April 25 - May 1, 2019 Vol. 25, No. 27

Post Mueller Report: African Americans, **Democrats divided** over impeachment



By Barrington M. Salmon TriceEdneyWire.com

America and the administration of President Donald Trump continue to reel from the fallout caused by the release of the redacted report of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

The 448-page document, produced after a 22-month investigation into alleged ethical and possibly criminal and illegal behavior by Trump, members of his transition team and others in his administration have found that Trump likely engaged in obstruction of justice, subverted democratic institutions and processes and welcomed the assistance of Russia to help them win a deeply divided election in 2016.

Before the two-volume report was released by the Justice Department, Trump insisted via Twitter, traditional media and elsewhere that there was no collusion, no obstruction, adding that he expected to be totally exonerated. The report, while saying that none of Trump's behavior rose to the level of criminal conspiracy, the report "does not conclude that the president committed a crime (and) also does not exonerate him."

A recent USA Today column by the paper's editorial board says if Donald Trump didn't collude with Russians during the 2016 presidential campaign or obstruct the special counsel's investigation that followed, it wasn't for a lack of trying. And on the collusion question, Mueller's report offers chapter and verse on Russia's "sweeping and systematic" efforts to interfere with the campaign – and Team Trump's amateurish, right-up-tothe-edge dalliances with Russian operatives."

Grassroots black voters across the country have joined the experts in opining on the report.

"I think bulls**t about all this because all Mueller did is tell us what we already knew," said Annette Muse, a DC-based nonprofit consultant. "He's honestly dishonest and we didn't need a report to tell us that. Trump has been nothing but transparent. They have written books about it. I don't blame Trump though, I blame the American people."

Muse said Trump's blatant disregard for the law, his attack on the norms and customs of his office, the unrelenting attacks on the courts, the media and journalism and his profligate lying has not only eroded these institutions

but also people's confidence in government, the presidency and

"The problem is, he's turned the country and the world into a reality show," she said. "As the Panama Papers and the corruption exposed at Deutsche Bank show, the system is corrupt and he has taken advantage of it. His impulse is to take advantage of a corrupt system. Instead of dancing around that, we need to ad-

Some wonder that if Mueller found no definitive evidence of a conspiracy, why did Trump and those around him work so hard to discredit the investigation, and why did he fire former FBI Director Jim Comey, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions and force out people like the FBI's Andrew McCabe and others?

For those opposed to Trump and his presidency and the many who pinned their hopes on the Mueller investigation producing damning evidence of malfeasance by Trump and unmistakable proof of high crimes and misdemeanors, the report is a disappointment, in part, because although Mueller found significant evidence of Trump's corrupt intent, he did not offer a judgment on whether Trump obstructed justice as he labored to impede the investigation.

Mueller stated, "the president's actions and intent present difficult issues that prevent us from conclusively determining that no criminal conduct occurred." Mueller may have been lim-

ited in his ability to prove criminal behavior, but he left Congress what Rep. Elijah Cummings calls, "a roadmap to follow."

There is increasing talk of impeachment, sprinkled with caution or outright dismissal by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. But Cummings, chair of the House Reform and Oversight Committee, earned widespread praise when he said: "Even if we did not win, possibly, if there were not impeachment, I think history would smile upon us for standing up for the Constitution."

Trump's victory laps may be premature. The cloud of the damning indictment will hang over him until the end of his presidency and he could well face state charges after leaving

Alton Drew, a lawyer and con-

Impeachment Continued on page 3

Civil Rights icon James Meredith visits Evers and Flagg Library on 14 Stop Tour

By Jackie Hampton Publisher

Civil Rights icon James Meredith said April 24 he was heading to Coahoma Community College (CCC) to speak but he was a little "scared" because he was planning to share with his audience the truth regarding how African Americans have never dealt with the consequences of slavery and segregation. He said this event, which is part of CCC's 70th-yearanniversary, will be a most "telling event."

When asked if this is the same 'truth' he is telling on his tour of the Jackson Hinds Library System (JHLS) Meredith said it's a different audience. The JHLS tour for Meredith is all about encouraging everyone to use the library frequently.

So far, he has spoken at the Flagg Library on Williamson Avenue in Edwards and the Medgar Evers Library in Jackson. Jessica Johnson, branch manager of the Flagg Library stated, "The message that Dr. Meredith shared with us was very empowering. It educated us on how well known he is by so many great people." Johnson said the tour by Meredith was very rewarding and much needed.

Anne Sanders, branch manager of the Evers Library stated, "The James Meredith presentation went very well. Having this dynamic Civil Rights speaker to visit our library was indeed a pleasure as well as an honor." Evers staff member Jimmy Mays said, "Being I did not grow up in the civil rights era, learning about the struggles first hand from James Meredith was an incredible experience."

Meredith, the author of several books wrote a book 30 years ago titled "What Every Black Family Needs to know about The Library." He said there was a time in Mississippi when blacks could only use one of several libraries in the city. It was



Meredith

located on Mills Street.

Evers said he always took advantage of going to the library and reading all the newspapers and magazines so that he would know what was going on locally and nationally. It was his use of the library that prepared him for what was at stake when he made a decision to attend The University of Mississippi in 1962.

Meredith was the first African American to attend the university. His entrance gained national attention when state officials refused a U.S. Supreme Court order to integrate the university, but following large campus riots, Meredith was admitted under the protection of federal mar-

It was having access to the articles in newspapers and magazines that Meredith was able to read about Dr. Martin Luther

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Transforming Jackson Public Schools

By Errick L. Greene, Ed.D. Superintendent



Upon accepting the role of superintendent of the Jackson Public School District, pledged to en-

sure that every JPS student receives an excellent education.

I plan to make good on that pledge.

Over the past six months, I've visited each school, met with thousands of teachers, students, parents, district staff and community leaders, and I've carefully analyzed district data and reports from the Council of the Great City Schools, the Better Together Commission and One Voice. As the new leader of our district and being new to the community, these perspectives have been invaluable to me in gaining deeper context and developing our plan.

Based on my analysis, I've begun to see the district more

COMMENTARY

clearly – assets and challenges alike. I've determined that our central office duties and responsibilities require major transformation in order to ensure high quality teaching and learning throughout the district and to ensure that we provide excellent support to our schools and service to the community.

As we begin the transformation of the school district, we must reorganize the leadership structure by consolidating overlapping administrative positions and creating greater coherence of the various departments and functions. This is consistent with the Better Together Commission's finding in their Ready to Rise: Our Students, Our Future, Our Time report which states, "The transformation of central office structure, roles, function and effectiveness is an important priority in supporting schools as they seek to improve teaching, learning and achieve-

With the unanimous support of our Board of Trustees, each of whom has demonstrated great leadership and courage, we have initiated major changes in central office operations that will not only provide a cost savings of nearly \$1,000,000 to the district, but will also create the necessary structures and capacity to lead the work that is critical to our success.

Though we know we have a long way to go to reach the level of excellence that our community deserves, some of the exciting changes for the 2019-2020 school year include:

Developing shared values that will inform our behaviors and decision making over time, and order our steps throughout the district transformation ef-

Launching a district-wide leadership focus on culture and building our collective capacity to support strong team building and collaboration;

- Merging the Curriculum and Professional Development Departments into the Office of Teaching and Learning to create greater coherence in between the two functions;
- · Shifting and expanding the functions of the Data and Accountability Office to ensure that the district maintains a focus on continuous improvement as we drive toward excellence;
- · Updating position descriptions and responsibilities of executive level team members to focus more on improved outcomes, superior service and building organizational effectiveness; and
- · Taking a more deliberate approach to understand our staffing challenges and implementing smart strategies to recruit teachers and support them through the licensure process.

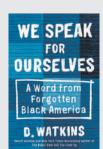
We believe that these systemic shifts in teaching and learning will cause immediate

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MVSU names Lindsey Hunter new men's head basketball coach



We Speak for **Ourselves**



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MVSU names Lindsey Hunter new men's head basketball coach

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley University has named Lindsey Hunter as the 11th head men's basketball coach in school history, Director of Athletics Dianthia Ford-Kee announced

"I am elated to welcome coach Lindsey Hunter and his family back to the oasis of the Mississippi Delta and the SWAC," said Ford-Kee. "I am excited about his energy, vision, and most importantly the impact he will have on our pro-

Hunter, who most recently served as an assistant coach on the University of Buffalo coaching staff during the 2016-17 season, will be formally introduced May 1, 2019, with a press conference on the cam-

"I look forward to coach Hunter joining us here at MVSU," said Jerryl Briggs, president, Mississippi Valley State University. "His wealth of experience as a player and coach is vital and will definitely assist the continued growth for our men's basketball program. We are surely keeping Valley in Motion!"

Hunter spent 17 years in the NBA as a player and another two years as a coach in the league, including as interim head coach of the Phoenix



Suns. In his only season on the UB coaching staff, the Bulls went 17-15 while earning the number three seed in the Mid-American Conference Tourna-

Hunter helped guide a pair of individual award winners as Dontay Caruthers was named

the MAC Defensive Player of the Year and Nick Perkins was named Sixth Man of the Year. Blake Hamilton was also named to the All-MAC Second Team and CJ Massinburg was an Honorable Mention selec-

overall in the 1993 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons after concluding his college career at Jackson State University. Hunter played for Detroit from 1993-2000 before spending a year with the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers.



ing for the Lakers in 2001-02.

Hunter then played for the Toronto Raptors for a year before returning to the Pistons from 2003-08, winning his second NBA title in 2003-04. He concluded his playing career for the Chicago Bulls from 2008-10. He played in 937 games over his NBA career and 147 playoff games as he reached the postseason in 12 of his seasons. During his 17-year NBA career, Hunter recorded 7,956 points, 2,021 rebounds, and 2,506 assists.

In 2012, Hunter signed with the Phoenix Suns as an assistant coach for player development. After a coaching change during the 2012-13 season, Hunter was named interim head coach of the Suns for the remainder of the year, leading Phoenix for 41

games. He moved on to become an assistant for the Golden State Warriors during the 2013-14 season.

A native of Utica, MS., Hunter lettered three years at Jackson State University where he averaged 26.7 points per game as a senior and he was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference Player of the Year. He led Jackson State to an upset of UConn in the 1993 Postseason NIT. Hunter spent his freshman season at Alcorn State University where he was named the 1989 SWAC Freshman of the

Hunter will take over an MVSU men's basketball program with a rich history consisting of five NCAA Tournament appearances (1986, 1992,



JPS

Continued from page 1

improvements; and still, the district-wide transformation that we're driving towards will take time to become fully

We have worked aggressively to address citations from our partners at the Mississippi Department of Education, and those improvements serve as foundational supports to our broader innovations to accelerate student achievement. In other words, it is not enough to simply improve the district: we must make radical shifts in the ways that we serve our students and families. I am confident that these are the appropriate initial moves to create the sustainable change that the Jackson community deserves.

As we work to transform lives through excellent education, we know that we have to make difficult decisions. I humbly urge the entire Jackson community to support our strategic efforts. I assure you that we are prioritizing the needs of our children in each and every decision that we make. Amazing things are destined for Jackson Public Schools and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Meredith

Continued from page 1

King and the NAACP. These articles enlightened him as to what he would have to endure by being the first black to enter an all-white institution and according to Meredith, he was prepared. He said, "the worst they could do to him was kill him."

Meredith reminded his audience that individuals need to take advantage of the public libraries, especially students. He reminded them that it is FREE and that all libraries are available to everyone.

Meredith is embarking on a tour of the 14 libraries in JHLS to bring attention to the many advantages that public libraries can offer, especially to African-American families in Mississippi. "I believe that this is one of the most important things that I have ever done in my life" Meredith shares, "and I want everyone to hear my message."

Patti Furr, executive director of JHLS stated, "We are so pleased to be able to offer the public a chance to hear James Meredith speak in each of our libraries. This is also an opportunity for all Hinds County residents to join JHLS and get a free library card or to renew an expired card."

Meredith also talked about his book," Three Years in Mississippi" of which he had copies and other books available for sale.

For further information on the tour visit www.jhlibrary.rg.



Congratulations

to all of our graduates from kindergarten through the higher halls of learning. We are proud of your determination to succeed.



Please join Morgan Kinsley Jackson
as she graduates from
Tennessee State University
with a Bachelors degree in
Business Administration and a
concentration in Management.

Date: Saturday, May 4th, 2019
Time: 8am Place: Hale Stadium
3500 John A Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209

Morgan is the daughter of Delaine Jackson of Jackson, Miss. and Mr. and Mrs. John Jackson of Atlanta and granddaughter of Minnie Garrett.

Impeachment

Continued from page 1

sultant on economics, Broadband and related communications issues, said he's bemused by the whole affair.

"I'm enjoying people losing their minds," he chuckled. "I wasn't expecting much. I went through the first half the first part of the report and so far and there are no surprises. To me, the real takeaway is how easy it was to manipulate 130 million people. The Russians used the openness of the country and social media. In two years they did all this damage? I was like 'whoa!!' I should be taking notes."

From a legal standpoint, Drew said, Trump probably did nothing wrong and he also would have had to have made statements that were materially untrue to get into legal trouble.

"He wasn't put in a witness chair and the problem is that you can't charge a sitting president," he said, although some legal experts dispute that claim. "There is a lot of reasonable doubt, too much to charge this man. I need to see evidence of corruption. I don't think there will be an impeachment and Mueller and the Democrats didn't deliver what was promised."

Even though the rule is, 'if you can smell it, it probably happened,"
Drew cautioned that "It's gonna be tough to prove obstruction."

Yet the writer and blogger said there are troubling actions Trump took that leave him exposed and open to criticism and investigation.

