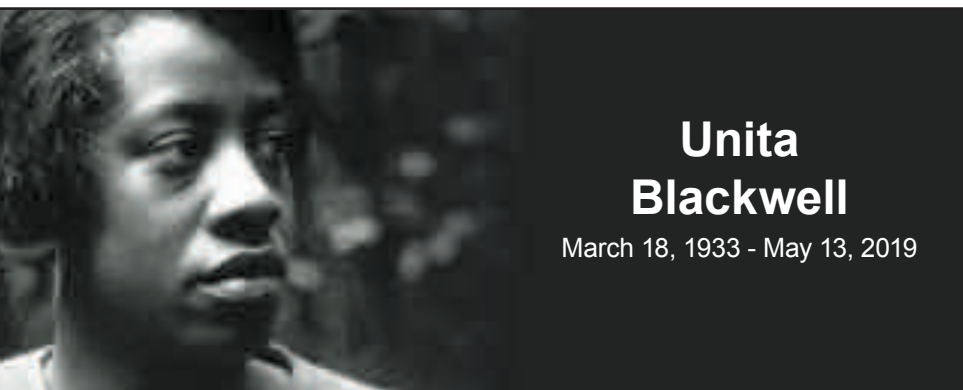




The big shots are not the only ones who are important. Remember, you can't sell anything on Wall Street unless someone digs it up somewhere else first.

— Unita Blackwell —



## Unita Blackwell

March 18, 1933 - May 13, 2019

## Corky Lee, The Transcontinental Railroad and “The Force of Ethics”



TCR 1869 official photo of the opening celebration – no Chinese workers are present.

By Alice Bernstein  
*Alliance of Ethics and Art.org*

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the completion of our nation’s Transcontinental Railroad (TCR), an engineering feat considered one of the wonders of the world. From 1863-1869 two railroad companies – the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific – were under contract to build this railroad which would connect the country from east to west. After the tracks were laid, two locomotives, coming from opposite directions, met at Promontory Point, Utah May 10, 1869, changing travel, industry and life everywhere.

Crucial to this enormous achievement were 12,000 Chinese immigrants, who comprised 90% of the Central Pacific’s workforce. It was they who laid the tracks in the West, tracks which spanned hundreds of miles of treacherous terrain over the Sierra Mountains and

across the prairies. They did this backbreaking, dangerous work by hand: chiseling granite, setting the fuses to dynamite through rock, laying track. Hundreds died. Yet owing to racism, official accounts downplayed or completely omitted their vital contribution.

These men, enduring hunger, sacrificing their health, proudly gave their all to meeting a challenge to lay over 10 miles of track in one day. Their success brought honor and prize money to the railroad (not a penny of which these men ever saw) and set a record, which still stands. Disgracefully, however, the official signpost recording this stupendous accomplishment leaves them out.

Meanwhile, I am happy to report that recently an important and respectful change is in motion to honor the Chinese

TCR  
Continued on page 3

## IN MEMORIAM

# She was the first black woman mayor in Mississippi

By Linnea Crowther  
*Guest Writer*

Unita Blackwell was a civil rights activist who rose from an early life as a sharecropper to become an advisor to seven presidents and the first black woman mayor in Mississippi. As a project director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Blackwell led registration drives for black voters in Mississippi in the 1960s. She was jailed more than 70 times as she rallied voters and fought for their rights.

So important was her influence in the Civil Rights Movement that she became advisor to presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. In 1976, Blackwell became mayor of Mayersville, Mississippi, serving five terms. She died in Biloxi, Mississippi of complications of dementia at the age of 86.

Desegregating Mississippi: Blackwell was involved in one of the first desegregation lawsuits in Mississippi. In 1965, her son was one of hundreds of black students who were suspended for wearing SNCC pins to school.



Blackwell

Blackwell and her husband filed suit, not only for the students’ right to wear the pins, but also for the desegregation of the school district in accordance with Brown v. Board of Education. The court found that the students didn’t have a right to wear the pins, but the schools did need to be

desegregated. The case was appealed to the federal level, but the Blackwells won there as well – though it would take another five years until the local schools were finally desegregated.

Notable quote: “Politics is not just about voting one day every four years. Politics is the air we breathe, the food we eat and the road we walk on.”

