional services such as temporary housing and job training have in ensuring former inmates have the tools needed for a second chance.

As the drip-drip of troubling reports coming out of Southeast Washington cast a dark shadow over a possible new reentry center in Northeast Washington, CORE DC reached out to local lawmakers while the organization's leadership joined community hearings convened to address questions surrounding the planned facility.

CORE DC says it hoped to provide facts and clarity to the discussion.

"At our facilities, the program director is in daily communication with Bureau of Prisons," Brown said. "Most people in the community believe you get to hang out from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. outside of the center, not at CORE. We don't see too many program failures because our clients have jobs that we work with them to get in the construction industry, technology sector and other livable wage jobs."

But dialogue has sometimes been elusive and sometimes heated.

Halfway houses, a loaded term

At one community meeting, a pamphlet was left behind that warned of the grave dangers of "halfway houses," a term that those in the criminal-jus-

tice world say is outdated and filled with a negative connotation. "Halfway houses accept sex offenders, drug offenders, convicted murders and rapists," the pamphlet read. A group of 12 Northeast residents sued, and on December 21, CORE DC lost its lease on the property.

There is also the fact that Hope Village, which has won more than \$125 million in federal contracts since 2006, filed a protest against the BOP contract with CORE DC. The protest, filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), leveled a number of charges, including that Hope Village lost the contract because it refused to take in sex offenders.

In a decision made Feb. 21, the GAO dismissed Hope Village's highly charged claim, while raising technical questions about CORE DC's use of the property it proposed for its center.

CORE DC said that it remains committed to the DC area.

"We remain committed to reunifying the families and restoring the communities that these individuals leave behind," Brown said, "But in order to address these complicated issues, the community deserves a productive, fact-driven dialogue, not falsehoods and fear-mongering."

In recent weeks, CORE Services Group, of which CORE DC is an affiliate, has invited Ward 5 leaders to tour other reentry centers the organization operates. The nonprofit, founded in 2005, has invited local representatives to a reentry center in Brooklyn, New York, where security standards have been lauded in routine reviews by the BOP.

Meanwhile, it remains to be seen whether the community will embrace CORE DC as a new neighbor. But with an estimated 8,000 former inmates returning home to Washington every year, advocates say reentry centers are a proven part of the solution, even as they caution that the district, just like communities around the country, need a comprehensive approach.

Rachel Holloway, can be contacted at holloway75@gmail.com.

Donna Brazile trying 'a new lane' by joining Fox News



Brazile

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Donna Brazile says there's no way she's selling out and her core values will always remain intact despite her controversial decision to sign with Fox News.

"I'm not changing my values. Nobody would ever make me change my values," Brazile told NNPA Newswire in an exclusive interview. "The only thing that will change about me is my age," she said.

The former Democratic National Committee chairwoman, signed on as a contributor with the Fox News Channel March 18.

Previously, Brazile had been a contributor for CNN and ABC News.

In an op-ed article on FoxNews.com, Brazile wrote that she hoped to improve the tenor of political debate. "Will I agree with my fellow commentators at Fox News? Probably not. But I will listen," Brazile wrote.

Brazile said she would question assertions about low-income people and issues such as climate change, but would do so with "civility and respect." Brazile added: "I will also freely admit the weaknesses in liberal arguments and the strength in conservative positions."

Her signing with Fox comes as the network has faced growing criticism and mounting allegations of racism as hosts like Jeanine Pirro and Tucker Carlson have spewed hateful messages on air.

Fox has openly been aligned with President Donald Trump and many observers have criticized the network and the president for their alleged pro-white supremacy views.

Brazile, a longtime friend of the Black Press, was honored last year during Black Press Week by the NNPA when she delivered a stirring address about the "State of the Black Press in 2018" at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The NNPA is a trade group that represents more than 200 black-owned media companies operating in the United States. NNPA member publications reach more than 20

million readers in print and online every week.

"I've known Donna Brazile for about 40 years and, in 2016, the Democrats couldn't have selected a better person to lead them," said Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA.

Brazile said that the Black Press is the "pulse of the community."

"You are carving out stories that the mainstream [media] won't," she said. "You've been at the forefront of change, even before change was in vogue. That's why I've always supported the Black Press."

Brazile said she expected criticism when she decided to sign with Fox News.

"If I made a decision tomorrow to work for a presidential candidate, people would ask why," Brazile said. "It reminds me of 2008 when people asked how come I'm not working for Barack Obama, that he's a black man. Or, how come I'm not working for Hillary Clinton because she's a woman," she said.

Brazile said the importance of the 2020 presidential election was a primary reason she decided to join Fox News.

She said it's of great concern that the national debate has become hostile and disrespectful.

"Fox has one of the largest audiences during the evening hours and they are not just Republican voters and they're not just Trump voters," Brazile said.

"In order to win, we have to expand the electorate and we can't just talk to people who agree with us. We have to talk to people who may not agree with us because they don't hear us," she said.

Brazile continued, "I hope that I'm able to come across as someone reasonable and someone people can respect and I will do my very best."

Finally, she said unlike those who wish to "stay in their lanes all of their lives," she needed a change. "I want to try this lane [Fox News]. If I don't like it, I'll get out of this lane and hopefully I'll get a job when I get out of this lane," she said.