"He should have put his businesses in a blind trust but he thinks he's above the law and optics. He's a businessman and this is an influence game," Drew said. "He's not politician and he's so arrogant that he felt that he didn't have to do this. He's an ignorant, arrogant blowhard. The

Russians were intent on making sure Hillary Clinton didn't win and just happened to find an inexperienced man who gave them a high-result return."

"The US spends \$80 billion a year on intelligence and spy agencies and we didn't do anything. No one brought up Russian interference in 2014, 2015 or 2016. What's amazing is that the Russians almost brought down the country on a shoestring budget."

Skipper Bailey said all he's seen, read and heard makes it clear that with Trump's lies, corruption, ethical misconduct and his embrace of Russian attempts to interfere in and influence the outcomes of America's 2016 election, there is grounds for impeachment.

Though Trump claims he could only be impeached for "high crimes and misdemeanors, a sitting president actually does not have to com-

mit a crime in order to be impeached. A president can be impreached for anything that the House and Senate deem worthy of impeachment – such as obstruction of justice. An impeachment must be established by simple majority of the U. S. House of Representatives and by two-thirds of the U. S. Senate.

Going into the 2020 presidential elections, Bailey, a business man

Going into the 2020 presidential elections, Bailey, a business man and DC resident, said his biggest concern is the vulnerability of America's electoral system. Just this week, Senate Republicans voted down almost \$400 million slated for election security, the latest of several such votes.

Bailey asked, "The question is, are you going to get an accurate count, will the results be free and fair?"

Time to wake America up from its student debt nightmare

By Charlene Crowell TriceEdneyWire.com

Higher education has always offered opportunities to learn and earn a better quality of life. But in the 21st Century, higher education has also become synonymous with ever deepening debt. More than 44 million consumers of varying ages and occupations struggle with \$1.5 trillion in student debt.

The nation's nagging racial wealth and income gaps translate into black families borrowing more than others to finance college costs. If a combination of scholarships, grants, student loans and work-study jobs cannot meet the costs of an academic term, the only option remaining is for parents and other relatives to take on debt too.

From 2006 to 2016, aggregate student loan balances nationwide rose 170 percent. This debt burden worsened the nearly \$1 trillion of lost wealth that black and Latino families also bore due to the foreclosure crisis.

"During the recession the public sector stepped back its appropriations in higher education and cut aid in several areas," noted Andrea Harris, a nationally-known policy expert, now serving as a Senior Fellow with Self-Help, one of the nation's largest and most successful community develop-

ment financial institutions in the nation.

Today the average student loan balance among baccalaureate graduates is \$34,000. For those who continue to graduate studies, their indebtedness often surpasses \$100,000.

As high as these debts in-

As high as these debts incurred by students are, additional loans taken out by parents and other relatives are often necessary. Some parents, grand-parents or other relatives have also taken on student loan debts, trying to close the gaps that remained after students borrowed the maximum amounts allowed.

It's a costly cycle that begins anew each academic year, often with higher interest rates that lead to higher and longer repayments. No parent should be forced to choose between their own financial stability and a college education for their children.

Yet the reality of the student loan crisis is that often multiple generations of the same family struggle with loan repayments. When these loans default, another dimension of financial stress begins.

Student loan defaults degrade credit scores, lowering them by as much as 50-90 points, according to the Urban Institute, a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan research group. As credit scores drop, the cost of any

future credit goes up, making it even harder for affected consumers to manage their personal finances.

With Congress and the Trump Administration both agreeing that the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act cannot be further delayed, multiple ideas have been offered on how to manage the deepening college debt crisis with no consensus yet to emerge.

Central to the public policy debate should be the future of the nation's economy. Students need to acquire skills and knowledge that lead to stable careers and incomes that enable graduates to earn their way into the middle class.

For many education advocates, the current college federal aid system is simply unsustainable, nor is it in the best interest of the nation. Hence, it seems sensible to directly increase federal college aid that does not come with repayment.

For example, the formulabased Pell Grant award currently averages \$4,251 per participating student. Next year as proposed by the Department of Education, the average award would shrink slightly to \$4,149. As college costs increase, more grants, not fewer are needed.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article delved into the particular

effects of student debt on black America. According to the article, "Tuitions have risen faster than a traditional funding source for low-income students – federal Pell grants. A weak postcrisis economic recovery meant lagging income for many lowincome families, federal data show, leaving proportionately less to pay for education."

Some might argue that incomes across the country are rising. Such beliefs are not completely true.

In 2017, the national median income stood at \$61,372, after three consecutive years of increases and a 1.8 percent increase over 2016's median of \$60,309. But much of black America was omitted from these financial gains with median incomes of \$40,258, more than \$2,100 less than levels earned

Other studies have found that over half of young black households – 54 percent – have student debt, compared to only 39 percent of similar white households

"A nation educating its citizens is simply in the common good," concludes Harris.

I would agree. When it comes to higher education, lawmakers must understand that black America never asked for a free ride – just a fair one.



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www.mississippilink.com

Severe weather assistance continues in Vicksburg and Warren County

Mississippi Link Newswire

Since the severe weather devastation April 13, 2019, the Mississippi Department of Human Services has provided over \$132,289 in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to over 586 families in Vicksburg and Warren County.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is expected to open a temporary housing assistance site at the Pemberton Square Mall beginning at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, for those who have been forced to find alternate housing due to tornado or flood damage.

"The City of Vicksburg and Warren County Emergency Management Agency will continue working together to secure the most possible state and federal assistance for all residents affected by the recent severe weather and flooding," said Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs, Jr.

Warren County Emergency Management Director and Floodplain Administrator John Elfer remains optimistic that federal assistance will be made available for Vicksburg and Warren County.

"The federal declaration that was released yesterday by President Trump did not include Vicksburg and Warren County," said Elfer. "That declaration was in response to the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that impacted Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Grenada, Lowndes, Pontotoc and Tishomingo counties from February 22 through February 24, 2019. We are still waiting on a federal declaration of the multiple EF2 tornados that devastated Vicksburg and Warren County April 13."

Specific questions on severe weather recovery and relief efforts should be directed to the Warren County Emergency Management Agency by calling 601 636-1544.

MVSU President recognized as Patriotic Employer by Department of Defense

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University President Jerryl Briggs was recognized recently as a Patriotic Employer by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Briggs received the distinction as part of the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force.

He was formally presented with a certificate, lapel pin and Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve by Veteran Service Officer Larry Harris.

"I am very appreciative for receiving this award," said Briggs. "As a former reservist, spending six years in the US Marine Corps Reserves, I truly understand the importance of supporting our troop's efforts"

According to Harris, Briggs was nominated for the award for his support and recog-



MVSU President Jerryl Briggs (left) was presented with a certificate recognizing him as a Patriotic Employer by Veteran Service Officer Larry Harris.

nition of MVSU staff, faculty and students who serve in all branches of the military through a wide-range of measures, including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.

The award is presented to one individual quarterly, Harris said.

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was estab-

Is currently identifying vendors for the following

lished in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

ESGR is supported by a network of more than 3,750 volunteers in 54 committees located across the United States.

To learn more about ESGR, visit www.esgr.mil.

Mr. Harvey Johnson, Jr., President 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc.

Dear President Johnson:

On the behalf of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and our Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to inform you that 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc. has been selected to receive the 2019 Medium Chapter of the Year Award by 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

It would be an honor to present this award to you in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Caesars Palace, for our 33rd Annual Conference. The theme for this year is, "Legendary Leadership: Past, Present, and Future." Living legends, current trend setters and disrupters. Those positioned to be future leaders will participate in workshops, panel discussions, plenary sessions and much more.

During the Annual Conference, internal and external stakeholders will conduct key trainings and information sessions. We will also have the opportunity to recognize community leaders, partners, 100 Black Men chapters, Collegiate 100 students and mentees for their leadership achievements.

As the 2019 Medium Chapter of the Year, 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc. will receive the following prizes and recognition:

- Trophy or Award
- Chapter name and/or photo in select conference collateral materials.

Upon receipt of your confirmation form, our headquarters staff will handle information regarding the award logistics. Please also submit four photos (high resolution jpegs only) depicting your chapter's activities. One of the photos should be a chapter group shot and another photo should be with your mentees. Your RSVP by Friday, April 26, 2019, is greatly appreciated.

For additional information, please contact Jessica Monde, receptionist/assistant to CEO, at receptionista,100bmoa.org, or by phone at 404 688-5100. Your value-added participation is anticipated, and we eagerly await your favorable reply.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. Chairman of the Board





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HCCSD's Critical Community Conversations direct strategic path to school success

Mississippi Link Newswire

Not even overcast skies and sporadic rain on a Sunday afternoon stopped scores of Holmes County parents, children, community members and community/school district volunteers from pouring into S.V. Marshall K-8 School, April 14, for the Holmes County Consolidated School District's (HCCSD) premiere Critical Community Conversations (CCC) and Carnival.

"Let's Talk – It's THAT Time!" was the theme for this first-of-a-kind event in the district.

The purpose was to discuss the district's educational roadmap for the district (officially known as the It's That Time! Strategic Plan), student discipline and the Summer Flight Program (summer school), as well as provide some good-old, community family fun.

Activities included general sessions packed with information, explanation and discussion around the district's strategic plan, food, fun and games for all ages.

During several consecutive general sessions, families packed the cafeteria as they received critical need-to-know information.

"Students, parents and community, this plan is the roadmap to the future success of our children and of our district," said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, Ed.D.

Henderson and his executive team stressed at length the importance of understanding, articulating and working together as a community toward the district's vision and mission of the plan. Through the superintendent and his team's presentation, the theme, "Let's Talk - It's THAT Time!" was uttered like a refrain in

Henderson pointed out that this plan is not only the responsibility of the district but also all stakeholders connecting for the success of children

The vision of the plan is to make HCCSD a model rural school district where all students graduate prepared to succeed in a global community. Its mission is to connect with all stakeholders for the success of every child, every classroom, every day.

The attendees also discovered that it literally pays to know the vision and mission of their school district's strategic roadmap. Knowing and understanding the direction in which the district plans to go is so important that the superintendent will be rewarding students and parents a \$20 prize if they are able to articulate the vision and mission on the spot if and when asked during any given moment. The crowd chuckled as if they thought he was joking. However, he assured them that he was serious.

That shared vision in the HCCSD It's That Time! Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is built on the following shared core principles:

- All decisions will be made in the best interest of our children
- All children deserve a high-quality education in environments that foster trust and respect
- All staff have the right to work in safe, respectful learning environments
- All families are important to the education process of all children.

As the superintendent delineated and explained each principle, he paused to place emphasis on such concerns as safety, respect, behavior and discipline. "Parents, we need you to work with these babies, and we want to help you raise our children," he said. "The school cannot do it all. We are going to need your help in ensuring that your children are on their best behavior at all times. It is extremely important to the instruc-

In regard to criminal behavior in the community that might endanger students or anyone, Henderson urged everyone: "If you see something; say something."

tional process."

Executive Team Member Sharon Williams, Ed.D., chief academic officer, asked the parents, by a show of hands, to indicate whether they were

concerned about student behavior in our schools. A sea of hands went up. "Keep that hand up, and now raise your other hand if you are willing to help do something about it," she continued. "Raise them high." The parents indicated that they shared the concern and would help alleviate it.

William explained how the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) practices in the district are working with a number of the students.

Another issue that arose during the Critical Community Conversations was the students' inappropriate behavior with cell phones which is interrupting instruction. Some of the students are being disrespectful and unkind to other students via social media. Henderson shared that the district is considering – with parental input – recommending that cell phones be left at home or out of the classroom. The crowd from two of the three general sessions burst into applause at the mention of such a possibility.

A survey is being conducted among the parents, and once the results are analyzed, policy recommendations will be adjusted or made to the Board of Education (BOE) regarding cell phones in the classroom. "This is a good and useful educational device if only our children would adhere to policy and use it properly," said Henderson as he raised his own cell phone. "Unfortunately, that is not the case; therefore, something has to be done."

Student Rikyia Lacey stated after the session that although she is not necessarily in favor of the district taking her phone, "We shouldn't use phones in the class because it disturbs the learning process."

Parents also learned during the CCC that the district is planning a great, 16-day summer adventure for their children, free of charge. It is called, Summer Flight. "It is not your traditional summer school," said Chief of School Leadership Joann Rucker, Ed.D., coordinator for the CCC event and activities.

Rucker pointed out that research shows that students tend to experience what is called "the Summer Slide" in what they have learned during the previous school year. The average third-grader experiences 20 percent reading loss and 27 percent math loss. The average 7th-grader experiences 36 percent reading loss and 50 percent math loss. Rucker indicated that is why it is important to keep students engaged during the summer - but through a manner not like regular school. "Summer Flight will expose our kids to the finer things; it will include field trips to places like Atlanta and fine art venues," Rucker explained.

HCCSD's Summer Flight is scheduled for June 3 through June 28, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. It is open to kindergarten through 11th-grade students. Transportation will be provided.

For more information about Summer Flight, contact Rucker at 662 834-2175.

The district's first CCC and carnival was a huge success according to organizers. "We know students perform better when home and school work in concert with educators. PTAs, community members, and students worked hard to make this event a success," said Rucker. "There is no doubt that everyone attending agrees It's That Time! for our students to excel and 'we are better together' when it comes to student achievement."

Henderson reminded students and parents that it literally pays to know, understand and articulate the district's vision and mission. "In order to go where we need to go, we all must be able to understand how to visualize the map," concluded Henderson.