What people said about her: “I am saddened by the passing of Unita Blackwell. She dedicated her life to fighting for civil rights in Mississippi. We are forever grateful for her work and sacrifice.” – U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson

“Our hearts are heavy today after hearing the news that former Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell has passed. We are a better state for her determination to make Mississippi a more just place. She remains a role model for generations of women who serve in city halls, county courthouses and the Mississippi Capitol. Godspeed, Mayor Blackwell. We salute you.” – Mississippi Democratic Party

## Local singer gets statewide recognition

By Othor Cain  
*Editor*

Jazz artist Pam Confer is one step closer to her dream, of making her recently released song, “Mississippi Beautiful,” become the state’s anthem.

Last week, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant extended a proclamation declaring May 10 as “Mississippi Beautiful Day.”

“We all have a collective love for our state,” said Confer. “To have an official day that mirrors the song, reflects our pride and celebrates our rich and complicated history makes me smile – Mississippi has to know that we’re beautiful!”

At the celebration Friday, community stakeholders read the lines of the proclamation and constituents provided testimonials about “What

Confer

Continued on page 3



Confer with Terry and Raymond Hinds Co. School honor choir members in background.

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9832 44th annual Loyalty Day program

By Jeffory McKenzie  
*Guest Writer*

For the past 44 years, on the 1st Sunday in the month of May, at the annual Loyalty Day Program, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its auxiliary, at Brooks W. Stewart VFW Post 9832, located at 4610 Sunray Dr. in Jackson, MS, take the opportunity to recognize and honor the Jackson Public School’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JPS-JROTC) Top Cadets from each of the seven (7) high school programs.

JPS-JROTC overall Top Cadet is always the keynote speaker for the program. Also recognized and honored are the JROTC Top Cadets from the surrounding tri-county area high schools and from the MS Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadron, located at Hawkins Field. The program also recognizes and honors the Top Cadets at Jackson State University’s ROTC program for the Army and the

Air Force branch of military services.

Each JSU-ROTC cadet has earned their commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in their branch of service.

The annual program also honors, recognizes and rewards the high school, middle school, charter school and home schooled students for their participation and efforts in the VFW’s annual Voice of Democracy (9th-12th grade) and Patriot’s Pen (6th-8th grade) essay contest.

At the program, school educators, public safety personnel from the Jackson Police Department, Jackson Fire Department, American Medical Response Service and from the Hinds County Sheriff Office were recognized and honored.

The program concludes with recognition and honors to members of the community that have volunteered their time and efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

(See photos on page 5)

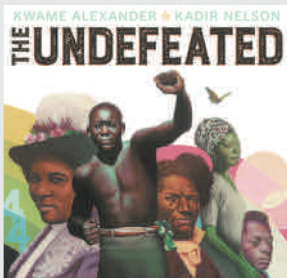


Provine HS Color Guard Team

Inside  
Forrest General honors Nurses of the Year



Undeclared



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# Breaking glass ceilings: Simon named first female band director of MVSU, SWAC

## Mississippi Link Newswire

A Mississippi Valley State University staff member has shattered the glass ceiling.

Kerry Anne Simon of Memphis, Tenn. has been named MVSU’s new director of university bands following the retirement of Kenneth Milton.

This announcement makes her the first female band director not only in MVSU history, but also the SWAC – MVSU’s collegiate athletic conference.

Simon has served as the associate director of bands at MVSU since Aug. 2017. She will officially begin her new role July 1, 2019.

MVSU President Jerryl Briggs said he is confident in Simon’s ability to lead the university’s band program.

“We’re excited to have Dr. Kerry Simon carry on and build upon the excellence of our University Bands program,” said Briggs. “As an alumna of MVSU, she has deep roots and an undeniable passion for The Valley. I am looking forward to seeing great things from her. Congratulations, Dr. Simon.”

Simon said she still hasn’t grasped the fact that she has made history.

“It hasn’t hit me yet,” she said.

“This is a male-dominated field, for sure. I think we’re in the time now where people are paying more attention to women in the workplace.”

Simon said that throughout her career, she has realized that being a female band director is a “big thing.”