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PART 1

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



The Apostle Paul stated in First Corinthians 6:15-16 these words: “Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit.” He that is joined to the harlot has another spirit. Those spirits clash.

Do you know what it means to stay joined to the Lord? You are going to stay with the true Church of God. You will not

run down and join Babylon. This has an effect on your stand, your solidness and your strength. A prominent stand has to be taken. All who are on the Lord’s side, come over here.

Your spirituality has to do with the atmosphere you are around. If you fool around with Babylon’s unclean spirits, you will get that same spirit. The harlot spirit is a spirit that is unfaithful to the husband. In fact, the Bible calls it spiritual fornication. Once you know the truth and you go back on the truth, you are a fornicator and no fornicator has an inheritance in the Kingdom of God.

The Corinthian church wanted to keep a man among them who had committed fornication, but Paul said in so many words, “Take this man

out of here.”

You can have the strength to go through tribulations and trials. When the church went into the wilderness, they came out of those trials and washed their robes and made them white. When the trials come, you will have a cleansing if you will hold steady.

John, in Revelation 21:9, got carried away with mystery Babylon until God got hold of him and said, “Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” In other words, He was saying, “I want you to get your eyes off that harlot and keep your eyes on the bride.”

Friend, God wants you to keep your eyes on the church, the Lamb’s wife. The Lord showed John the bride, that holy city of Jerusalem, de-

scending out of Heaven, and He let him know that she is holy.

To be God’s child, you must be holy. First Peter 1:16 states, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” You have to come out of the unclean thing to be holy. Why? When you come out of Babylon, you need to cleanse yourself from all of Babylon’s tricks. This coming out will bring rejoicing. If you are going to be a part of the city of God, you have to live a victorious life.

Next week, Part II, “God’s people are a holy people.”

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

PRESERVED

Spiritual selfie

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I was blessed to travel to Paris, France and Vienna, Austria alone for a brief summer vacation. As much as I enjoyed visiting some of the most historic places in the world, I was often frustrated by how to take pictures of myself at these places. Sure, I took plenty of pictures of these breathtakingly beautiful gardens, museums and landmarks. But I wasn’t in any of them and I wanted to be in the some of them.

At first, I asked other tourists to take my picture. But after a while, I got tired of asking others to take my picture. I knew then that I had one last resort if I wanted pictures of these places with me in them: the selfie.

Despite my best efforts, I struggled trying to take the selfie. Even though I’d had a cell phone for few years at that point, I still had not learned how to take selfies.

I wanted to take selfies in one of the mirrored halls at Versailles Palace but my attempt to get the artwork in the background and my face in the foreground made my head look twice as big. I then tried to take the selfies with my arm completely stretched out. Those pictures turned out with half my face cut off.

I then figured since this was my first real experiences taking selfies that I should research those who were most familiar with the selfie. After seeing a child of around 8 years old take

a selfie, I knew I had to do better.

I figured that if I was going to learn how to take selfies, I needed to just do it. So that’s what I did. Regardless of how they turned out, I kept taking selfies. By the end of my trip, I had a nice collection of selfies. Some were bad, but most were good.

But I learned an important lesson in taking the selfie. When I took the selfie, if my focus was on trying to get the scenery or background in the picture, they didn’t turn out well. However, when I changed my focus from what was the in the background, the selfie turned out well.

We often make the same mistake with God. We get so distracted by the things that are going on around us that we forget to focus on God and his purpose for our lives. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Would God be anywhere in your spiritual selfie or would He be edged out by work related, church related and family related distractions? Even though it is challenging to do, we should strive for our spiritual selfie to be like “a glorious image of God” and focused on fulfilling His purpose.

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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Women are stepping up!

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



We're near the end of Women's History Month. Every woman should be proud of who we are, about the number of women who serve as mayors of key cities, women who ran for and won Congressional seats and the number of women who're in the race for president of the U.S.

We always knew Sen. Elizabeth Warren would run for president. She already had her policies ready to go out front as soon as she announced. Sen. Kamala Harris announced shortly thereafter and raised an impressive amount of campaign funds. Amy Klobuchar was impressive as she announced with snowflakes falling all over her, seeming to be unbothered by them. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has made a lot of television appearances this week, and her campaign is in full swing. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard announced a while back, but hasn't seemed to pick up steam yet.

With all of these impressive women candidates for president, I'm already hearing, "The country is not ready to elect a woman." I cringe to hear that. Hillary Clinton came so close two years ago, but some people have lost the will. Women can't give up. Without knowing what white women will do to elect a woman in 20/20, women of color are as ready as ever. So many aren't only prepared to run for office, but I believe a majority of women of color are excited about the potential of a final positive vote for a woman to run the White House.

If you have a niece, daughter, sister, granddaughter or any young girl in your life, before this Women's History Month is over, why not begin to teach her about the many great accomplishments black women have had to perfect our union? What many black women have done didn't just help black women. What they did helped all women, all men and children too; but too often black women get no recognition. That's why Women's History Month is so necessary.