For more information and/or media coverage, email Chief of Staff Deborah Antoine at dantoine@holmesccsd.org or call 662 633-



Board of Education President Anthony Anderson the Summer Flight Program



Dr. JoAnn Rucker giving information about the Summer Flight Program



Dr. Sharon Williams discusses PBIS



Superintendent Dr. Henderson pledges to give reward to students who memorize the Mission and Vision



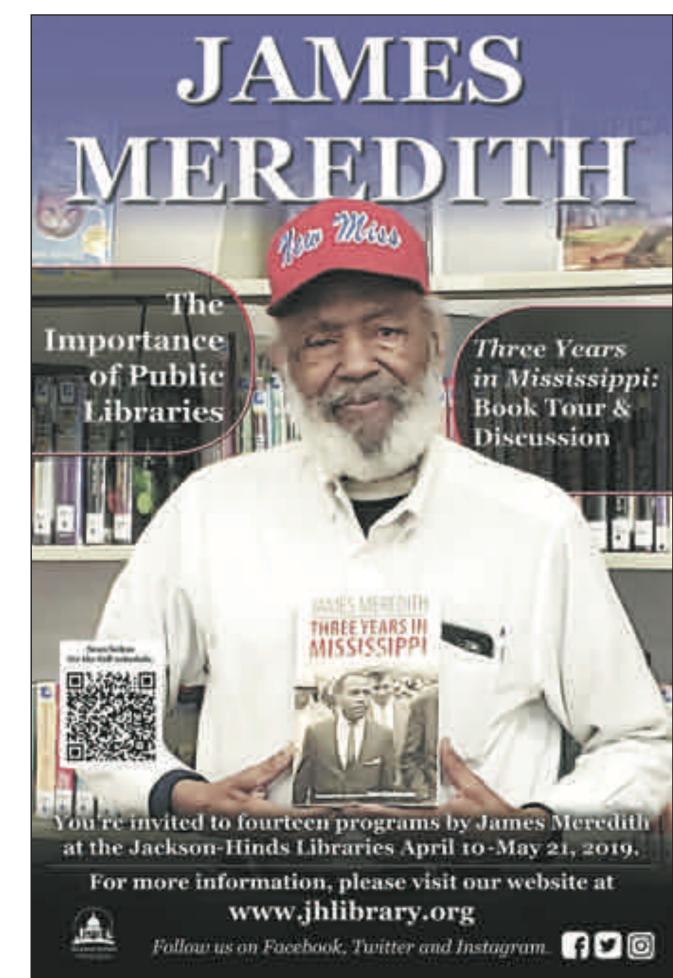
Students pledge to improve behavior.



Families with students for the Summer Flight Program



SVME student Zahara Ahmed (hoodie), her father Askar Ahmed and siblings during Session 3





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6 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

JPS transportation officials receive safety awards

Mississippi Link Newswire

On April 2, 2019, Brian Johnson with Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance presented Rising Star Safety Awards to Transportation Department administrators. The Rising Star Safety Award is given as an incentive to make safety a priority and to improve driver safety. The presentation was made during the regular meeting of the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees.

Derrick Williams, executive director of Transportation; Lacharles Brister, supervisor of Transportation North; and Janie Knott, supervisor of Transportation South; all received Rising Star Safety Awards for embracing and encouraging motor vehicle safety.

Last year, Bottrell and the Office of Risk Management partnered to implement a three-year strategic plan to recognize transportation leaders for their involvement in ensuring the depart-



Participating in the presentation of the Rising Star Awards are (from left) Matt Thomas of State-Wide General Insurance Agency, Brian Johnson of Bottrell Insurance and JPS Transportation Department heads Derrick Williams, Janie Knott and Lacharles Brister

safe driver trainings. This was done to reduce auto-related accidents.

ment's drivers participate in various improve safe driving practices and to

Spring Parent and Family Engagement Conference



Thursday, April 25, 2019

Callaway High School Jackson, MS 39206

Childcare and transportation will be provided

Conference Highlights:

Parent Sessions

Summer Programs and Services (Vendors) Early Registration 2019-2020 School Year (See JPS website for required documents) Teacher Recruitment

Exhibitors

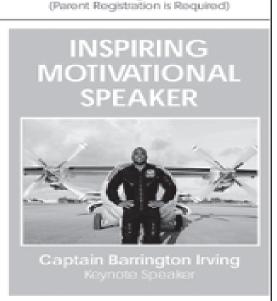
Door Prizes

Free Summer Reading Books for Attendees

The Conference is FREE for JPS Parents.

Make your reservation TODAY! Deadline is friday, April 12, 2019 You may pre-register by visiting the JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us. Pre-registration forms are also available at schools and the JPS Enochs Family Resource Center For more information, please call (601) 960-8945.





JPS unveils organizational chart for the 2019-2020 school year

Mississippi Link Newswire

At the April 2, 2019, meeting of the JPS School Board, JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene proposed and the board unanimously approved a plan to restructure the school district. The goal of this work is to ensure that every JPS student has the best opportunity to receive an excellent education. Greene presented six leadership positions to the board that will be significantly revised or newly created effective July 1.

"These positions are largely focused on our efforts to transform teaching and learning in Jackson Public Schools and begin to provide the structures necessary for greater effectiveness and alignment to the needs of the district."

A summary of these changes are as follows:

- The Deputy Superintendent of Academics will become the Chief Academic Officer. He will oversee each of the assistant superintendents and other school support areas.
- Research and Accountability will become Data and Accountability. The office will be moved from Deputy Superintendent of Academics to the Chief of Staff which is responsible for keeping the district on course in progressing through its strategic
- Public and Media Relations will become Public Engagement and the responsibilities of the office will be
- Student Support Services will become the Office of Climate and Well-
- The Curriculum and Professional Development offices will be merged into the Office of Teaching and Learning in an effort to bring together teacher development and curriculum in a way that leads to effective implementation of curricular content in classrooms.
- An assistant superintendent role was added, increasing the number from four to five. Assistant superintendents will be assigned a group of schools based on grade level instead of feeder pattern. This move will reduce the number of schools under each administrator's supervision. There will be three assistant superintendents for elementary schools, one for middle schools and one for high



schools.

· A chief talent officer position will be added, although the role will not be funded or filled until after the 2019-2020 school year. In the meantime, the district will focus on enhancing teaching and learning effectiveness as it studies staffing needs and the best approaches for meeting

"We believe there is a great need for a chief talent officer in JPS," said Greene. "But we want to focus on fortifying our teaching and learning efforts first and building towards a stronger talent strategy to transform the district over time."

In the upcoming school year, five division chiefs will report directly to the superintendent - the chief of staff, chief operating officer, chief academic officer, general counsel and chief financial officer. The chief talent officer will ultimately report to the superintendent when the position is filled sometime after the 2019-2020 school year.

District administrators believe this will result in a cost savings of nearly \$1 million in addition to creating the framework for delivering on the promise of transforming lives through excellent education.

"I'm glad to see this moving forward," said Robert Luckett. "It's an exciting time for Jackson Public Schools. I appreciate the work and thought and effort that you and your team have put into helping us begin the process of transforming this dis-

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The Mississippi Link TM

Volume 25 • Number 27

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Hinds CC places 15 students on All-Mississippi **Community College Academic Team**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Fifteen Hinds Community College students were named to the 2019 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team, tops among the state's 15 two-year colleges.

Honored among 15 students overall and named Academic First Team at a ceremony April 10 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus were Emily Hudgens, of Madison, a student at the Raymond Campus, and Christopher Golden, of Jackson, a student at the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical

Hudgens is studying secondary biology education and president of the Gamma Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She is an officer in the Mississippi/Louisiana regional PTK organization and is also a 3E Outstanding Student.

Golden is studying culinary arts and works in information technology. In 2017, he was a Dean's Scholar and President's Scholar.

Each first-teamer was nominated for scholarships under their respective career pathways, Hudgens as a transfer student and Golden as a workforce student.

Each of the college's six locations are represented in the allacademic awards. One student from each of the state's 15 community colleges is recognized first-team.

Named to the Academic Second Team were:

• Jeffrey Cooper, of Brandon,



Front row, from left, Christopher Golden, of Jackson; Lashonda Harvey, of Canton; Autumn Simmons, of Hermanville; Hezekiah Williams, of Edwards; Emily Hudgens, of Madison; Jeffrey Rodriguez-Cano, of Crystal Springs; Garrett Hutchins, of Utica; Everett Craft, of Jackson; back row, from left, Kendreauna Thompson, of Richland; Bobby Davis, of Vicksburg; Jeffrey Cooper, of Brandon; Jake Watts, of Brandon; Anna Pate, of Brandon. Not pictured are Xavier Heard, of Jackson and Devon Harris, of Madison HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

a student at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center, respiratory care technology

- Everett Craft, of Jackson, a student at the Raymond Campus, electrical and mechanical technology
- Bobby Davis, of Vicksburg, a student at the Vicksburg-Warren Campus, mechanical engi-
- · Lashonda Harvey, of Canton, a student at the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, accounting
- Devon Harris, of Madison, a student at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center, respiratory care technology
- Xavier Heard, of Jackson, a student at the Jackson Campus-

Nursing/Allied Health Center, practical nursing

- Garrett Hutchins, of Utica, a student at the Raymond Campus, HVAC
- Anna Pate, of Brandon, a student at the Rankin Campus, nursing
- Jeffrey Rodriguez-Cano, of Crystal Springs, a student at the Raymond Campus, journalism
- Autumn Simmons, of Hermanville, a student at the Utica Campus, biology education
- Kendreauna Thompson, of Richland, a student at the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, business administra-
- · Jake Watts, of Brandon, a student at the Rankin Campus,

physical therapist assistant

· Hezekiah Williams, of Edwards, a student at the Utica Campus, chemical engineering.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team, begun in 1994 as the first state-level academic recognition program for community and junior college students, recognizes the scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in community and junior colleges across the state.

Team members were selected following several rounds of judging from education officials, business leaders from across the United States and a distinguished panel of representatives from federal agencies

and national education associations based in Washington D.C.

Students named to the First Team received \$1,000 scholarships. First and Second Team members receive special medallions, certificates and printed resolutions from each chamber of the Mississippi Legislature. They are also eligible for scholarships at many four-year universities designed exclusively for All-Mississippi Academic Team members.

The All-State team is coordinated by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College, the Mississippi Community College Board and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The All-State Academic-

Team recognition program is an outgrowth of the All-USA Community College Academic Team, administered by Phi Theta Kappa.

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester.

To learn more, visit www. hindscc.edu or call 1.800.Hind-

Hinds CC presents 38 departmental student awards



Robinson (center)

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Departmental awards at Hinds Community College were given to 38 students and others in academic, technical and career programs present for a ceremony April 12 at Cain-Cochran Hall on the Raymond Cam-

Recipients present at the event were photographed with Hinds President Clyde Muse and department heads and others who presented plaques.

Among those awarded included Sandra Robinson, of Roxie.

Civil rights attorney Victor McTeer named **MVSU's 67th commencement speaker**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University is pleased to announce Civil Rights Attorney and Activist Victor McTeer as the speaker for its 67th Commencement Ex-

McTeer will address the MVSU's graduating Class of 2019 at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, in the R.W. Harrison Sports Complex.

The 8 a.m. ceremony will feature those receiving a master's degree in all majors and those receiving a bachelor's degree from the Departments of English and foreign languages, fine arts, general studies, mathematics, computer and information sciences, natural sciences and environmental health and social aciences.

Golden graduates of the Class of 1969 will also be recognized during the 8 a.m. ceremony.

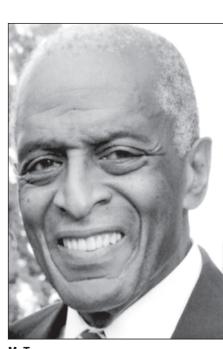
The 11 a.m. ceremony will include those receiving bachelor's degrees in business administration, criminal justice, engineering technology, mass communications, social work and health, physical education and recreation.

In September 1965, McTeer was a 16-year-old freshman when he became one of the first African Americans to attend Western Maryland College in segregated Carroll County, Maryland.

As the youngest member of a minority population of two African-Americans students living on campus with eight hundred white students, faculty and administrators, McTeer was unprepared for the daily pressures he faced every day at the overwhelmingly white college. However, the four-year-long experience instilled in McTeer an unbridled devotion to fundamental fairness and social justice.

Within a week after his college graduation in June 1969, he headed South with other students on a Greyhound Bus to learn how to fight racial discrimination by joining the struggle of some of the most famous freedom fighters of his generation in the Mississippi Delta.

McTeer found his life's work living alongside experienced civil rights workers in the cotton fields of Washington County, Mississippi. At "Freedom City" near Greenville, Mississippi, he met black



farm workers evicted by white landowners from their plantation shacks for daring to register to vote. After four hard years in the harsh, often unfriendly confines of the white college, McTeer was eager to join the Civil Rights Movement. He found a home in the Delta and a cause worth fighting for as an advocate. In Mississippi, he began to plan to become a civil rights

In June 1972, McTeer graduated from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey, and returned to Baltimore to marry Mercidees "Dee Dee" Jones and head back to Mississippi. In August 1972, the couple drove to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a municipality founded by former slaves in 1887, where the couple planned to spend two years working for poor black people in the Mississippi Delta before returning to Baltimore for good. It was the beginning of an adventure that would span the rest of their lives.

In January 1973, McTeer filed his first case on behalf of a recent graduate of the then Mississippi Valley State College who was fired from her first ever teaching job by a public school superintendent who declared her morally unfit to teach because she chose to bear a child out of wedlock as a teenager. Three years later, at just 25 years of age, McTeer argued this precedent setting, first-of-a-kind case before the United States Supreme Court and won.

Over the next thirty-eight years, McTeer gained acclaim, notoriety - and sometimes disdain - winning unpopular civil rights claims involving employment, public accommodations, racial discrimination in education and police brutality.

McTeer & Associates quickly became one of the largest African-American owned law firms in the State of Mississippi, representing courageous blacks and whites across the state and nation.