“You have to make a lot of sacri-

fices as a band director anyway, and to be a female band director, the sacrifices you have to make are definitely tough,” she explained. “You have to watch out for two families – your family at home and your family in the classroom.”

Simon’s passion for music began in middle school.

“We had to take either band or choir. I’m a horrible singer, so they told me I should take band,” she chuckled.

Blossoming into a talented clarinet player, Simon’s high school band director encouraged her to seriously consider pursuing a career in music education.

“I am elated that I chose music,” she said. “In high school, I wanted to be a brain surgeon, but I’m so much happier with my choice.”

After high school, Simon attended MVSU, where she played in the “Mean Green Marching Machine” band under the direction of the legendary Leonard “Chief” Tramiel.

“Mr. Tramiel did not play any games. He gave me the discipline and the solid foundation needed to succeed,” she said. “My time at MVSU definitely prepared me to be a band director.”

Simon said her goal has never been to serve at an affluent music school.

“I knew I was a good teacher and my plight has always been to bring good, comprehensive music education programs at schools that wouldn’t normally get it.”

Simon brings a strong background

in music education. After graduating from MVSU in 1995, she received a Master of Education degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

“I thought I wanted to be a music administrator so that I could go into the schools and help band directors be great. But then I realized that I would never teach again – I would be sitting behind a desk for the rest of my life, and I was like ‘No,’” she said.

She decided to continue her education at Tennessee State University, where she received a Master of Music Education degree while working for Memphis City Schools.

In 2013, she earned a Ph.D. in Music Education from Florida State University and subsequently served at Coahoma Community College from 2014 to 2017 as the assistant director of bands before joining MVSU.

“To come home has been the icing on the cake,” said Simon. “I always knew I wanted to be a college band director, but to be able to come and give back to the university that helped me to be successful has been great.”

Her goals include taking the Mean Green Marching Machine to a new level.

“I would like for us to be a force to be reckoned with. I’m built with a mindset for greatness and I want that for Valley and the band,” she said.

As for breaking ceilings, for Simon, it’s just a part of the job.

“I don’t look at it like that. I just do what I do,” she said.



Simon



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## Confer

Continued from page 1

Makes Mississippi Beautiful.”

Another highlight of the day was when honor choir students from Terry and Raymond High Schools performed the song with Confer.

The Hinds County School District has adopted the song as an official anthem for the district, and honor choir students also recently performed the song with Confer as the finale for the district’s Fine Arts Festival March 21, at Hinds Community College.

Confer, whom wrote and produced the song, recently launched her “Mississippi Beautiful” City Halls Tour, where she greets community stakeholders and sings on the steps of city halls across the state. The platform has proven to be a refreshing way to build relationships, tell the Mississippi story and celebrate our people.

The inaugural “Mississippi Beautiful” City Hall Tour stop was in Tupelo, MS March 27; Vicksburg, MS was the second stop April 11.

Confer is taking her talents to the Windy City of Chicago as she will serve as co-host of the highly acclaimed “Mississippi Stage” at the Chicago Blues Festival in June.

*See photos page 16.*



## TCR

Continued from page 1



2014 reenactment of TCR opening celebration--with Chinese descendants at Promontory Point, Utah. PHOTO CREDIT: (C) CORKY LEE, PRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

railroad workers, which I will tell about soon.

I have learned that these two things – the effort now to tell the truth about history and the early shameful lying – arise from two opposing drives in every person which have been explained by Eli Siegel, founder of the education Aesthetic Realism. The first is the desire for respect which comes from our deepest desire, to like the world on an honest basis. The other is the desire for contempt: “the lessening of what is different from oneself as a means of self-increase as one sees it.”

Contempt is the cause of all injustice, including racism, war and economics based on using the work and lives of human beings for profit – something inextricably linked to the building of the railroads in America. When

contempt is studied – when we oppose it wherever it is, including in ourselves – I am convinced it will be seen that there is a greater pleasure in respect: wanting to know and be fair to the world and people.

This brings me to:

Corky Lee, Photography and “The Force of Ethics”

The noted photographer/photojournalist, Corky Lee, describes himself as an ABC from NYC—an American-born Chinese from New York City. For decades, he has been documenting the history, culture, daily lives and contributions of Pan Asian Americans coming from over 40 countries – including China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, India and Vietnam.