Just look at how long it took for us to hear about the very important work of the women who helped to lead in the launch of John Glenn to go into and return successfully from space. Most of us knew nothing about Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson who were the brains of one of the greatest operations in history. The brilliant black women recently had their incredible story told in the movie Hidden Figures. We never had the privilege of reading about them in our history books. Yet, we read about many not nearly so important things about men – mostly white men.

We must take the responsibility of telling our young people about women such as the great Fannie Lou Hamer, Amelia Boynton, Ella Baker, Diane Nash and all the women who played such important roles in the Civil Rights Movement.

Our young people need to know the stories of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Irene Morgan, Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks and the important role they played in gaining rights for women and for black people. We can't separate being a woman from being black. Our feminism is different from that of white women. We can't vote against our best interest as some of our white sisters do and still be okay. We must weigh every vote before we cast it because our ancestors risked death to gain the right for us to vote.

The big divide was seen in the 2016 presidential election which prevented all women and girls from finally saying we elected a woman to the highest office in the land. Black and Latina women did our part. White women need to step up because women of color are certainly doing our part.

E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. www.nationalcongressbw.org. She hosts "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-89.3 FM.

The myth of meritocracy

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



William Singer is going to jail. He's the man who masterminded the college cheating scandal, collecting more than \$25 million in bribes between 2011 and 2018 for helping the children of millionaires get into college through what he called "the side door." More than 50 people got caught up in his scam, including a couple of well-known actresses, and some not so well known corporate CEOs who were willing to pay big money to get their unqualified children into elite colleges like Yale, Georgetown, and Stanford.

Singer's unsavory antics were outrageous – hiring people to take ACT and SAT scores for young people, photo-shopping photos onto athletic bodies, lying about student's background and athletic prowess. It boiled down to creating opportunity for young people who are already endowed with the blessing of their parent's wealth. It flies in the face of the notion of meritocracy.

If you are surprised by this entrance-buying scheme, you are de-

luding yourself, though. Wealthy people have been buying their children's admission to elite schools for years; they just did it the legal way. They gave substantial contributions to colleges and then asked for a place for their children. Or, they took advantage of the legacy preference (affirmative action for white people) to get their children in. So Singer called himself "the side door" to admissions, with traditional admissions being the front door, and large contributions being the back door.

We in the African-American community are clear that the front door has often either been closed to us or slammed in our faces, while we lack the wealth to enter the back door or side door. The fact that money buys admission, either through the back or side door makes the notion of "meritocracy" a bad joke.

Meritocracy suggests that people hold power (or have access to things like jobs or college seats) because of their ability, but the current leadership in these United States suggests that meritocracy is a myth. It's not just that our 45th President seems to lack the ability to behave himself (witness the attacks on John McCain), read a

briefing book, or do his job correctly, it's that he has found a gaggle of miscreants to make and implement public policy.

That Betsy DeVos (Devoid of good sense) runs the Department of Education flies in the face of meritocracy. That the man who lives in the House that Enslaved People Built brought his law-breaking daughter and son-in-law onto his staff as "senior advisors" flies in the face of meritocracy. That the administration is actively seeking appeals court judges whose primary qualifications are their youth and conservatism flies in the face of meritocracy. Alison Rushing, at 37, has not even practiced law for a decade but is now a member of the US Court of Appeals in the 4th Circuit. That court covers North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina and Maryland, and convenes in North Carolina, where Rushing has not even passed a bar exam. But she has a lifetime appointment to the court. What meritocracy?

The college cheating scam is a counterpoint to the myth of meritocracy, but African-American people are clear that meritocracy has never worked for us. Even those who get into school "the old fashioned way," through the front door,

come to the door with myriad advantages that many African-American students, especially poor, working class and first generation black students do not have. They've spent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on prep courses. They've used alumni-rich networks for recommendations and advice. They've taken advanced classes (International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement) that are not available at all schools, especially inner-city schools. The playing field has never been level, nor has there ever been a meritocracy.

Here is the real tragedy – millions of African-American young people can't afford to go to college, no matter what their merit or ability. When they graduate, many face a hostile job market, and often experience pay discrimination. Not to mention the fact that even walking while black might get you shot if the wrong police officer finds your walk "threatening." Meritocracy? Please.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking. Wholesale inquiries visit www.julianne-malveaux.com

It's time to sign Colin Kaepernick

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"Though this legal battle with Kaepernick has been resolved, he isn't going away either. The league will forever have to live with the fact that it was complicit in destroying someone's career simply because he wished to bring attention to the injustices suffered by his people. If owners and Roger Goodell believe that they no longer will have to face questions about why Kaepernick isn't in the league, they're wrong. No matter what an arbitrator rules, how the NFL treated Kaepernick will always be the mistake they can never amend." – Jemele Hill

Over the last several weeks, two incidents have served to remind us of the hypocrisy and racism that still permeates the National Football League. First, the league reached a settlement with San Francisco 49ers Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid,

who accused the league's 32 teams of colluding to keep them from playing because they knelt through the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality.

Second, yet another in a seemingly endless stream of reports surfaced about a player accused of domestic violence. This time: Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill, who has a history of domestic violence, is being investigated for assault of a child.