For more than 30 years, the McTeers have provided scholarships for college students from the Mississippi Delta, based upon academic excellence or need. They have also established endowments to benefit students with financial need without regard to race, color, religion, sexual preference or immigrant status at Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University and at his alma mater, McDaniel College (formerly known as Western Maryland College).

The McTeers have received numerous national and local awards for their professional work and philanthropy. In 1995, he became the second person to win the "Mississippi Chief Justice Award," given to a Mississippi lawyer by the nine Justices of the Mississippi Supreme Court for a lifetime of public service to the Bar and the people of Mississippi. In 2015, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from McDaniel College (formerly known as Western Maryland College). He has won other awards and honors, including the Mississippi State Chapter of the NAACP Community Service Award in 1984; the Operation PUSH Service Award in Chicago, Illinois in 1984 and "The Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2008 from the Mississippi Trial Lawyers' Association (now called the Mississippi Justice Asso-

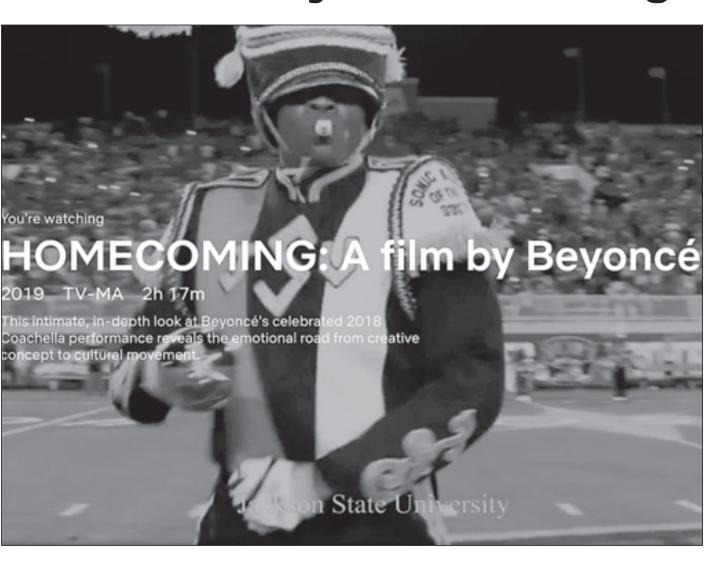
Longtime residents of Greenville, the McTeers are the parents of two adult children: Marcus McTeer, a hotel manager and Heather McTeer-Toney, currently a consultant and lawyer living in Oxford. McTeer-Tony served as the first African-American and first female mayor of the City of Greenville for two terms.

NYTIM



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JSU featured in new Beyonce documentary 'Homecoming'



Jackson State University

Jackson State University has just received the ultimate bragging rights – a feature in Homecoming: A Film by Beyonce. Albeit only for a couple of seconds, the Sonic Boom of the South's appearance on the screen is still a moment of great magnitude because it's Beyonce, y'all.

The Netflix documentary gives a play-by-play of her first-and-second weekend performances at Coachella last year, which has been playfully renamed Beychella by the Beyhive. Seamless editing merges the two shows into one and added behind the scenes' footage, intimate family moments and shifting camera angles make her 2018 performance feel fresh and new.

What makes this documentary unique is Beyonce's undeniable homage to black culture, but more significantly her tribute to HBCUs and HBCU band culture. She previously shared that some of her dance moves are inspired by Jackson State University's Prancing J-Settes.

In the doc, she further reveals a long-standing wish to attend an HBCU, and she seems to visually showcase this desire to viewers by placing noted historic black colleges and universities, like JSU, in her documentary. It is a gesture that displays the singer's love and respect for all things black.

APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2019

And during a voiceover in her familiar raspy tone, Beyonce shares some of what she loves about her people.

"The amount of swag is just limitless, the things that these young people can do with their bodies and the music they can play, the drum rolls ...," she says. "It's just not right. It's just so much damn swag..."

Sounds like "Thee I

Two Jackson State students awarded Annie Willie Scholarship through Dr. **Maya Angelou Foundation**



DR. MAYA ANGELOU **FOUNDATION**

By LaToya Hentz-Moore jsumsnews.com

JSU students Mason Bracely and Andrew Thomas were recently selected by the Jackson State University Development Foundation (JSUDF) to receive the Annie Willie Scholarship. The Dr. Maya Angelou Foundation awarded \$12,000 to the JSUDF to distribute evenly among both students for two years. The Annie Willie Scholarship is only awarded to students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"We are honored and privileged to receive the Annie Willie Scholarship from the Dr. Maya Angelou Foundation," says Monica Lewis, director of Annual Giving. "Many of our students here at JSU are first-generation students with minimal family support and a significant financial need. With the support of foundations like the Dr. Maya Angelou Foundation, we are able to provide financial assistance to deserving students."

Bracely is a sophomore majoring in chemistry in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. The Arkansas native says, "It's a

blessing to receive assistance that financially helps with the cost of my education. It's also really cool that Dr. Maya Angelou and I are from the same hometown."

Thomas is a transfer student majoring in Mass Communication. He says, "I am thankful to Jackson State and the Dr. Maya Angelou Foundation for this scholarship hard work pays off. My personal motto that helps me stay diligent and consistent is 'when you fall down nine times, always get up ten'."

The Foundation criteria for students receiving the scholarship is as follows:

One general scholarship

One scholarship to a physicallychallenged/mobility-impaired or re-entry student

Student must have a financial need for this scholarship

Student must also maintain a passing grade average at JSU

A progress report is also due at the end of the first and second semesters to ensure that each student is qualified to continue receiving funds from the scholarship.

Finance student receives \$1,000 scholarship at Ally, **Thurgood Marshall competition**

Jackson State University

Finance major Damian Murray now has a \$1,000 scholarship and a pair of Beats by Dre headphones after being named "Most Outstanding Student" at the "Moguls in the Making" competition hosted by Ally Financial, Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Big Sean, Grammy Award-nominated rap artist, in Detroit last month. The scholarship prize is the same amount awarded to the first place winners.

"I was shocked. I didn't expect it, and to be honest, I don't like to be the center of attention, so I didn't know what to think. But overall, it was really a blessing," said Murray, who is spending the summer working at Google.

Murray and four other JSU students - Lasonya "LaLa" Walton, marketing major; Jasmine B. King, political science major; Shanice Hopson, computer science major; and Zacchaeus Simmons, industrial technology major – were among 50 students from 10 HBCUs pitching business plans that proposed solutions to economic issues impacting a variety of industries in the Motor City.

The group spent the weekend at Microsoft Corp. attending various workshops, panels and, of course, working on their idea. Each team could not select a topic until the first day of the competition where they then chose a subject pre-



JSU students — (left to right) Damian Murray, finance major; Lasonya "LaLa" Walton, marketing major; Jasmine B. King, political science major; Shanice Hopson, computer science major; and Zacchaeus Simmons, industrial technology major, recently competed in a pitch competition in Detroit. They all agreed that they learned valuable lessons and would do it all over again in a heartbeat. PHOTO SPECIAL TO JSU

determined by event sponsors. However, each group also had one opportunity to steal another team's theme if desired. When the smoke cleared, the JSU students created "313GO," an automotive, logistics and transportation app.

"It showed all the different transportation systems in Detroit and the quickest and cheapest method for people to arrive at their destination," explains Walton.

Upon completion, Murray and Walton pitched their team's idea to the judges, who included Big Sean. Simmons and King agreed that Murray and Walton were dynamic in their presentation and praised

their teammates in a show of

pride and camaraderie.

"Every question the judges asked, Damian had an answer for it just like that," said Simmons. "I felt like they needed to give him something. If we couldn't win as a team, at least he deserved something."

Despite not claiming the No. 1 spot, King said the trip allowed her to enhance her coding abilities, which she and Hopson used in the creation of "313GO," entrepreneurship and team-building skills.

Simmons acknowledged that the competition pushed his brainstorming capabilities to another level. "One of our mentors had us sitting in a room all day pressing us for

ideas. We were writing the

same stuff over and over and over again until we thought of something new," he said. "That helped me sort out my thoughts and ideas. It forced me to think."

Hopson shared that she learned how to expand and improve her entrepreneurial mindset and the do's and don't's of pitching a business model. "The competition was a brilliant experience, and we represented JSU well," she expressed.

Overall, Murray said, when people can come together as a team "awesome" ideas are generated. "I also learned what I could bring to the table. I am grateful for the entire experi-

Crudup, Crear will be featured speakers for JSU's graduate, undergraduate commencements



Crudup

Jackson State University

Jackson State University's 2019 spring commencement speakers will be Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup Sr., senior pastor of New Horizon Church International, and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Robert Crear, president

and CEO of the Crear Group LLC. Crudup will be the featured speaker at the graduate ceremony, which will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, May 3, in the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center. Crear will headline the undergraduate observance, which will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 4, in the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Crudup, also the administrative bishop for the Fellowship of International Churches, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from JSU and a Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. He is the founder and president of New Horizon Ministries Inc., a nonprofit organization that operates five community-based programs in Jackson.

Under his leadership, New Horizon Church/Ministries purchased more than 200 acres of land in South Jackson, a school and childcare complex center and many houses. He leads I-58 (Isaiah 58:12), which spearheads neighborhood investment and revitalization in South Jackson.

Crudup is also involved in international missions and business



Crear

development in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Liberia and Haiti.

Meanwhile, Crear is president and CEO of The Crear Group LLC, a business development and governmental relations consulting firm in Vicksburg. As well, he is chairman of Rye Development, a leading developer of new hydroelectric power on existing dams in

Boston, Massachusetts. A native of Vicksburg, he earned a bachelor's degree from JSU in mathematics and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Crear served almost 33 years of active duty and led soldiers worldwide and commanded civilians at every level of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At the Pentagon, he was the assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works. He also once led the Mississippi River Commission, commanded Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil and directed Task Force Hope during hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He's earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and many others. Crear is involved in community service, having served as past chairman of the executive board of United Way of West Central Mis-

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Newly released book shows Senator's Christian values don't stop with lawmaking

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For over a decade South Mississippi Senator Joey Fillingane has leaned heavily on his Christian values when drafting laws for Mississippians. Now, Fillingane is applying those same core beliefs to his latest project. His new book titled, 'The Kingdom,' is a fictional story targeted towards young adults.

The book is the first of a series which tracks four unlikely heroes forced to face darkness. hatred and evil.

"During my time as a legislator, I'm often crafting laws to try and address the moral challenges we face as a society. I decided to write 'The Kingdom' because I wanted an outlet to share spiritual lessons," says Fillingane.

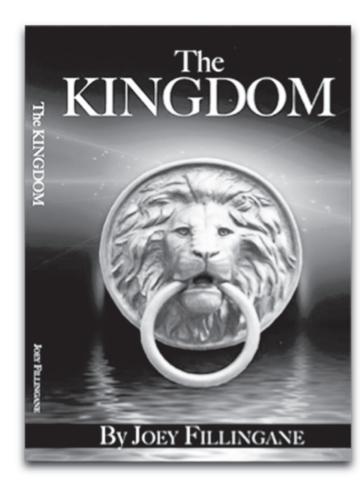
In February, Fillingane made national headlines when he presented the pro-life 'Heartbeat Bill' to the Mississippi Senate. The bill, which ultimately passed both chambers, makes Mississippi the safest state in the US for the unborn.

"The common thread in 'The Kingdom' and in the 'Heartbeat Bill' is that every life has value and purpose," says Fillingane.

The characters in 'The Kingdom' find themselves on a dangerous journey and have their faith tested by dark forces. However, the journey also reveals the special gifts each person has to contribute.

Fillingane hopes 'The Kingdom' will inspire young adults to make the right choices when faced with life's challenges.

Fillingane is also an attorney



in South Mississippi who specializes in real estate and domestic relations law.

He has over 20 years experience as a state legislator and enjoys spending time with his extended family and teaching Sunday School at his small country church in Sumrall, Mississippi.

Fillingane attained his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and his law degree from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi.



Fillingane

JSU Student Armon Clark named MCM March Volunteer of the Month

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University (JSU) senior Armon Clark was named the Mississippi Children's Museum's (MCM) Volunteer of the Month for March. Clark is just weeks away from graduating and has completed the number of volunteer hours JSU requires prior to graduating, but he continues to be a steadfast volunteer at MCM.

Sharon Griffin, MCM's volunteer coordinator and adjunct professor at JSU, recruits student volunteers on campus. An important step in her process is educating students on the role they can play in a children's museum, even if they are not pursuing a degree related to early childhood education.

"Everyone can benefit from being a mentor, and seeing the joy on a child's face as they try something new," explained Griffin. "Some of our best volunteers are students studying fields where they won't necessarily be working one on one with children. Armon is a great example. His degree will be in computer science. He was not sure what to expect, but found that he had so much to share with the children including his great personality."

"I fell in love with the many areas of MCM," said Clark upon hearing of his award. "I'll say that being a volunteer here [at MCM], with the great coworkers and the great families that attend the museum, makes



Clark

this location a one of a kind experience for visitors and for volunteers. Volunteering with MCM is indescribable, as all the people I get to assist. They are the kindest, most hardworking people. They wished me the best in my education and career journey, and it meant so much to me. Also, I feel like I improved the experiences of families that visited the museum, from regulars to people visiting for the first time."

MCM wishes Clark much success as he moves into his new career with Lockheed Martin in Texas.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at MCM, go to www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

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

Congressman Bennie G. **Thompson D-MS 2nd District**

Thompson announces \$2,700,200 to Mississippi Second Congressional District from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas

Recently, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas has awarded \$2.7 million in Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grants, in conjunction with their member financial institutions, to assist community-based organizations with the purchase, construction or rehabilitation of very low-to moderate-income affordable housing projects.