**TCP**  
*Continued on page 4*



Corky Lee at 2015 interview for “The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights” Oral History Project, points to his 2014 groundbreaking reenactment image with Chinese descendants: “Photographic Justice.” PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID M. BERNSTEIN

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## TCR

Continued from page 3

In 2015, I interviewed Lee for “The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights” Oral History Project. I gave the project this title arising from what Eli Siegel identified as the “force of ethics” working in reality and in people throughout history. The purpose of this oral history project is to learn from and gratefully acknowledge the work of unsung pioneers of all races and faiths in the struggle for justice.

Growing up, Lee was proud to learn from community elders that his ancestors built the railroad. Yet, while in junior high school in 1970, he was shocked to see in his school’s history text that no Chinese workers appeared in the official 1869 photograph celebrating the opening of the Transcontinental Railroad. Feeling certain that they must be there, he bought a magnifying glass to look more closely. The fact was — they were completely absent.

I respect Lee for the choice he then made: to use his disappointment and anger at this omission and the horrible racial prejudice it came from, not to be disillusioned but as a beginning point for seeking justice. This ethical choice led to something beautiful.

At that young age, he determined to set the record straight; to someday take a photograph that would represent history truly. He succeeded. After decades of research, he located descendants of many of the original Chinese railroad workers, and in 2014 brought them, mostly at his own expense, to Promontory Point, Utah, to the exact spot where the historically false 1869 photograph had been taken. And there, Lee took a new one, which he titled, “Photographic Justice.” Dressed in period clothing, these descendants

posed for a joyful reenactment of the 1869 opening celebration of the TCR, symbolically hammering the final Golden Spike into the track.

Lee’s 2014 reenactment photograph, and reports about it, spurred the growing interest in the contributions and rightful place in American history of Chinese immigrants and other marginalized workers. In 2017, the Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association (CRWDA) was founded to tell this story, joining with other groups representing descendants of the Irishmen, Mormons, Native Americans, enslaved and free Africans who built America’s railroads during and after the Civil War.

What began slowly became a major movement. On May 10, 2019 in Utah, thousands of people celebrated with descendants. I thought about Eli Siegel’s great definition of history, which is “shown feeling about the past” and this sentence from his comment on the definition, which I love: “The aim of history is to make past feeling felt more, or simply, the past felt more.”

Alice Bernstein, a journalist, civil rights historian, and Aesthetic Realism associate, had the honor to study with Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism, as she is to continue to study classes taught by Chairman of Education Ellen Reiss.

To learn more, visit [www.AestheticRealism.org](http://www.AestheticRealism.org). And for “The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights” Oral History Project, recognized by the Library of Congress as “important in preserving the American memory,” visit link: [www.AllianceofEthicsandArt.org](http://www.AllianceofEthicsandArt.org) or email: [projects@allianceofethicsandart.org](mailto:projects@allianceofethicsandart.org)



“Force of Ethics in Civil Rights” Oral History Project production team: Zishun Ning, Alice Bernstein, Allan Michael, David Bernstein. PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL J. BERNSTEIN




2018 reenactment in Utah, descendants of Native Americans, Asians and Mormons. At the center, wearing his tribal bonnet, is Darren Parry, chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. PHOTO CREDIT: BELIEVED TO BE BY ANDREA YEE.

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Book signing: 5:30 a.m.  
Reading and discussion: 6 a.m.  
Spirits of Passage exhibit open 7-8 p.m.  
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# 44th Annual Loyalty Day Program

May 5, 2019 • VFW Post 9832 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY JOHNSON AND ANITA YOUNG





# Our JPS Community Meeting Questions & Answers

## Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene led a discussion about the shared priorities and developing plans for the Jackson Public School District at an Our JPS sponsored community meeting held at New Horizon Church April 23. Below are the answers to questions submitted by attendees of that meeting.

**Q1.** Who can we contact now for any questions or concerns for transition out of high school?

The contact person will be contingent upon the nature of the transition.

Students who are transitioning out of high school due to graduation should contact the principal or counselor of that high school relative for needed documents, transcripts, recommendations, etc.