It's hard to deny that the NFL appears to be an institution that is tolerant of domestic violence, but intolerant of social activism.

They excuse that signing Kaepernick would be a bad business decision was obliterated last fall by sportswear giant Nike. After unveiling an ad campaign featuring Kaepernick, sales rocketed and its stock price soared. As sportswriter Jason La Canfora noted of the "bad for business" argument, "Oh really? How's it working out for Phil Knight? You think he did this as a publicity stunt? It ain't warm and fuzzy in the Fortune 500, brother,

it's just business – cutthroat business at that in sporting apparel – and Nike made this calculated decision to make money. And that they are doing."

The excuse that Kaepernick simply isn't a good enough player, also is laughable. Even the most casual football fan can observe quarterbacking every week that is not up to Kaepernick's standards. Since 2011, Kaepernick is tied for 14th in QB rating, tied with Carson Palmer and Andy Dalton. Plenty of quarterbacks with lower ratings not only are playing, but have secured deals worth more than \$10 million per year.

The facts simply do not bear it out that Kaepernick's skill and abilities don't measure up. Sports news site The Athletic in January surveyed 85 defensive NFL players from 25 different teams about their favorite and least favorite quarterbacks. "There is one quarterback the defensive players surveyed were nearly unanimous on: Colin Kaepernick," The Athletic wrote. Only two of the 85 said he should not be on an NFL roster and another two chose not to comment."

Audio recording of a meeting between owners and players last spring revealed a simpler – and feebler – answer for why Kaepernick isn't signed: the owners are afraid of the President's Twitter account.

"The problem we have is, we have a president who will use that as fodder to do his mission that I don't feel is in the best interests of America," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "It's divisive and it's horrible."

Buffalo Bills owner Terry Pegula shared Kraft's fear. "All Donald needs to do is to start to do this again."

Fear of a Tweet is keeping a talented athlete in the prime of his career from earning a living at the sport in which he excels. It's depriving the league and its fans of that talent.

Signing Kaepernick would not just be good for Kaepernick; it would be good for the NFL, good for the fans and good for America. The NFL must right this wrong and give the fans and the players what they want.

Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Rev. Howard-John Wesley are master teachers

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



I strongly believe that one of the most valuable members of any community is a master teacher. Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, (77), Pastor Emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois and Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, (46), Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia are master teachers.

A quote credited to Nelson Mandela is also apt to when describing them. He noted, "A good head and a good heart are a formidable combination." Wright and Wesley are both blessed with that formidable



Wright



Wesley

combination.

That was re-affirmed recently when they delivered sermons in Howard University's Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Each provided over 1,500 congregants, many of them Howard students, faculty and alumni, with a memorable and spiritual experience. In his sermon, "No More Masks," Wright quoted Paul Laurence Dunbar ("We wear the masks that grins and lies"). He stated that we must remove those

masks if we are to successfully move against white supremacy and white privilege. We should act like the strong and proud people that our ancestors were. He insisted that such conduct by too many of us today is not a proper way to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. "There are two types of clergy," he said, "the prophet whose allegiance is to God and the priest whose allegiance is to the government. Dr. King was a prophet; Billy Graham was a priest."

Along with Dunbar, Wright also quoted Old and New Testaments, Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, James Baldwin and Dr. King in his sermon. He also called out the word for God for some 15 African ethnic groups (not tribes, ethnic groups).

Wesley delivered an equally compelling sermon two weeks after Wright. He began by saying to the congregation, "I am going to disturb you today." He then began to preach and teach about "Surviving Lots" from childhood into young adulthood. He noted he was taught that Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction resulted from the overwhelming presence of homosexuality. "Then I read the Bible myself," he stated. That reading informed him about the treachery of Lot, who owned the equivalent of a modern day hotel. When an invading army threatened his hotel, noted Wesley, Lot offered his "two virgin daughters" to the leaders of the invasion if they would spare his hotel. He then stated that there is

a sizable number of modern day Lots who sexually exploit, abuse and harass women. They include corporate executives, politicians, professors, entertainers, athletes and even preachers. He expressed special concern about black women, who throughout this country's history, have been sexually exploited by white males. He was equally scornful of black men who use their positions to sexually exploit black women. He urged male congregants in the chapel to stand and pledge to not be modern day Lots and to assist black women who are victims of such behavior. Like he warned, Wesley disturbed people with that sermon.

On the other hand, he inspired them when he announced that his church had given \$50,000

to financially strapped Bennett College and \$100,000 to Howard to pay off the accounts of 34 seniors who are scheduled to graduate in May 2019. Now all they have to focus on is their grades. Alfred Streets' contributions are the very definition of not just talking the talk, but walking the walk.

Master teachers Wright and Wesley, bring to mind a quote from David Walker. "David Walker Appeals" is one of the most revolutionary documents in Black History. "I would crawl on my hands and knees to sit at the feet of a learned man... For colored people to acquire learning in this country makes tyrants quake and tremble on their sandy foundation." The two pastors are learned men.