· Yazoo City Housing Authority received \$750,000 from Bank of Yazoo City and FHLB Dallas to help fund the rehabilitation of five low-income apartment communities in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

- The Town of Bolton Development Corporation received \$390,000 from BancorpSouth Bank and FHLB Dallas to rehabilitate the Walter Vinson Memorial Apartments in Bolton, Mississippi.
- The City of Vicksburg received \$230,000 from BancorpSouth Bank and FHLB Dallas to rehabilitate and repair homes in the Marcus Bottom neighborhood in Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Mound Bayou Housing Authority received \$375,000



Bayou, Mississippi. · Corporation for Global Community Development received \$210,000 from BancorpSouth Bank and FHLB Dallas to rehabilitate 14 af-

- fordable housing units for the disabled, elderly and veterans in Jackson, Mississippi. · Community Students
- Learning Center received \$745,200 from BankPlus and FHLB Dallas to rehabilitate 75 homes in rural Holmes and Carroll Counties, Mississippi.

Thompson announces \$1,249,996 awarded to Tougaloo College

Recently, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced The National Science Foundation has awarded \$1,249,996 to Tougaloo College.

Tougaloo College will engage students from the precollege level, during the first year, and up until graduation by using holistic strategies to identify, inform, motivate and support students for success.

These intervention strategies are anticipated to lead to increased enrollment in STEM disciplines, higher success rates in gatekeeper courses, increased retention of freshmen, and an increase in the number of students entering into the graduate school and STEM workforce.

The project has the objectives to: increase recruitment and retention of STEM majors by revamping the summer bridge program and developing an interdisciplinary freshman curriculum; provide students with the opportunity to see the value of STEM in addressing real life problems through research; and revitalize faculty

by creating a learning community with comprehensive training in a student-centered learning pedagogy.

This approach, building a bound STEM learning community prior to entry into college, then providing a holistic academic and research environment, will demonstrate a reliable performance model for small colleges and universities that are concerned about first year STEM student attrition.

For more information call Claudia Rankins at 601 977-7700.

Environmental racism grows as environmental groups turn increasingly white

By Hazel Trice Edney TriceEdneyWire.com

Clean drinking water. Lead paint abatement programs. Affordable energy bills. These are the day-to-day environmental justice issues that are vital to the health and financial well-being of communities – especially lowincome families.

But as environmental battles rage across the country, thousands of African-American children and adults are paying a heavy price with their health as elite environmental organizations are overwhelmingly managed by white leaders who appear to ignore key issues that disproportionately impact low-income communities, where African Americans and other people of color reside.

As the diminishing African-American voices for environmental justice become more prevalent, attention appears to be turning away from environmental hazards disparately plaguing urban areas dominated by black people across the country such as the following:

- Cockroach allergens are detected in 85 percent of inner-city homes across the U. S. and 60 to 80 percent "of inner-city children with asthma are sensitized to the cockroach based on the skin prick testing," according to the U.S. Institute of Health.
- Approximately 11.2 percent of African-American children who live in urban areas are at risk for lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

•A Center for American Prog-

ress report found that water contamination disparately plagues low-income areas and communities of color across the nation and that studies have documented limited access to clean water in lowincome communities of color.

These atrocities are being shoved aside by misaligned priorities. Instead of making a meaningful impact to health and pocketbooks, some environmental organizations focus on apparent vanity projects that garner media attention and money from wellheeled donors.

Among the best examples is an issue playing out in Minnesota, where national environmental groups - including Greenpeace, 350.org and the Natural Resources Defense Council – are waging a major battle described as "resistance against the oil pipelines." They also are running major fundraising campaigns off pipeline protests - even though the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration notes that pipelines are "one of the safest and least costly ways to transport energy products."

Meanwhile, these organizations are all but ignoring the real issues facing Minnesotans. A report indicated that the state's urban areas have unsuitable and outdated infrastructure, allowing storm water drainage to become a crisis. Yet another report found that Twin Cities air pollution kills nearly 2,000 people a year taking its greatest toll on those in poverty, who also disproportionately shoulder the burdens of asthma, unclean drinking water and lead



This February 2016 cover of Time magazine features a rash-covered child during the height of the Flint, Mich. water crisis. The picture, taken by award-winning photographer Regina H. Boone, revealed the human impact of the lead-contaminated water. More than three years later, environmental hazards continue in Michigan and in states around the country - some unchecked - largely due to misplaced priorities that some view as environmental racism.

poisoning.

While the environmental groups are shoving environmental health issues aside, they also are promoting an agenda that will drive energy bills even higher for Minnesotans who are already spending far too much of their hard-earned money on

energy costs. Families in Clearwater County spend 45.9 percent of their income on energy bills, while Roseau County families spend 44.5 percent – and virtually every county across the state sees energy bills eating away at more than 30 percent of income.

The story is the same across

the country, as Alabama families spend nearly 50 percent of their income on energy and Michigan families spend 30 percent and

Some believe that these skewed priorities may be happening, in part, because of the lack of diversity in the environmental movement. A study by Green 2.0 recently found that the movement is only "getting more white," as it continues to leave out people of

The report indicated that nearly 70 percent of the Environmental Defense Fund's (EDF) staff was white. It also concluded that "the top 40 environmental foundations have gotten more white across full time staff, senior staff and board members."

Green 2.0 is pressing to deal with the racial inclusion issue in order to infuse greater sensitivity into the environmental justice movement.

Whitney Tome, executive director of Green 2.0, said in a statement, "Communities of color bring to bear experience and perspective on both problems and pathways to power building. As an organization, we plan to take a more aggressive approach to calling out the environmental movement for their lack of diversity."

She continued, "For the past five years, we've been working to ensure that the environmental movement and its leaders reflect the current U.S. workforce demographics."

These racial and economic disparities are happening around the country. For example, Louisiana ranks second-worst among U.S.

states when examining a wide range of environmental indicators, including water and air quality, energy use and recycling, according to a recent analysis.

While some environmental groups in the area have used their presence to fight issues that impact everyone, such as air quality or safe drinking water, other organizations, with the backing of Greenpeace, are instead focusing on anti-pipeline and anti-energy activism in the state.

The singular focus on one environmental issue while appearing to ignore others implies the presence of environmental racism, a long-used description of the practice of allowing toxics to exist in communities of color.

Meanwhile African-American led organizations are pushing environmental justice agendas, underscoring the importance of such issues in communities of color.

"Clean water is a basic human right," National Medical Association President Niva Lubin-Johnson wrote in a commentary posted on Seattlemedium.com last fall. "At the National Medical Association (NMA), we see firsthand how this crisis in clean water creates a variety of healthcare problems for black patients and their families."

Instead of seeking ways to make energy more elusive and expensive for communities of color, activist groups could use their initiative to aid in the abating of these most fundamental challenges that continue to push headwinds against many black families and other families of color.

PRESS ROOM: Professor Michael Eric Dyson launches "Conversation Peace," his first-ever tour of HBCUs

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson discusses the legacy of Black-Jewish relations

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson this week kicked-off "Conversation Peace," his first-ever tour of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the United

Dyson, the noted academic,

author, lecturer, minister and radio host, recently spoke at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, followed by Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach and Wayne County Community College District-Northwest Campus in Detroit as the third stop of the tour. Morehouse College is the next appearance, April 26. "Conversation Peace" is de-

signed to illuminate the historical and current relationship between African Americans and Jews, and spur spirited discussion and dialogue among student guests. The "Conversation Peace" HBCU tour is a presentation of the Philos Project, a national organization part of whose vision and objective is to reach young people – notably future black thought-leaders - to build stronger alliances and foster a better understanding of Israel and geo-political issues.

Dyson's appearance is supported by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the Coalition for Black & Jewish Unity, the NAACP, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., the American Jewish Committee and other partners. Each oration will be hosted over two engaging hours.

Dyson is professor of sociology at Georgetown University, and has authored and/or edited more than 20 bestselling books on subjects ranging from the late



Malcolm X, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Marvin Gaye, Bill Cosby, the music, meaning and legacies of Tupac Shakur and Nas, and even the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. Part of his philosophy is that people of African descent in America are still afflicted, and negatively impacted by generations-old, ongoing oppression.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dyson became an ordained Baptist minister at 19 years of age, and earned his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Carson-Newman College in 1985. He went on to earn both his master's and Ph.D. degrees in religion from Princeton University. Dyson has taught at the Chicago Theo-

logical Seminary, Brown Uni-

versity, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Columbia University, DePaul University-Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as professor of sociology at Georgetown University since 2007.

His 1994 book, Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X, was named a New York Times notable book of the year, and his last three books have appeared on The New York Times Bestseller's List.

Dyson formerly hosted a radio show on the Radio One national network and he is in frequent demand as a guest commentator and political analyst on National Public Radio, MSNBC and CNN, and he is a regular guest on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher."

Selfish versus Selfless. know the difference

Spiritually Speaking...

By James Washington NNPA Newswire Contributor

There a lot of things in our Christian belief system that require a leap of faith, including faith itself. The whole notion of blessings is like that. I think I'm beginning to understand blessings a little more clearly from a spiritual perspective.

Haven't we all been taught at one time or another to give rather than receive?

Christian or not, kindness and goodwill are thought to be wonderful attributes of all people. Forgiveness and mercy are considered staples of the Christian diet. The result, we believe, in life now and in the next is God gives rewards for a life spent giving with no hidden expectation of receiving in return.

Now all that sounds good until, somewhere in your world, life happens.

Unfortunately, at a very early age we learn that life is cruel, unpredictable and the only religious factoid we experience is that our kindness is generally taken as weakness and our generosity viewed as foolish. Life and the people in it will use you if you allow it.

Pain often comes from an attempt to help somebody who doesn't give a damn about you. It is the reason

many a good person goes bad. People will protect themselves against this kind of personal anguish. We learn how to survive in spite of disappoint-

We all eventually learn how to navigate a world in which we've come to believe nice guys do finish last, takers succeed and cheaters, well, they

Now, here comes scripture with the edict that giving is always better than receiving. As a matter of fact, it is a Christian prerequisite. I thought about this and came to the following conclusions: You don't know what kind of mother you'll be until you have children. You don't know what kind of friend you'll be until you become one. You cannot know the depth of your ability to love someone until you are head over heels caught up

The point is you can't really know yourself as a human being until you share your life with others, without fear, without restrictions, without conditions. It's that being a blessing thing.

For many, including me, this is tough duty because life is so cruel. However, only by being a friend can you know true friendship. Only by giving love unconditionally can you understand unconditional love. Only by being a blessing can you know being blessed. It doesn't appear to work any other wav.

If you go through life just existing with a self-imposed set of criteria, then guess what? That's what you'll get in return; love and friendship

with strings attached. You can't expect your prayers to be answered if your prayer life starts and stops with "I." I believe you block countless blessings if your prayers include no one but you and they echo the trials and tribulations of your life only.

This is evident by knowing the difference between praying in faith or praying out of fear. God really shouldn't have to ask what you have done for Him lately; when He asks so little of you.

Just act like you know who He is and who you are in relation to Him. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." John 12:13.

Like I said, being a blessing is the only road to being blessed. Now take a look at the nonsense of this world. It should give you clarity.

May you be a blessing to someone, and may God bless and keep you always.

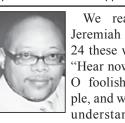
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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11

A day of retribution is coming

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



We read in Jeremiah 5:21-24 these words, "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not;

which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.'

In our Scripture text, God was speaking to a generation of people who had lost their spiritual eyesight and their love for the Lord, much like our generation today.

Dear one, what will be your end? The end is coming. To me that is a very sobering thought. There is coming a time when the harvest will end. We read in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." If you have a need in your heart, do not delay in asking God to forgive your sins and in letting Him save your precious soul. Now is the best time to get saved.

God has promised good things to His people, but sin, rebellion and iniquity keep good things from people. If you will serve God and give Him your best, He will return His best to you.

Sometimes people want to see how close they can get to the world and still be accepted of God. They should be asking, "What more can I do to obey God?" God will reward each one according to his or her obedience.

Friend, a day of retribution is coming. There is coming a day when God will mete out justice. It may not be meted out in this present world, but an end is coming. King David questioned the state of the ungodly.

You can read in Psalm 73 that David was looking at people around him and thought, "These people around me are not serving God, yet they seem to be getting along fairly well." He thought that they even seemed to die well. He pondered this and, in essence, said, "I was about to give until I went to the house of God, and then I understood their end. There is coming an end, so it is a sobering thought that

God asked, "Shall I not visit David wrote these words in for these things?"

Yes, there is a universal law of sowing and reaping. It was so in the Old Testament, and it was so in the New Testament. Adam and Eve found it to be so. How about Haman? In the Book of Esther, you can read of Haman and Mordecai. Solomon said, "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray ... he shall fall himself into his own pit" (Proverbs 28:10).

Haman built a gallows fifty feet high, and he planned to hang Mordecai on it. However, in the end, the King ordered Haman to hang on it. You will reap what you sow.

We are living in a day when we see so much of the "eat, drink and be merry" spirit. Most people are living for the present, not realizing that they must answer to God for their actions.

Sometimes people want to get together in groups and do things, but we need to be able to stand alone, if needed. It is important to know that your conscience is clear. We are living in a day when people are going after the physical and the material things but neglecting the spiritual. The older I get, the more I realize how little these material things are worth. They mean less and less to me. The things of the spirit are being crowded out of many people's lives.

Where are you spiritually?

Psalm 37:37, "Mark the perfect man (in other words, watch and take note of him), and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." I want peace in my life, don't

As I was studying, I thought; if the dead could come back and testify, they would warn everyone that an end is coming. They would urge you that now is the time to prepare for it.