Students who are in need of transition services (e.g. exceptional education students) should contact the Office of Exceptional Education or the principal at their high school.

Students who are transitioning out of high school to attend another school or program should report to the high school and follow the District's withdrawal procedures. If the student is attempting to withdraw as a dropout, they should meet with the principal to discuss and review other options that may be available.

**Q2.** When we meet with the superintendent, JPS staff and principals, who does the follow-up?

It is the District's goal to always work towards a clear resolution at the conclusion of all meetings. If a resolution is not made, and follow-up is needed and communicated, District personnel is expected to follow up and respond with any additional information or findings. If a response is not provided, or suitable, please feel free to speak with the staff's supervisor.

**Q3.** I believe elementary and middle schools should have English, math and science every day.

**Q3.1** Where does the concept of the "block system" come from?

Middle and high schools across the country began implementing block schedules in the early 1990s. JPS implements a form of block schedule called an A/B Block Schedule. This schedule allows students to spend an extended period of time (100 minutes) every other day, versus 50 minutes, every day, like on a traditional schedule.

**Q3.2** Where or in what district is it successful?

Many districts across the country and state of Mississippi implement block schedules. Currently, most of the metro area school districts implement a block schedule. Hinds County School District uses a modified block schedule and Madison and Clinton are both on A/B Block schedules. Hinds County School District is C-rated, and Madison and Clinton are A-rated districts.

**Q3.3** Is it modeled after a successful district?

Yes.

**Q3.4** Are they malleable and fluid?

The District is and has always been open to reviewing and determining schedules that meet the needs of our scholars.

**Q4.** Are schools and the school's leaders interested in having a collaborative relationship with their communities and the community's leadership?

The District, schools and school leadership are very interested in and committed to creating productive and stable collaborative partnerships within their communities and the community's leaders. Please feel free to contact the school leaders directly, the Director of Partners in Education at (601) 960-8905, or any central office administrative staff at (601) 960-8700 for assistance.

**Q5.** What is the process for making sure new, young teachers are paired with seasoned teachers for support and direction?

New teachers are assigned a mentor from the district level to assist them with best practices and curriculum.

**Q6.** Why, with such a need for teachers, were two women that I know sent notices that they would not be rehired without any explanation?

All employees who have licenses expiring at the end of the school year will receive a letter of non-renewal. The cause for issuing the letter is included in the letter. Once the license is renewed or obtained, individuals recommended by the principal receive contracts for employment for the following school year.

**Q7.** How are you and your team addressing the lack of certified teachers in the classrooms?

Individuals who are interested in becoming certified educators are being educated on Mississippi licensure requirements and assisted with the certification process in various ways. There are many techniques the District is using to recruit certified staff, including, but not limited to:

- Training and counseling for teacher certification exam preparation and resources for alternative teacher preparation programs.

- Working with the MDE to pilot alternative certification programs in order to help individuals from the Jackson community to become certified teachers.

- JPS is also attending educator recruitment fairs and college and community career fairs to recruit certified and non-certified personnel to our school district and the field of education in general.

- Plans are being made to introduce campus/district tours and virtual training on educator certification.

- Developing a stronger internet presence through social media, internet job boards and our own website.

- Developing partnerships with local colleges/universities to assist with educator certification and development.

- Utilizing partnerships with organizations across the country that provides opportunities for high-quality educators to serve in critical shortage areas.

**Q8.** What recruitment processes are you using?

The teacher shortage is a combination of different variables related to interest in the field of education as a career and difficulty meeting certification requirements nationwide. All the recruitment efforts listed above are not just to fill positions in JPS, but to recruit individuals to the teaching profession as a whole.

**Q9.** Have you considered identifying future educators at the freshman or other levels, mentoring and investing financially in them as JPS instructors/educators, who will commit/obligate themselves for X number of years to JPS?

We absolutely have. JPS has looked at developing a "Grow Your Own" program that would function at every level, such as:

- Focusing on recruiting certified personnel from teacher preparation programs within Jackson, the state of Mississippi, across the United States and beyond.

- Certifying and developing educators from the community through non-traditional educator program partnerships and in-district methods.

- Motivating and promoting the career of education within our own middle and high schools that would incentivize our own students to become certified teachers to teach within the District for a commitment of five years in exchange for paid undergraduate tuition.