There is more than one way to get screened for colorectal cancer

AmeriHealth Caritas offers advice for reducing disparities in screening rates across demographics

The Mississippi Link Newswire

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer, or cancer that starts in the rectum or colon, is the third most common non-skin cancer diagnosed in American men and women. Regular screening is particularly important for colorectal cancer, even for those not considered high risk. While five-year survival rates are as high as 90 percent for colorectal cancer caught at a localized stage, many people don't experience symptoms until the disease is more advanced and treatment is much more difficult.

The American Cancer Society recommends that people at average risk for developing colorectal cancer should start regular screenings at age 45 and continue them through age 75, and possibly further if their doctor feels it is worthwhile. However, research has found both disparities in screening completion rates and differences in preferred screening methods across racial and ethnic groups.

According to claims data and medical records, AmeriHealth Caritas' diverse membership also completes screening using multiple methods. This suggests that efforts to reduce screening disparities should focus on providing targeted, evidence-based screening options that also address individual patients' preferences.

"We believe that it is im-



portant to not pressure our members to use one particular screening approach. It is up to them and their doctor to determine the method and frequency that is best in their case," said Dr. Andrea Gelzer senior vice president of medical affairs for AmeriHealth Caritas. "The important thing is that everyone get regularly screened."

Screening methods, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) recommended frequency for those at average risk, include:

Every Year: A fecal occult blood test or fecal immunochemical test (FIT). Both check for blood in your stools. These tests can be done in your own home, and require no advance preparation.

Every 1-3 Years: A FIT-DNA test, which combines FIT with a test which looks for altered DNA in the stool. This test can

also be done in your own home without advance preparation.

Every 5 Years: A flexible sigmoidoscopy, in which a doctor puts a short, thin, flexible tube into your rectum and the lower third of the colon. The device allows the doctor to remove most polyps and take biopsies.

Every 10 Years: A colonoscopy, which is similar to a flexible sigmoidoscopy but examines the entire colon. A colonoscopy is also conducted if any of the other screening methods discover anything unusual, as it is the only one which allows for visual examination of the full colon.

AmeriHealth Caritas' Medicaid managed care health plans in Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and the District of Columbia, as well as its Medicaid-Medicare plans in Michigan and South Carolina,

cover the costs of colorectal cancer screening tests on the CDC's schedule from ages 45 to 75, and earlier and/or more frequently for members considered to be higher risk. However, other Medicaid plans can have different policies, which may also be driven by the laws of their respective states.

If you are covered by other types of health insurance, you should check with your health plan to find out which tests are covered and how much you should expect to pay out of pocket.

About AmeriHealth Caritas

AmeriHealth Caritas is one of the nation's leaders in health care solutions for those most in need. Operating in 11 states and the District of Columbia, AmeriHealth Caritas serves more than 5 million Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) members through its integrated managed care products, pharmaceutical benefit management and specialty pharmacy services, and behavioral health services.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, AmeriHealth Caritas is a mission-driven organization with more than 35 years of experience serving low-income and chronically ill populations. AmeriHealth Caritas is part of the Independence Health Group in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For more information, visit www.amerihelthcaritas.com.

Jackson VA Medical Center selected as one of 18 to lead in VA's High Reliability journey

Recent kick-off to high reliability showcased VHA medical facilities that will implement continuous process improvements and operate a Just Culture environment, to enhance teamwork and support continued high quality care to veterans

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center serves approximately 40,000 Veterans every year. "We are proud and excited to help lead VHA's journey to High Reliability," said Dr. David Walker, G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center director. "Our staff is focused on ensuring exceptional care for our veterans, their families, and caregivers in the safest possible environment each and every day. We are all committed to continuing and expanding on that exceptional work as we begin our HRO journey."

"VA has been a leader in patient safety for years," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Adopting high reliability principles more formally represents the next step for delivering the

best health care to veterans. "These principles align with our greater vision of transforming business operations and delivering exceptional customer service to veterans," Wilkie said. "Our culture is changing and pursuing HRO principles nationwide is our pledge to empower staff and keep veterans the safest they can be on our watch."

Research shows high reliability organizations experience fewer accidents despite being high-risk environments where small errors can produce catastrophic results. A February Leadership Summit kicked off the HRO journey and introduced high reliability concepts and practices to the 18 sites. Lessons learned from these 18 sites will guide a more impactful rollout across every

VHA medical facility in 2020.

VHA's journey to become an HRO is consistent with national safety goals set forth by The Joint Commission, an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies approximately 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the U.S.

In addition to a safer environment focused on reducing errors and preventing patient harm, HRO principles and values call for deference to expertise; oftentimes, the patient's family caregiver is that expert. HRO will empower veterans and their family caregivers, along with employees who work hands-on with veterans, to make decisions and impact improvements that aim for excellent care for every patient, every time.

Maintain a healthy immune system through the lymphatic system

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



An important part of maintaining a healthy immune system is an effective lymphatic system, yet almost nowhere is anyone paying specific attention to it.

The lymphatic system is the "other" circulatory system and is vital to our health. The lymphatic system consists of lymph vessels, ducts, nodes and other tissues. The lymph vessels form a network of branches that reach most of the body's tissues. They work in a similar way to the blood vessels. The lymph vessels work with the veins to return fluid from the tissues.

Around 68 ounces of fluid leak from the cardiovascular system into body tissues every day. The lymphatic system is a network of vessels that collect these fluids or lymph.