In verse 22 of our Scripture lesson, we read that God asked those people "Fear ye not me?" I believe that at the very bottom of all sin is a lack of the fear of God. A fear of God in the hearts of men and women will cause them to be very careful of their actions.

There is not enough of the fear of God. God said, in essence, "Will you not tremble at my presence? It is I who placed the sand to contain the sea by a perpetual decree, so that the sea cannot prevail; they roar, yet they cannot pass over the boundary." An end is coming for all things. What will be your end?

Next week, "A Day of Retribution is Comin."

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.

Nourishing your faith

By Shewanda Riley Columnist

I admit that I'm a pack rat (I still have my kindergarten report card), but it has never gotten to the point where I

can't walk in my house or use my kitchen. Then I watched the TV show Hoarders. A friend got me watching this show that depicts people who suffer from hoarding, a mental disorder of compulsively collecting many things (regardless of their value or use) that it often interferes with the ability to live normally.

Many live in houses that from the outside look normal, but inside they are a mess. It's mindboggling when you look at the amount of stuff, junk, things that people accumulate. One woman had kept so much stuff and had not cleaned that she didn't realize that there was a dead cat in one of her rooms. She was surprised with some of the things that were found by the cleaning crew...including her long-lost dentures.

Some of us may not be as bad as the people featured on the show but we might struggle with being able to throw things away. For example, a few years ago, I kept the television that was in my bedroom even though it hadn't worked properly since the switch to digital TV. My sentimental side clashed with my more practical side as I asked myself countless times why I hadn't thrown iy out; it was a gift from

my parents when I first moved to Dallas.

Whether it's a physical object or an emotion, we all hold onto things for too long. Some mental health professionals will say it's either fear or a need for control. Those who spiritually hoard by stubbornly holding onto behaviors and emotions that God has long delivered us from don't realize how much bondage we put ourselves in by trying to hold onto things that no longer have value. Foolishly, we sit back and wait for God to "move on our behalf," just like the hoarders are seen passively watching the cleaning crews.

It's fearful to think of what happens after we finally let go of trying to control everything and let God have his way in our lives. We are so used to being surrounded by emotional clutter (anger, pride, confusion, etc) that it's really scary and overwhelming to think about what life would be like without it.

John 15:2-3 says, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." We have to be courageous to let God get rid of the things we don't need so he can give us all that we need.

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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Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.

SUNDAY



Michael T. Williams Pastor

Rules favor them not us

By E. Faye Williams Trice Edney Newswire



The much anticipated and longawaited Mueller Report has been handled in an unbelievable way. We first received four pages of a 22-month study that told us nothing truthfully. Atty. General William Barr led us to believe everybody had been "picking on the poor innocent presi-

dent." The four pages gave Trump the opportunity to continue his mantra that the report totally exonerated him when it clearly did not. A few days before that Trump was throwing flames at the Mueller team. There's no doubt the Department of Justice and the White House are doing everything they can to discredit the Mueller Report, so Barr hooked up a report to try to confuse Americans.

Before the press conference, Rep. Maxine Waters had characterized the AG as having proved himself to be a lackey and a sycophant. Then came Barr's press conference proving her to be right. All laws, precedents and common courtesies were broken denying lawmakers and the public what we have the right to know - the truth. One wondered why we couldn't get Mueller's findings from Mueller rather than having Barr telling us what the report said. I must add that the report was meted out in different versions at different times. The White House saw it before Congress.

Before Dick Gregory made his transition, he warned us about this chaos. I didn't see clearly what he meant until Barr delivered his interpretation of what the Mueller Report actually said. Barr's version compared with what came next once the redacted report went public, is mind boggling. What Barr reported has no relationship to what the Mueller Report actually said.

We now know, and understand, why some on the Mueller team were concerned, even offended by earlier versions of their report. The report does not exonerate Trump. It specifically says he did many things that would endeavor to obstruct justice such as trying to get his staff to commit illegal acts, but they refused. In essence, Mueller turned the matter over to Congress to act on the findings

Barr has shown himself to be a puppet of Trump, with no concern for the American people. He leaves me, as well as many others, with no confidence in the Department of Justice. In Barr's going into Trump's head and describing how angry and frustrated he was and used that as an excuse for his doing and saying the awful things he did. One of the more egregious ones being, "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose any voters." What sane person would say such a thing. Do you think a person of color could go into court after shooting somebody and use the Angry and Frustrated Defense that Barr offered for Trump's behavior? We know the answer to that. We have a sick person leading our nation who knows nothing but namecalling, exclusion of non-white people and punishment of all who disagree with him.

The report presented to us by Barr is reason enough to understand that it is up to us to deal with the systematic process of being wounded by circumstance. A brilliant group I know has developed a program that focuses on healing and prevention. Our whole society is wounded when the system on which we're expected to depend favors certain people over others. This country cannot seem to overcome its horrible history of unequal treatment of people of color and the underserved. We must take heed when a talented group of people who look like us come up with a system for healing our wounds.

By request tscott@strategiclifesolutionsgroup. com will provide you with more information on

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



Who gains when democracy is destroyed?

By Julianne Malveaux NNPA News Wire Columnist



Democracy defined as government the people, by the people and for the people". Who are the people who

support our contemporary status quo? And how, in marginalizing the will of the people, is democracy destroyed?

The long-anticipated Mueller report is a scathing expose' of at least ten ways the man who calls himself the President of the United States bent or broke the rules and actively interfered in an investigation of his wrongdoings. The Attorney General who auditioned for his role by sending a memo that indicated that a sitting president could not be charged by the In-Justice Department edited, obfuscated and then prevaricated about the many ways Mr. 45 simply did the wrong thing. His wrongdoings ranged from perjury (which he often couched as "I don't remember") to intimidation, to near, if not outright collusion.

After the release of the Mueller Report, many Democrats have called for investigation or impeachment, but few Republicans have raised their voices to censure the rogue they selected as their

As of this writing, Utah Senator Mitt Romney (R) has been the most vocal detractor of Mr. 45, but he was that before the Mueller Report was issued. George Conway, the bold husband of the equally fearless Kelleyanne Conway, has called for 45's impeachment even as his spouse maintains her position as 45's handmaiden. I don't even want to wonder what their pillow talk sounds like, but George Conway gets mad props for speaking his truth even as he sleeps with the devil.

Why are so many so silent, though? These are people who say they love democracy, but their truth is that they love it only when it works for them. So, while they cringe privately, they cower publicly, understanding full well that they work for a racist, crook and tyrant who will suppress democracy at any cost. What do they gain?

Most importantly they gain the courts. While Senate Majority Leader, the Tennessee Turtle Mitch McConnell built a wall between President Barack Obama's constitutional right to appoint judges by blocking appointment whenever he could, most notably a Supreme Court appointment that should have gone to Merrick Garland, he has never met an inexperienced Republican ideologue that he would not rush to confirm. Lifetime appointments to 39-yearolds (consider Florida's Robert J. Luck) who have practiced law less than a decade but proven their worth with harsh partisan positions will have an impact on public policy for decades. If McConnell rules the Senate and 45 stays in office, so many of our rights will be eroded, including voting rights, the right to choose, labor rights and more.

Voting rights are on the chopping block in jurisdiction after jurisdiction. The judicial repeal of the Voting Rights Act with the reversal of Section 5 has been a setback, but aggressive state legislatures who have sought to restrict

the right to vote have posed an equally challenging problem.

In Florida, despite a successful initiative to restore the rights of convicted felons, the legislature has attempted to reverse the will of the people by imposing financial requirements to these returning citizens. There will undoubtedly be a court challenge, but will it be resolved in time to have 1.4 million people participate in the 2020 Florida election?

In Tennessee, the state legislature proposes to impose fines on organizations that register voters who make minor mistakes on their registration forms, mistakes as insignificant as middle initial or hyphen. Republican state legislatures are passing new rules to restrict the vote in anticipation of a 2020 surge of new voters.

Florida and Tennessee aren't the only states that would suppress the vote. But voter suppression is what Mr. 45's sycophants gain when they fail to call him out on his perfidy.

Those who support 45 gain profit maximization opportunities - he is the triumph of predatory capi-

From a tax cut that disproportionately advantages the wealthy, to a massive corporate tax cut that places a tax burden on the rest of the economy, 45's economic policies have been an unapologetic transfer of income from people at the bottom to people at the top. While he talked populist trash to white folks who had racial issues, he offered public policy that contributed nothing to his core constituency. Meanwhile, through his appointments to, as an example, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CPFB), he eroded consumer rights. Instead of draining the swamp, he fed his personal alligators the raw meat of consumer protection; shredding the many ways CFPB protected the little

Supporting Mr. 45 also supports the triumph of white supremacy. After Heather Heyer was killed in Charlottesville by a now-convicted white supremacist, our nation's leader opined that there are "good people on both sides." His rhetoric is a signal to racists that it's okay to attack those who have been historically marginalized in

While we are in the middle of a cultural realignment, with pointed questions being raised about the corrosiveness of confederate culture, we have a national leader who disgustingly cleaves to the past and elevates white supremacy. Republicans who fail to censure an out of control president often do so because while they abhor his behavior, they embrace his white supremacist enthusiasm.

Democracy dies when tyrants prevail, and when we see a prevaricator, a provocateur, a philistine, and a panderer occupy the Oval Office. Why? Because predatory capitalists gain from the elevation of a braggadocious tyrant who, while feeding their bottom line, is behaviorally uncontrollable.

We have attempted to impose democracy all over the world. Why are we willing to support its demise in these United States?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. Visit www. juliannemalveaux.com

Hate crime surge continues with racially motivated burning of black churches

By Marc H. Morial President and CEO National Urban League



"A lot of people want to make it a thing. Well, we don't represent hate. We represent love. Togetherness. Peace. Long suf-

fering. Hope. That's what we're here today to say, not just to our community, but to our country. Be strong." - Rev. Gerald Toussaint, pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, one of three Louisiana churches burned down over 10 days this month.

Though they were more than 100 years old, Greater Union Baptist Church, St. Mary Baptist Church and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, were nowhere near as grand and ancient as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Tourists never flocked to admire them. The flames that burned them to charred ruins were not observed in horror by an international television audience.

But burn they did, all within a span of 10 days. And unlike the fire that damaged Notre Dame, the fires that consumed them were deliberately set by someone motivated by racial hatred, according to authorities.

In response to billionaires pledging to fund the rebuilding of Notre Dame, activists were inspired to raise money for the Louisiana churches - contributions can be made through GoFundMe.

The arsons are part of an ongoing spike in hate crimes that began in 2015, fueled by racist rhetoric throughout the Presidential campaign that continued into the first

year of the current administration. The destruction of black churches, the spiritual and cultural heart of many black communities, has long been a tactic of white supremacist terrorists, predating the Civil War. Churches were the gathering places for civil rights activists in the 1950s and 1960s. The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963, which killed four young girls gathered for worship, marked a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement and galvanized support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

At the end of last year, the FBI reported that hate crime reports increased 17 percent from 2016 to 2017, the third consecutive year reports have risen. Of the more than 7,100 hate crimes reported in 2017, nearly three out of five were motivated by race and ethnicity.

That's not the only sign that violent racial and ethnic hatred are on the rise. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of white nationalist groups in the U.S. in just a single year, from 100 chapters in 2017 to 148 in 2018.

The Anti-Defamation League reports a 182 percent increase in incidents of the distribution of white supremacist propaganda, and an increase in the number of rallies and demonstrations by white supremacy groups, from 76 in 2017 to 91 in 2018.

The number of terrorist attacks in the United States by far-right actors, including white supremacists, quadrupled between 2016 and 2017, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The U.S. House Judiciary Committee convened a hearing last week on the rise of white nationalism. Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, testified, "The violence that erupted in Charlottesville in 2017 was a wake-up call that demonstrated that racial violence continues to stand as a threat to our democracy and presents a danger to

vulnerable communities." She called on the FBI to redouble its efforts to fight racist extremism. She called on Congress to "encourage the use of existing laws to investigate and prosecute acts of hate violence to the full extent of the law and oppose efforts to create new legislation that risks the further criminalization of communities of color." She called on social media companies to terminate "purveyors of hate who violate those terms by promoting and inciting violence."

Unfortunately, her expert testimony was overshadowed by rightwing activist Candace Owens absurd and baseless assertion that the "Southern Strategy" - the electoral strategy to increase political support among white voters in the South by appealing to racism was a "myth."

Owens' presence at the hearing is evidence in itself that appealing to racism, or at least the fantasy that racism isn't a threat - remains a political strategy.

The threat is real, and it is growing. Elected and community leaders across the ideological spectrum need to confront it for the crisis that it is.

Editorials and Letters to the Editor may be e-mailed to editor@mississippilink.com or mailed to 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. The views and opinions expressed on the Op/Ed pages are not necessarily the views and opinions of The Mississippi Link. The Mississippi Link also reserves the right to edit all material for length and accuracy.

MORA receives \$50,000 donation from Allie Cat Run & Festival for second straight year



Allie Cat check resentation in Meridian

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Organizers of the Allie Cat Run & Festival announced Tuesday that \$50,000 will be donated to Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) from the proceeds raised at the March event.

Held in memory of Allie Car-

ruth, who was a donor at the age of six in 2017, this is the second straight year that the event has generated \$50,000 for the agency's Public Education Fund.

In total, the event raised \$77,000 in 2019 after raising \$50,000 in 2018.

"It is very humbling and we feel very blessed that the community supports our family and Allie but it is also humbling that they support donor families, recipients and their families through the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency," said Leslie Carruth, Al-

lie's mom and one of the event organizers along with her husband Bill. "This gives me a drive and passion that keeps Allie going much like the organs she donated, which symbolizes everything. She is still here with us, no matter what," Carruth added

"It is amazing. I've been in this business of donation and transplantation for over 30 years and I've never seen this happen," said Kevin Stump, MORA CEO when referring to what the Carruth family and the community of Meridian have done to honor

Allie and raise awareness of the need of organ, eye and tissue donation in Mississippi and across

To learn more about MORA or to register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, please visit msora.