These programs are still in the process of being brought to fruition, and funding is still being identified. This is an important mission for the District to ensure we have certified, highly-qualified educators in every classroom.

**Q10.** Is the administrative staff too top heavy? If so, what are your plans to rectify that? How are these new positions going to affect teacher pay?

New positions in the restructure will not impact teacher pay. In fact, due to strategic mergers of departments and the elimination of several administrative roles, the District reorganization of central office roles will save nearly \$1 million.

**Q11.** Equity – Access to technology seems to be a challenge in some schools. When do you anticipate the playing field to be level?

Our Instructional Technology team is working to ensure that all schools have equitable access to technology. Principals recently completed a school technology plan which outlines the existing technology their schools have (e.g. desktop computers, smart boards, laptops and LCD projectors) and their prioritized needs for the next two years.

**Q12.** How will the reorganization affect exceptional education students and the current services they receive at JPS schools?

The Exceptional Education Department and its staff have not been impacted by the District's reorganization.

**Q13.1.** What is the process for work-

ing with failing schools and classrooms?

Schools currently rated F receive additional support from the District's Office of State and Federal Programs. They are also eligible for grant funding that can be used to implement their instructional program or provide teacher coaching and professional development.

**Q13.2.** What is the plan for using assessment to positively impact instruction and growth?

Our testing practices are currently under review and we are looking for ways to streamline our process. These changes will provide us the data needed to better understand what students have mastered and to modify instruction where appropriate.

**Q13.3.** How will it align to curriculum and standards?

Each of our current assessments is aligned to state standards and gives us a reliable indication of how students are likely to perform on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests.

**Q13.4.** How will we ensure it doesn't take too much time?

Testing time is an important issue. We need to build students' reading and testing stamina while being sensitive to the fact that testing too long reduces the reliability of the results.

**Q13.5.** Our children need test-taking skills. When will the hamster's wheel stop teaching children to the test instead of equipping them to be able to test? Can so much (often) testing be reduced or at least combined?

Yes. Our testing practices are currently under review, and we are looking for ways to streamline our process. These changes will provide us the data needed to better understand what students have mastered and to modify instruction where appropriate.

**Q13.6.** Can we return to paper and pencil tests?

Yes.

**Q13.7.** How much do we pay to take computer-based tests per student?

\$9.50 for middle school students, \$6 for high school students and \$5.40 for elementary students.

**Q14.** Other districts have driver's education taught in the high schools. When can JPS offer an equitable experience like this in our District with a certified teacher?

There is no plan to expand driver education in the District at this time.

**Q15.** There is a history of moving principals when they are performing well. Can we somehow compensate or give them a mentee to allow them to have a dual role and grow?

Our District is currently engaged in a strategic planning process which emphasizes the importance of building our teacher and principal leader pipelines. Our most successful principals will be an important asset in this process of supporting the growth of their colleagues. We will also continue to support the advancement of talented and proven instructional leaders into district-level roles where they can expand their impact by helping to grow others.

**Q16.** How will you address classroom size as you continuously close and consolidate schools?

Our current average student-teacher ratio for elementary schools is just 17-1. The state mandates that class size does not exceed 27-1. We are actively reviewing enrollment trends to ensure that class size is manageable for our teachers at every grade level.

**Q17.** Exceptional Education has multiple components, particularly cognitive and behavioral. The programs in place to address behavioral components seem to have plateaued with limited global/districtwide improvement. What is the plan to ensure we are making improvements regarding disruptive behaviors?

Behavior specialists assess the school culture and climate and its surrounding community resources to make sound decisions about social and emotional learning in schools districtwide when providing services. They also provide research-based practices in their scope of services and recommendations to schools to address and intervene in disruptive behaviors. Supports for personnel in the form of professional development is highly recommended to combat schoolwide behaviors that are problematic.

Behavior specialists are monitoring aberrant behavior with students. When identified, the staff uses cognitive behavioral curricula to address antisocial

behavior. Through this process, students are taught replacement behavior and, when appropriate, complete restorative activities specific to aberrant behavior. This process is documented using a Behavior Intervention Plan. Behavior specialists meet with the Individualized Education Program team to analyze the integrity and fidelity of the plan through a systematic process. The progress of the intervention is reported at the natural progression.