Unlike blood, the lymphatic fluid is not pumped but squeezed through the vessels when we use our muscles.

The lymphatic system has three main functions: it maintains the balance of fluid between the blood and tissues; it forms part of the body's immune system and helps defend against bacteria and other intruders; and it facilitates absorption of fats and fat-soluble nutrients in the digestive system.

Lymph is drained progressively towards larger vessels called lymph nodes. They're about the size and shape of a pea, and hundreds of them are scattered all throughout the body. In the lymph nodes, immune cells assess for foreign material, such as bacteria, viruses or fungus.

Lymph nodes are not the only lymphatic tissues in the body. The tonsils, spleen and thymus gland are also lymphatic tissues.

In the back of the mouth, there are tonsils. These produce lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell and antibodies. The tonsils protect against inhaled and swallowed foreign bodies.

The spleen is not connected to the lymphatic system in the same way as lymph nodes, but it is lymphoid tissue. This means it plays a role in the production of white blood cells that form part of the immune system. Its other major role is to filter the blood to remove microbes and old and damaged red blood cells.

The thymus gland is a lymphatic organ and an endocrine gland that is found just behind the breastbone. It secretes hormones and is crucial in the production of immune T cells.

Around 90 percent of the plasma that reaches tissues from the main blood capillaries is returned by the capillaries and back along veins. The remaining 10 percent is drained back by the lymphatics. Each day, around 2-3 liters is returned. Loss of the lymphatic system would be fatal within a day.

Our bodies are constantly exposed to potentially hazardous micro-organisms, such as infections. If the immune system is not able to fight off these micro-organisms, they can be harmful and even fatal.

The lymphatic system produces white blood cells, known as lymphocytes that travel through the lymphatic system. As they reach the lymph nodes, they are filtered and become activated by contact with viruses,

bacteria, foreign particles and so on in the lymph fluid. From this stage, the pathogens, or invaders, are known as antigens.

The lymph nodes are concentrated in the neck, armpits, and groin. We become aware of these on one or both sides of the neck when we develop so-called "swollen glands" in response to an illness. It is in the lymph nodes that the lymphocytes first encounter the pathogens, communicate with each other, and set off their defensive response. The lymphatic system can stop working properly if nodes, ducts, vessels or lymph tissues become blocked, infected, inflamed or cancerous.

Cancer that starts in the lymphatic system is known as lymphoma. It is the most serious lymphatic disease. Hodgkin lymphoma affects a specific type of white blood cell. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma refers to types that do not involve these cells. Cancer that affects the lymphatic system is usually a secondary cancer. This means it has spread from a primary tumor, such as the breast, to nearby or regional lymph nodes.

If the lymphatic system does not work properly, for example, if there is an obstruction, fluid may not drain effectively. As the fluid builds up, this can lead to swelling, for example in an arm or leg. This is lymphedema.

Lymphedema is a chronic lymphatic disease that results in disfiguring swelling in one or more parts of the body. The skin may feel tight and hard, and skin problems may occur. A specially trained professional can do light massage to help move fluid from areas of swelling to other areas where working lymph vessels may carry it away.

The lymphatic system clears away infection and keeps your body fluids in balance. If it's not working properly, fluid builds in your tissues and causes swelling, called lymphedema. Other lymphatic system problems can include infections, blockage and cancer.

Treatment of lymphatic diseases depends on treating the underlying cause. Lymphedema can be treated by elevation, compression and physical therapy. Cancers of the lymphatic system are treated by chemotherapy, radiation, surgery or a combination of them all.

This "tree of life" we call the lymph system is necessary to maintain health throughout your entire body and makes life and healing possible. Small efforts such as eating whole organic food and drinking pure water can greatly affect the efficiency of your lymph system, and in turn will protect and defend your entire body.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible. The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on *Health Equity and Medical Ethics*. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia, Boston, Shreveport, Chicago, Los Angeles and Birmingham or visit: www.glennellis.com

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 04/30/2019, for:

RE: GS# 205-076 Utica Fire Suppression - PH I
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RFx# 3160002845

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

Professional: Engineering Resource Group, Inc.
Address: Post Office Drawer 16443
Jackson, Mississippi 39236

Phone: 601-362-3552
Email: mbutler@ergms.com

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

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

3/28/2019, 4/4/2019

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
GROVE PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE II)
Jackson, Mississippi
PROJECT NO. 15B5007.401

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of GROVE PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE II), City Project No. 15B5007.401. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (60) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection at Crown Engineering, PLLC located at 5269 Keele Street, Suite C, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at Crown Engineering, PLLC, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. All request and questions regarding plans and specifications can be directed to Calvin Dean, PE, Principal, (601) 713-4346. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on April 11, 2019, at 2:00 PM. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Robert K. Miller
Director, Department of Public Works

3/28/2019, 4/4/2019

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

I D O N ' T K N O W W H A T M Y P A T H I S
Z K R H ' S C H R Y Y G E S D A T E S G Z B
Y E T . I ' M J U S T W A L K I N G O N I T .
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FILM REVIEW: UNPLANNED

ADAPTATION OF MEMOIR RECOUNTS ABORTION COUNSELOR'S SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Abby Johnson (Ashley Bratcher) was recruited by Planned Parenthood to do volunteer work when she was still an undergrad at Texas A&M. Her first job was to escort women seeking abortions from the parking lot into the building, past picketers calling them baby killers.