Few African Americans make end of life plans but no one gets out alive

By Glenn Ellis TriceEdneyWire.com



The entire lifespan of most African Americans is consumed by efforts to overcome obstacles, inequality, and in many cases, institutional racism.

The most difficult point in this most tiring journey is often the end-oflife. For the disproportionate number of us is when death is accompanied by the dilemmas around how we choose to die.

Hospice, palliative care, advance directives and competency become terms that we, or our loved ones, all of sudden are faced with and expected to deal with.

Studies and observations show that, likewise disproportionately, we are not prepared for this final stage of life.

What we know is that African Americans are less likely than any other group to be prepared for end-of-life, and not surprisingly, are less likely to have a prepared Advance

First, let's talk about advanced directives. This is the document that should be prepared to outline, in detail, what type of care (if any) we desire as our lives come to an end, and we are not able to make decisions for our-

An advanced directive includes things that typically are not even thought about during times when life is good.

Generally, it will include things such as a living will or do-not-resuscitate order, or identification of a health care surrogate. Regrettably, it's not until we are in a hospital ICU, hospice center or even on home hospice that we (or our loved ones) are confronted with having to make difficult decisions, while dealing with imminent death.

In spite of the fact that studies show that 80 percent of Americans would prefer to die at home, the reality is that 60 percent of us will die in a hospital; 20 percent of us will die in a nursing home; and only 20 percent will end up in a situation where we will be able to make our transition in the comfort and peace of our own home.

If you are not competent, or capable, to make medical decisions but do not have an advance directive, or it is unavailable when needed, decisions will nevertheless have to

In 2013, The Pew Foundation did a study and found that while, 73 percent of all Americans have given "some thought" to end-oflife," only 37 percent of African Americans have done the same. This means that doctors and others on the care team of a terminallyill patient may decide to continue providing care and treatment, when you may feel that your loved one has had enough, and should

be allowed to die in peace, with dignity. In the absence of an advance directive, this could become a point of contention, and the patient is caught in the middle. Or, it could be the other way around, you may feel that there is still hope for a recovery, and the doctors feel that there isn't. Again, the patient lies there in limbo, and often suffering unnecessarily. For African Americans, it's worse. One study found that only 13 percent of all African Americans have an advanced directive in place.

It can be a difficult, and often, an uncomfortable conversation, but collectively, we have to begin to have conversations during the "good" times in life with our families and loved ones about what we do and don't want should we ever find ourselves in a position where we are unable to make medical decisions for ourselves.

Think about how often we attend funerals, and families are still reeling over how things came to end with conflict and contention between families of a patient who died, and the medical staff at the hospital. Think about how different it would be if we made our wishes known, before something happened unexpectedly.

A few things that may be helpful for you in getting an advance directive for yourself:

First you need to familiarize yourself with the term life-sustaining treatments. Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary defines this as "medical procedures that would only prolong the process of dying or sustain a condition of permanent unconsciousness. A patient who is receiving life-sustaining treatment will die soon, whether or not treatment is administered. Life-sustaining treatment may include a respirator, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), dialysis, surgery and other medical procedures." Would you want any of these? If so, under what circumstances?

Most importantly, let your loved ones know what you have in your advanced directive. People only like surprises for their birthday. Don't wait for them to find out at an emotionally difficult time, when they are grappling with the inevitability of your

You don't need a lawyer to create your advanced directive. But you do need to make sure you understand the laws of the state you live in regarding them. Some states have restrictions that you need to be aware of that may prohibit your wishes.

And finally, keep in mind that no one get's out alive; make sure you've properly prepared for your exit...get an advanced direc-

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

You may visit: www.glennellis.com

Forrest General Hospital's May support group meetings, classes and events

Bereavement Support Group Tuesday, May 7 6:00 p.m.

Asbury Hospice House Conference 304 South 40th Ave, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, May 21

6:00 p.m.

Asbury Hospice House Conference 304 South 40th Ave, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, May 21 11:30 a.m.

Highland Community Hospital Cafeteria Meeting Room 130 Highland Parkway, Picayune, Mississippi

The Bereavement Support Group is for individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The meetings occur on the first and third Tuesday of every month and are free to the public. The first meeting of the month is held at the Asbury Hospice House, 304 South 40th Avenue. There are two meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. One meeting is held at the cafeteria meeting room at Highland Community Hospital in Picayune, Mississippi, and the other meets at Asbury Hospice House, 304 South 40th Avenue. in Hattiesburg. For more information,

Better Breathers Support Group Tuesday, May 21

Forrest General's LiveWell Center Cloverleaf Medical Plaza (next to Wal-Mart)

5909 Highway 49, Suite 40

call 601-288-2500.

The Better Breathers Support Group gives patients, families and friends an opportunity to gather and share information about Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), as well as other breathing disorders. COPD includes conditions such as emphysema, asthma and chronic bronchitis. The group also has access to informational resources and speakers who are knowledgeable about the special needs of people with breathing disorders. The meetings occur on the third Tuesday of every month and are free to the public. Call 601-288-1951.

Brave Brilliant, and Resilient Thursday, May 23

Forrest General Cancer Center's Rush Conference Room 301 South 28th Avenue

Brave, Brilliant, and Resilient, the Forrest General Cancer Center Support Group, welcomes current patients and caregivers to talk with and support other cancer patients and caregivers. Each month a new topic will be presented and an open discussion will follow. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Meetings will be held in The Rush Conference Room at the Forrest General Cancer Center (301 South 28th Ave.). For more information or to RSVP, contact Ramona Martin, RN, at 601-288-1743

Forrest General's Family Birthplace Classes

Family Birthplace Classes are held in Forrest General's Elm Room. All classes last only one session except for the Childbirth Preparation Course, which lasts for two sessions or a longer Saturday session. Classes can be repeated. Classes are free for those delivering at Forrest General or \$25 for others who wish to attend, except the Saturday Childbirth Preparation Class, which

Childbirth Preparation Course

Prepares participants for labor and delivery and offers a tour of the Family Birthplace. Classes meet for two weeks on Thursday from 6-8:30 p.m. May 2 and May 9

Breastfeeding Class

Provides details about breastfeeding for expectant and new mom, as well as

breastfeeding mothers who are having difficulty nursing or who have questions. Meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. May 28

Saturday Childbirth Preparation

Prepares participants for labor and delivery and offers a tour of the Family Birthplace. Meets on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. May 4

Forrest General's Fitness for Two

The Mommie & Me classes give mothers and their babies the opportunity to interact and exercise together using music, movement, story and rhyme. Topics for moms include parenting suggestions, relationship navigation and child development quidelines. From the First Year until Toddler Years, children are developing social, language, cognitive and motor skills for the next season of life. The six week session charge is \$30. All classes meet at the Spirit of Women Conference Room in 28th Place, 421 South 28th Avenue.

To register or for more information on the following classes, visit www. forrestgeneral.com/fitness4two or

call Spirit of Women at 601-288-

Mommie & Me – The First Year First year mothers can share stories

about their first-year experiences as they learn developmental milestones for their babies. Meets Wednesday mornings for six

weeks, 10 – 11:30 a.m. April 17 - May 22

Mommie & Me – Just Movin'

Just Movin' is geared toward the early walkers, often 11 to 22 months old. Children experience activities that will develop physical, mental and social skills. Meets Monday mornings for six weeks, 10 - 11:30a.m. April 15 - May 20

Mommie & Me - The Toddler Years The Toddler Years class is the

perfect launch into pre-school. Moms and their toddlers, age 22 months to 3 years, learn and grow while making great memories. Meets Tuesday mornings for six weeks, 10 – 11:30 a.m. April 16 - May 21

Pregnancy Exercise Program

In a support group environment, the classes combine walking, strengthening, stretching and isolation exercises with education topics such as breathing techniques, discomfort releases, labor and delivery preparation and postpartum recovery. Program includes one free Coach's Corner class. Meets each Monday for six weeks, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Class will only meet at 5 – 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 14 and Feb. 11. April 15 – May 20

Bumps to Babies Postpartum Support

The "new normal" after childbirth can cause isolation and uncertainty. This community of new moms will process postpartum needs including physical and emotional recovery, breastfeeding, returning to work, adjusting to staying home and other general questions, doubts and concerns. Meets each Tuesday for three weeks, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. May 7 -May 21

Coach's Corner

This one-session class teaches labor and delivery, breathing techniques and the coach's role throughout the childbirth experience. The coach and mother-to-be attend together. Curriculum benefits pregnancy first-times, as well as repeaters. An optional tour of Forrest General is included. Coach's Corner is free for Pregnancy Exercise Program Participants. Meets Mondays once a month, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 13

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 Thursday, 05/30/2019, for:

GS# 422-158 Campus Road Improvements

Ellisville State School RFx #: 3160002883

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

Professional: Address:

Phone:

Chas N. Clark, Associates, LTD 714 Hillcrest Drive

Laurel, Mississippi 39440

601-649-5900

lweeks@clarkengineers.com

A deposit of \$150.00 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

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

desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

4/25/2019, 5/2/2019

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Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3093 Food Service Frozen Food, Meat Products, Cracker and Chips

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 08, 2019 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

4/18/2019, 4/25/2019

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2019-07 Mathematics Core Curriculum for Grades K-8

Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 02, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

4/18/2019, 4/25/2019

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REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NUMBER: 005-19

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to establish and assist JMAA with the implementation of a Pavement Management Program ("PMP") (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the JAN Pavement Management Plan, JMAA Project No. 005-19, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.

JMAA will receive Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. central time on Friday, May 31, 2018 (the

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Deuntagus Herndon, JMAA Procurement Specialist, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority 100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)

Post Office Box 98109 Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109

Attention: Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 622

Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713 E-Mail: dherndon@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/ procurement/

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting a Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference, and the opportunity to receive detailed scope related information from the project owner.

Based on the Statement of Qualifications, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked

In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 12% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

4/25/2019, 5/2/2019

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR

CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL DRIVE REHABILITATION AT THE

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA PROJECT NO. 004-18C)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 3:00 p.m. central time on May 21, 2019 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and renovations in connection with the International Drive Rehabilitation at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the

JMAA will also accept electronic sealed bids as specified in the bid documents. Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. central time on May 21, 2019, 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

Once registered, Suppliers can download bid specifications and upload bid

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 3:15 p.m. central time on May 21, 2019 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "International Drive Rehabilitation at JAN, JMAA Project No. 004-18C." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at

JMAA will award the Work to the Lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder. Any Addendums issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders, including plans and specifications, is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport Suite 300, Main Terminal Building 100 International Drive Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 616 Facsimile: (601) 939-3713 Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager, Procurement

A copy of the plans and specifications for the Work are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders may register and order plans and specifications from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website http://planroom.jaxblue.com. There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$100.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. central time on May 2, 2019 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract to perform the Work.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (https://jmaa.com/corporate/ partner-with-us/procurement/). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 20% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY DATE: April 17, 2019 I.A.P.

/s/ Perry J. Miller A.A.E.,

4/18/2019, 4/25/2019

For information about advertising in

The Mississippi Link

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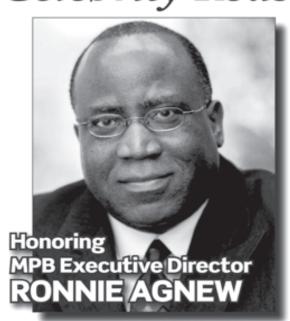
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Mississippi Press Association Education Foundation

Celebrity Roast



Thursday, April 25, 2019 Hilton Jackson Reception 6 pm • Dinner 7 pm

Tickets \$80 each or \$600 for a table of eight Call 601-981-3060 or visit mspress.org/event/roast to order

Proceeds benefit the MPA Education Foundation



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K & K ONE STOP

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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

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Employment

Mississippi Dept. of Corrections HIRING CORRECTIONAL

OFFICERS Join and Get a 5% Increase in Starting Pay

Join The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) and get an immediate 5 percent increase in your starting pay, if you have a college degree or experience in the workforce. The starting pay is \$2,075.27 monthly. FOUR (4) WEEKS OF PAID ONSITE TRAINING.

STATE PRISON LOCATIONS: Central Mississinni Correctional Facility (CMCF) 3794 Highway

466, Poort, MS Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) 708 Parchman Road, Parchman, MS

 South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) 22689 Hwy. 63 North, Leakesville, MS

WALK-IN INTERVIEW DATES/TIMES:

 Saturday, May 4, 2019 — Applicants will be admitted from 6:00 aum. to 10:00 aum.

-Monday thru Friday, May 13 -17, 2019 -- Applicants will be admitted from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. -Saturday, May 18, 2019 -- Applicants will be admitted from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: •21 years of age and proof of

H.S. diploma or G.E.D. Males between the ages of 21-25 proof of Selective Service Registration

A Valid Driver's License No felony or domestic violence

INTERVIEW SCREENING COMSIST OF: -Interview, Math Test, Report.

Writing Exercise -1 mile walkinun within 18 minutes and Tower climb (Appropriate athletic clothing

and tennis shoes may be worn):

For additional information, contact MDOC Personnel Services at (601) 359-5695 or the Personnel Department at each facility: CMCF (601) 932-2880 ext. 6701; MSP (662) 745-6611 ext. 2366; or SMCI (601)

394-5600 ext. 1217.

Individuals may also apply online at the Mississippi State Personnel Board website, www.mspb.ms.gov.