**Q18** What services outside of the Extended School Year, during summer months can my child engage in?

Most services and certain summer camps stop for high schools and are almost non-existent for high school exceptional education students. However, a few summer programs are listed below.

- Autism Resource Center Summer Reading Programs

Eudora Welty Library  
(601) 968-5811  
Pre-registration required.

- Exceptional Education Summer Reading Programs

Eudora Welty Library  
(601) 968-5811

2019 Summer Experience  
Jackson Medical Mall  
(601) 982-8467

Pre-Registration required.

Summer of Community (K-6th grade)  
Operation Shoestring  
(601) 353-6336

**Q19.** Will the District help transport students to after-school programs such as the Boys & Girls Club?

The Transportation Department has worked with the Boys & Girls Club for years. However, the numbers of students attending the Boys & Girls Club are now increasing. This has caused some of our buses to be overloaded.

**Q20.** How will you consider equity in making sure that transportation is available as much for academic teams as it is for athletic teams?

The Transportation Department does not hold any special event (academics or athletics) in higher regard than others. We try to accommodate all requests.

**Q21.** What are you doing to make sure transportation requests for extra-curricular activities are handled expertly and in a timely manner?

Transportation has a system in place that requires schools to make requests at least two weeks ahead of time. This gives the department time to plan to make sure that requests are honored. However, we know there are times that academic and athletic teams may not know that far in advance. The Transportation Department does all it can to ensure requests are honored in a timely manner.

**Q22.** When will work start on the \$65 million bond?

May 2019.

**Q23.** If schools are closing, when will we know, and what happens to bond dollars for those schools?

No schools are scheduled to close this year.

**Q24.** What will you do with vacant schools that you close?

The District is currently reviewing proposals and options that have been presented for the schools that are closed. The administration will then determine what will be the best use for each.

**Q25.** Are any thoughts being given to ways to eliminate so much paperwork for teachers so they will have time and energy to work with our students?

Yes, we have heard feedback about excessive paperwork burdens from a

number of our teachers. We are engaging with our assessment and data vendors to help us generate more automated forms and reports so that teachers are not having to cut and paste information that exists in other formats. These changes will allow teachers to place more of their time on the important work of supporting our scholars.

**Q26.** Why is it that public comments are not promoted at and before School Board meetings?

Public comments are promoted on and before Board meetings. They are always included on Board Meeting agendas that we post online and on the front door of the building where School Board meetings are held. Agendas are posted the week of the meeting. Also, the Board Meeting Schedule can be found on our website. From our Homepage, touch About and then School Board.

**Q27.** As a grandparent of 13 grandchildren, why can't we have ceremony days etched in stone? I have a two-week notice for my job. Why can't moms and dads be given the same option for giving notices to take off?

Schools determine the dates of all school level events.

**Q28.** How can neighborhood associations be of benefit to the neighborhood schools from your perspective?

JPS' Office of Partners in Education works to connect community resources with school needs through our Adopt-A-School initiative. The goal is to cultivate data-driven support to our scholars and educators to enhance their educational experiences and support their social-emotional needs. Each JPS site has completed a Partnership Plan that outlines their most pressing needs in three areas: Academic Improvement/Support, Teacher and Scholar Incentives/Recognition and Facility Support. We are currently working with several neighborhood associations/school partnerships, and welcome additional groups. Please contact Partners in Education at (601) 960-8905 for additional information.

**Q29.** With the difficulty retaining teachers, and only 50% of teachers certified, how can/will you implement a comprehensive, productive program to address students' individual needs (e.g. struggling students and Response to Intervention)?

The District plans to implement a more comprehensive, productive program that will address the needs of all students through the adoption and implementation of a new curriculum. The new language arts and mathematics curriculum will assist classroom teachers with the instructional deficits that new teachers face relative to content knowledge and pedagogy (the interaction between teacher and students during the lesson; the act, teaching process). Tier I instruction will provide explicit instruction in the various skills and concepts. The proposed lesson structure is consistent and contains implementation tips and scaffolds. Scaffolds provide support and a variety of instructional techniques to help students bridge gaps and have a deeper understanding. The curriculum also provides differentiation and extension opportunities. What we mean by differentiation is the use of various instructional strategies to help all students master the same skill or concept. Effective implementation of Tier I instruction will provide supplemental instruction for both struggling and advanced learners. Intervention sessions will be scheduled and, therefore, become a part of the daily instructional routine.