Upon graduating from college, she was hired as a counselor at the controversial, reproductive health services provider's clinic in Bryan, Texas. Over the course of the next eight years, she rose up the ranks to office director, even though she was privately conflicted over whether the organization's primary function was to inform pregnant women about their options or merely to

perform abortions.

After all, she not only came from a conservative, pro-life family, but felt overwhelming regret about the two abortions she had undergone herself earlier in life. So, between pressure from her parents and the almost daily confrontations with demonstrators, Abby's conscience began to get the better of her.

The moment of truth arrived the day her help was urgently needed in the operating room. And, for the first time in her career, she observed an actual abortion.

She was shocked by the gruesome procedure which left her convinced that the fetus was a baby. In fact, she felt so guilty that she decided to resign and join the pro-life protesters marching outside the building.

That is the touching transformation convincingly conveyed in *Unplanned*, a poignant, cinematic portrait co-directed by Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon. Unfortunately, abortion is such an incendiary issue, this is the sort of film audiences will be inclined to judge without seeing based on their political persuasion, although it's adapted from Abby Johnson's very personal memoir.

A riveting reminiscence recounting a Planned Parenthood exec's unlikely conversion to outspoken anti-abortion activist.

Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for disturbing images

Running time: 110 minutes
Distributor: Pure Flix Entertainment



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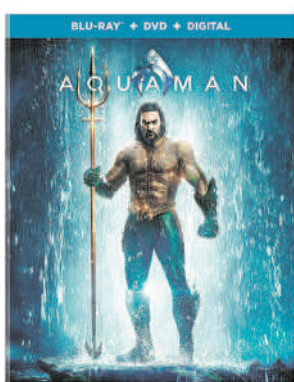
If Beale Street Could Talk



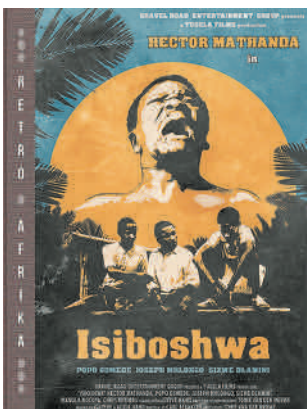
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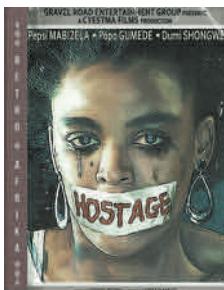
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Sudoku

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.

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

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Olivia Newton-John

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
																	R								

 O T O T
Z KRH S CHRY YGES DA TESG ZB
 T T
AQS Z D XIBS YEJCZHV RH ZS

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)

2019 Ford Edge

AboutThatCar.com

I was really impressed by the 2019 Ford Edge. In a phrase, it has grown.

I'm not talking about its size which looks about the same. I'm talking about stature and equipment and perception. I always thought the Ford Edge was a poor-man's Ford Explorer but not anymore.

I had the Titanium trim with all-wheel-drive. It came with what Ford has branded EcoBoost. In this case, that was a 2.0-liter twin scroll turbo-charged engine.

This engine made 250 horsepower and 275 pound-feet of torque at 3,000 rpm. I would like to see that torque available at half the rpms but this was a very capable engine. It moved the 2019 Edge with authority, it provided plenty of oomph when needed and it was really quiet at low speeds. And it got 21 mpg in the city, 28 mpg on the highway and 23 mpg combined.

I neglected to say that the 2019 Edge also had paddle shifters. I did not use them but apparently enough drivers do because automakers keep equipping some vehicles with them. Anyway, I was mildly surprised that my test vehicle did not have drive-modes. But it really didn't need them.

It had a MacPherson strut front suspension and an independent integral link set up in the rear. Given that there were still some icy spots on the road, my driving was not all that aggressive. Still, the Edge's ride was smooth and steady. Although it had that intangible heft



that comes with a quality build, the midsize Edge did not have that bounce that comes with truck based sport utilities; it had unibody construction.

The Edge sported a new front and rear fascia, a new grille, hood and liftgate. A new 8-speed automatic transmission and start-stop was standard across the range. It worked so smoothly the only reason I turned it off a couple of times was because I always do.

And the gear selector was a

rotary dial mounted on the center console. It took a little getting used to. After five days, I was still reaching for the gear shift to put my test vehicle in park.

That brings me to the interior; Ford has come a long way. What used to be a weakness now seems to be a strength. The front seats, heated and cooled, were lumbar supportive, firm and they provided plenty of upper back support. In days past, Ford seats seemed to be built for shorter

adults.

Anyway, I thought the quality of the rear seats fell off a little; they were a little hard but they were heated. There was plenty of head room and hip space. Leg room was also ample. The rear floor was nearly flat and I thought three people could sit abreast in the rear seats in comfort. That made it a bona fide five-passenger vehicle.

The 2019 Edge had a suite of safety equipment that has been branded Ford Co-Pilot360™.