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HARDENED CON OFFERED SHOT AT REDEMPTION BY ROUGH-EDGED HORSE WHISPERER

By Kam Williams Columnist

Roman Coleman (Matthias Schoenaerts) has too quick a fuse to think before he acts. That's why he's done a dozen years and counting in a maximum-security prison for impulsively delivering a brutal beating that left his victim permanently brain-damaged.

Even while incarcerated, Roman's never learned to control his temper. Consequently, he's voluntarily spent the bulk of his time in solitary confinement.

A shot at rehabilitation finally arrives when Myles (Bruce Dern), a salty, old horse whisperer, offers Roman a spot in his program pairing inmates

with wild mustangs. The hope is that each participant will learn to tame his own raging inner soul while bonding with his stallion.

the invitation, before being assigned to work with a bucking bronco he names Marcus. Under the watchful eye of the sage trainer, con and colt do gradually take to each other, although not without its share of fits and starts.

Marking Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre's nonpareil directorial debut, The Mustang is a character-driven masterpiece co-starring Matthias Schoenaerts and Bruce Dern. The two generate considerable chemis-

try in the course of delivering powerful performances against a variety of visually-captivating backdrops, ranging from the vast expanse of a barren, Roman grudgingly accepts Nevada desert to the claustrophobic confines of one of the State's penal institutions.

> emotionally-engaging meditation on redemption inspired by a real-life program helping inmates turn their lives around.

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for profanity, violence and drug use

Running time: 96 minutes Production Companies: Leg-

ende Films / Cine+ / Canal+ Distributor: Focus Features



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Kam's Kapsules

Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams Columnist

For movies opening April 26,

Wide Releases

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13 for action, violence and profanity) 22nd and final installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe series finds the surviving avengers joining forces with their superhero allies to mount one last stand in defense of the planet. Co-starring Brie Larson, Paul Rudd, Josh Brolin, Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson and Robert Downey, Jr.

Independent & Foreign

Aurora (Unrated) Horror flick, set in the Philippines, about a tiny island left haunted by ghosts after a passenger ship crashes on its shores. Ensemble cast includes Anne Curtis, Marco Gumabao and Mercedes Cabral. (In Filipino and Tagalog

with subtitles)

Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blache' (Unrated) Reverential retrospective chronicling the career of a pioneer filmmaker (1873-1968) best remembered for directing A Fool and His Money, the first movie to feature an entirely African-American cast. With commentary by Lake Bell, Peter Billingsley and Diablo Cody. With Courtney Love, Diane Kruger and Jim Sturgess.

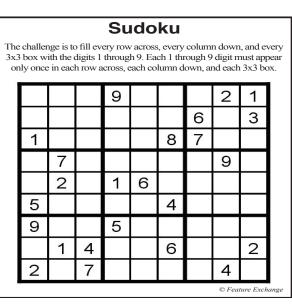
Body at Brighton Rock (R for profanity and some bloody images) Suspense thriller revolving around a state park summer employee (Karina Fontes) forced to spend the night in the mountain wilderness without a radio after stumbling upon a disturbing crime scene. Cast includes Casey Adams, John Getz and Emily

JT Leroy (R for sexuality,

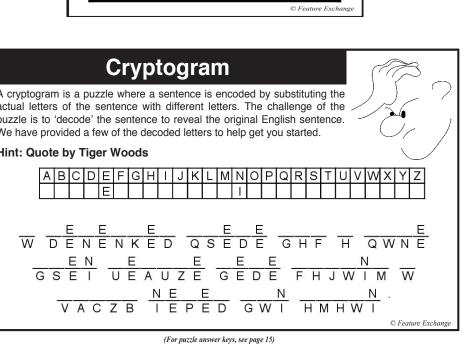
brief nudity and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of Savannah Knoop's (Kristen Stewart) memoir about her six years spent masquerading as JT Leroy, a literary persona created by her sister-in-law (Laura

Ploey (PG for peril and rude humor) Animated adventure about a flightless plover chick (Jamie Oram) forced to fend for himself alone in the Arctic after his family migrates south for the winter without him. Voice cast includes Sean Astin, John Stamos and Debbie Chazen.

The White Crow (R for profanity, sexuality and graphic nudity) Political biopic recounting legendary ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev's (Oleg Ivenko) defection to the West. With Ralph Fiennes, Louis Hoffmann and Zach Avery. (In Russian, French and English with subtitles)



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 Tiger Woods** ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWX





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AUTO REVIEW

2019 Mazda CX-5

By Frank S. Washington

AboutThatCar.com

Mazda certainly has struck a chord with its CX-5 crossover. I went to the barbershop to get the little hair I have left cut and a manicurist, and her customer, stopped me as I entered and asked me the make of the vehicle I had parked in front. And to emphasize that this was not a fluke, I gave a friend a ride and when he got out, he showed me on his phone how his wife had sent him a photo of a CX-5. They were shopping for a new vehicle.

I've always thought that Mazda products had some of the slickest designs on the market. The automaker calls it KODO-Soul design. Look on its Web site and you'll find, "Our new KODO "Soul of Motion" design language abounds with graceful, yet energetic, lines.

Like the effects of wind or the flow or water, KODO is a unique expression of power and beauty seen in instantaneous motion at the very moment motion begins. It's a cheetah pouncing on its prey. It's the moment a sword strikes in the ancient Japanese art of kendo. Its instantaneous power, speed, dignified tension and sophisticated beauty (are all signs of this design language). And it's highly seductive"

Those are eloquent words that tell you absolutely nothing



about how the vehicle looks. First, this design language is embodied on every Mazda. And what it means is that every Mazda has a long gently curved hood, a short rump and gently curving lines over the wheel wells. The grilles are a blacked out angular wide "u" shape with the hood line on top framing it and cats-eye headlights in the corners.

The bigger the Mazda the sleeker the look; thus, with the CX-5, a midsize crossover, the smooth flowing design was more distinct. But there was far more to the experience of the 2019 Mazda CX-5 than the way it looked.

I had the Signature trim allwheel-drive line. The test vehicle was powered by a new 2.5-liter turbocharged engine that made 227 horsepower and 310 pound-feet of torque at 2,000 rpm. However, that is with regular gasoline. Pump in premium petrol and horsepower kicks up to 250.

This engine was mated to a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shift capability. The combination had a fuel rating of 22 mpg in the city, 27 mpg on the highway and 24 mpg combined.

The CX-5 had some oomph without a lot of fanfare. The engine was small, quiet and ran smoothly. There was some snow during the test drive but not enough to really test its allwheel-drive system. That was okay with me.

The CX-5 handled pretty well, cornering was good, and the build quality was tight. It was quiet, the brakes were solid and there was plenty of room inside. I never had the closed in feeling. The cabin was bright when the sun came out and it was airy.

The Signature trim line is new for the 2019 model year. It featured Caturra Brown Nappa leather seats, layered wood trim and satin chrome accents. There was unique stitching on

the leather-wrapped steering wheel, ambient interior LED lighting, a black headliner and a frameless rearview mirror.

In addition to the interior and the turbocharged engine, the Signature trim line had what Mazda called a refined suspension system and the latest in G-Vectoring Control technologies. There was also a 360° View Monitor with front and rear parking sensors.

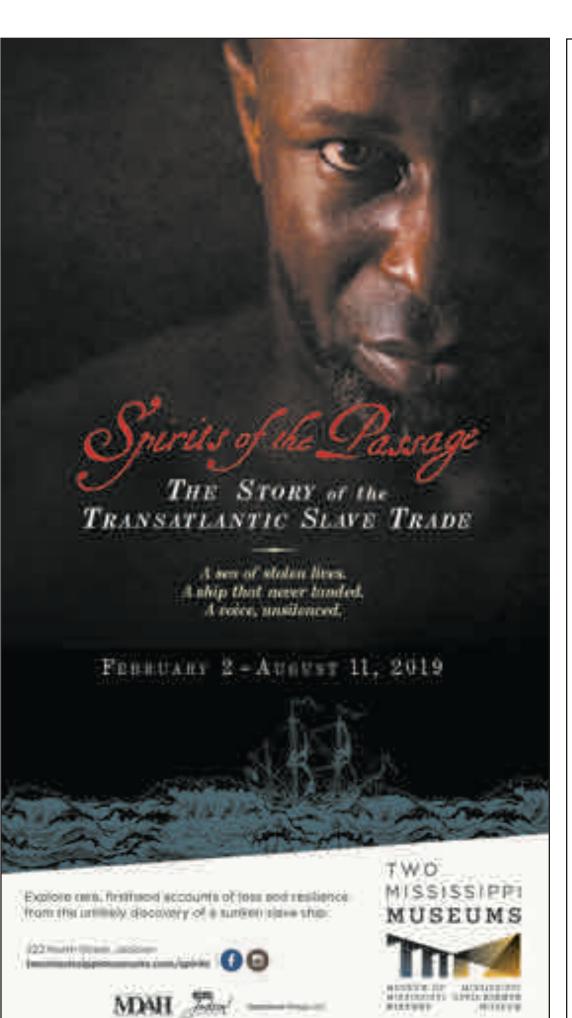
My test vehicle also had heated and cooled front seats, a heated steering wheel, 19inch alloy wheels, rain-sensing windshield wipers, LED headlights and fog lights and automatic folding sideview mirrors.

Of course, it had satellite radio, Bluetooth and voice controls. Also new were Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The CX-5 had a heads-up-display, adaptive cruise control, adaptive headlights, a power liftgate and a power moonroof.

There were advanced city brakes, rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, lane keep assist, front and rear parking sensors and blind spot monitoring. This was a fully equipped, neatly styled and very maneuverable crossover.

For \$39,330 as tested, the 2019 Mazda CX-5 had a lot to

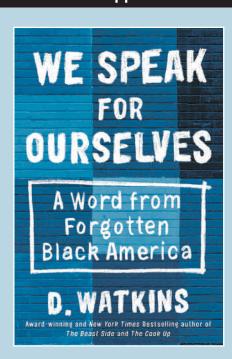
Frank S. Washington is editor of AboutThatCar.com











WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You could be rich someday. That's what they say: you could have a great job, a nice car, and a crib on the beach, if you want them. They say it could happen, if you seize opportunities that come your way. They say it's possible to be successful if you just pull yourself up by some imaginary bootstraps. And according to D. Watkins in his new book "We Speak for Ourselves," they are lying.

Oprah, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Kanye. Of course, you know

who they are but did you ever notice that they aren't like most black people?

That's something D. Watkins sees in the books he reads on race, in the TV he watches, and events he attends: there are "different types of black people" and when it comes to news and "maybe even in society.... People from the street are absent..."

In Watkins' world – "Down Bottom" in Baltimore – gunshot is a common background noise. It's also common for multiple generations of black men to die by bullets, for girls to get pregnant early, and for boys to sling drugs.

What else do they know, except what they see? Kids on the street are not "dumb," he says, but a "street hustler mentality" is given to them as a sort of heritage because there aren't a lot of choices, opportunities are few, and the need for money is powerful. It doesn't help that education for black students is often underfunded, proper nourishment is sometimes lacking, housing may be sub-par, "openair drug markets are real," cops can be "more crooked than the

crooks," and "Black Taxes" ex-

And yet – Watkins is proof that success is possible, but it'll take action: promote literacy. Teach a child something. Get to know people who are different than you. "Be the person you needed growing up." Speak up, but remember that your voice won't mean a thing "if action is not added to those words."

Sometimes it happens: your eyes are open but you can't see. When author D. Watkins writes, though, you're smacked with the very thing you're missing.

Watkins, who starts "We Speak for Ourselves" with a cocktail party attended by elite blacks, turns his attention quickly to the majority of black people he knows, none of whom are rich or famous. This tour, if you will, takes readers into his neighborhood through a voice that quietly hammers home the realities of privilege, inequality, poverty, and feelings of helplessness, but Watkins doesn't let us linger there.

Observant readers will find simple actions for changemaking, and reminders that we always hold the power to act. There's quiet advice for keeping a cool head when wrongs are presented, and a gently-urgent plea that differently-backgrounded people spend time together. There's also one hilariously subtle thread of humor, so look for it.

No matter which part of the sidewalk you occupy, this short, quick book is a must-read if you worry about our future. "We Speak for Ourselves" offers the beginnings of a map forward, and in thought-provoking ideas,

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District celebrates openings of new athletic facilities at Utica Elementary Middle School and Bolton Edwards Elementary Middle School

School facility upgrades part of multimillion dollar bond program focused on boosting student achievement and athletic performance

The Hinds County School District recently held ribbon cutting ceremonies to celebrate the opening of new athletic field houses, concession stands and football fields at Utica Elementary Middle School and Bolton Edwards Elementary Middle School. These construction projects are part of the district's bond program focused on enhancements to facilities and technology that will support academic achievement

and boost athletic and artistic performance. "Each of these bond projects is important to our students and to the communities we serve because they are tangible representations of our commitment to excellence," said Delesicia Martin, superintendent of Hinds County School District. "These athletic facilities are particularly important for the communities of Utica, Bolton and Edwards because they create more

opportunities for students to participate in physical activities that promote healthy behaviors and build teamwork, communication and leadership skills." Several elected officials and dignitaries attended the ceremonies, including State Rep. Deborah Butler Dixon (D-District 63); Hinds County Attorney Gerald Mumford; Mayor Kenneth Broome (City of Utica); Mayor Marcus Wallace (Town of Edwards); Mayor

Lawrence Butler (Town of Bolton); City of Utica aldermen Tracey Reed Griffin (Ward 1), George Walker Alderman (Ward 2), Calvin Williams Alderman (Ward 4), and Doris Ross Alderwoman (At-Large); Town of Edwards Aldermen Carolyn Glin (Ward 3) and Wilson "Larry" Jones (Ward 4); and Utica Chief of Police Timothy Myles.

Highlights from UEMS









Highlights from BEEMS