It included pre-collision assist with automatic emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, a lane-keeping system and a rear-view camera with cross-traffic alert and automatic LED high-beams. The Edge is Ford's first utility vehicle with post-impact braking; rain-sensing windshield wipers were also standard.

There was some stuff that really made a difference in cold weather. First was remote start. Second was the automatic un-

locking doors, all four and push button start and stop. It negated fumbling with keys inside or outside of the Edge. The panoramic sun roof was impressive. It was big, clear and the retractable part covered the front and part of the rear seats.

The 2019 Edge could park itself – perpendicular or horizontally. It rode on a slick set of 20-inch alloy wheels. And it had evasive steering assist, adaptive cruise control, voice controls and a premium audio system.


It had the usual culprits: adaptive cruise control, satellite radio, voice controls and what's becoming usual: Android Auto, Apple CarPlay and Alexa and Waze navigation. There was also a wireless charging pad, two USB plugs in the front bin, a 12 Volt socket in the center console, another in the second row and a 110 volt socket there too.

The center stack was clean, they made the buttons smaller, thus, it didn't look cluttered and the infotainment navigation screen was touch. There was an analogue speedometer in front of the driver. It was flanked by TFT screens on either side that provided lots of information.

Heck, the windshield wipers had their own deicer and the rearview camera had its own washer. There was a hands free power liftgate, ambient interior lighting and Wi-Fi.

The 2019 Ford Edge had all the trappings of a premium crossover. And my test vehicle could tow up to 3,500 lbs. The sticker as tested was \$48,210.

Frank S. Washington is editor of AboutThatCar.com



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BLACK IS THE BODY

STORIES FROM MY GRANDMOTHER'S TIME, MY MOTHER'S TIME, AND MINE

EMILY BERNARD

BOOK REVIEW:

“BLACK IS THE BODY: STORIES FROM MY GRANDMOTHER’S TIME, MY MOTHER’S TIME, AND MINE”

BY EMILY BERNARD

C.2019, KNOPF

\$25.95 / \$34.95 CANADA • 223 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your mother dealt with things you can’t imagine.

It was a different time when she was your age, with societal issues you’d never tolerate and rules you wouldn’t abide. Same with your grandma: scrapbooks, history books and museums are the only places you’ll see what she lived. So what will your children know? As in “Black is the Body” by Emily Bernard, what’s your story?

In 1994, while sitting in a quiet coffee shop and wrestling

with a college paper she was writing, Bernard was stabbed “in the gut” by a white man with a hunting knife. That’s her story to tell and she’s recited it often in the last two-decades-plus, though it’s told differently by others who were there. It’s a story that kicks off her book, but she insists that it does not define her. Nor does racism. Bernard is proud of her black body.

She’s also proud of her experiences, the successes she’s had, the people she’s known and the stories she carries inside her. These become tales that re-

call her mother’s unhappiness before she died, that lent Bernard’s grandmother the strength to stand up to misogynistic rules, and that shape Bernard’s stories to come.

Like any good story, though, there are catches to the telling.

Take, for instance, the way we deal with “the n-word.” And how black women can sometimes hate their hair. And how we let “the absurd and illogical nature of American racial identity” tell us who we are or should be.

No, Bernard lets family do

that.

Her husband is white, a fact that some in her mother’s family hated – although they ultimately bonded with him through food, as though it were a new language.

Her grandmother disliked the Civil Rights Movement. Her mother died too young. Bernard’s adopted twin daughters were born in Ethiopia and she calls them brown girls who are “growing up in a house with a white person who loves them.” They, too, will have experiences their mother won’t have and

stories to tell.

“Black is the Body” is one of those books that’ll make you wish you had a Time Travel machine. Devour this book, set the machine for twenty years into the future, and see what author Emily Bernard’s daughters would write in a sequel...

This memoir has a lot of launching points for that, in tales that quietly demand that you pay attention and in anecdotes that highlight racial issues while also minimizing them. Readers are likewise invited to examine a variety of ideas with

a certain amount of wonder and curiosity, and to follow Bernard to see both sides. That open, often-placid viewpoint provides a gentle way of leading readers to think about human differences and similarities, which resonates throughout and makes this memoir one to keep on your shelf.

Indeed, “Black is the Body” is a book you’ll want to read again because it’s engaging and just plain enjoyable. It offers thoughts you’ll want to turn over in your own head.

This is a book to tell about.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District, the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of MS, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Clinic and Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation Host Annual Cool2care Health Fair and 3K Red Cell Run-Walk and Day of Play April 6, 2019!

Cool2Care Annual Health Fair & Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation 3k Red Cell Run-Walk and Day of Play



Saturday, April 6, 2019

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Terry High School Football Field
Terry, MS

You are invited to join us for the Cool2Care Annual Health Fair & Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation 3K Red Cell Run-Walk and Day of Play. Our goal is to promote healthy living to parents and their students throughout the community and school year.

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Prizes will be given away.

Vendors and Volunteers Welcome

For More Information Call John Neal at 601-857-5222 or 601-857-7000

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: Hinds County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission to and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. Contact: Mr. John Neal, Title IX 601-857-5222