## The Mississippi Link™

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## Mississippi expands STEM Education in schools, districts through grants

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Fifteen Mississippi school districts will share more than \$896,000 in grants to establish or enhance programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in kindergarten through 8th grade.

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) awarded funding for the K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project Grant to support implementation of STEM activities in classrooms and coursework, while providing technology upgrades and educator training to implement STEM applications. Priority was given to schools implementing engineering, computer science, robotics, and other project-based STEM activities to expand the current Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for math and/or science K-8.

“These grants will help schools increase opportunities for students to explore STEM education in elementary and middle school so they will be better prepared for STEM courses in high school,” said Nathan Oakley, chief academic officer. “STEM-related professions are growing, and there is an increasing demand for high school and college graduates with expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

The following districts and schools were selected to receive the grant through a competitive request for application process:

1. Corinth School District - Corinth Elementary School and Corinth Middle School
2. Greene County School District - Leakesville Junior High School, McLain Attendance Center and Sand Hill School
3. Kemper County School District - West Kemper Elementary School
4. Lamar County School District - Oak Grove Primary
5. Lauderdale County School District - Clarkdale Middle School, Northeast Middle School, Southeast Middle School and West Lauderdale Middle School
6. McComb School District - Summit Elementary School
7. Neshoba County Schools - Neshoba Central Elementary School and Neshoba Central Middle School
8. North Panola School District - Como Primary School and North Panola Middle School
9. Pearl Public School District - Pearl Junior High School
10. Pontotoc City School District - DT Cox Elementary School and Pontotoc Elementary School
11. Rankin County School District - Brandon Middle School
12. Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District - Armstrong Middle School, Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary, Overstreet Elementary School, and Sudduth Elementary School
13. Wayne County School District - Buckatunna School, Clara School and Wayne Central School
14. Webster County - East Webster Elementary and Eupora Elementary
15. Winona - Montgomery Consolidated School District - Winona Elementary School and Winona Secondary School.

# Alcorn commemorates 2019 Spring Commencement

*Graduates earn certificates, pray, party and celebrate*



PHOTOS BY DR. JERRY KOMIA DOMATOB

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer

Most roads led to the famous Alcorn State University Lorman-Mississippi Saturday, May 4, 2019 as graduates and stakeholders celebrated their spring commencement with cheers, joy and merriment.

Despite morning torrential rains, which might have dampened spirits, friends, families and fans defied the adverse weather conditions and converged at the picturesque campus for the event.

### Commencement Convocation

The commencement Convocation included a prelude, processional, invocation, songs, award of excellence and honorary degree conferral. The honorary degree recipient who also delivered the commencement address was, the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Entergy Corporation, Leo Denault. In his speech, he congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to implement the knowledge, skills and proficiencies they had garnered at Alcorn State University.

### Dynamic Activities

Other activities included the presentation of earned degrees; induction of graduating class into the alumni association and presentation of Alcornites of the year. Closing remarks, the Alcorn Ode and Processional wrapped the occasion, which was also marked by Sorority and Fraternity merry-making through songs, gestures, drama and dance.

### Alcornites of The Year

A unique feature of the 2019 commencement was the introduction of Alcornites of the year. These are notable Alcornites, who bequeathed memorable legacies in recent times. They included Alcorn's Football coach Fred McNair; Mississippi's current Commissioner for Higher Education Alfred Rankins Jr and Senator Willie Simmons, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee since 1993.

### Leadership Team

In his message, Interim President, Dr. Donzell Lee said, “It is with great excitement that I congratulate you on earning a post secondary degree at Alcorn State University. You have made it through college, which required concentration and discipline. Your Alcorn family is proud of you.”

Founded in 1871, Alcorn State University, among other objectives, champions service,



scholarship and dignity.

The current leadership team consists of Dr. Donzell Lee and Dr. John G. Igwebuike as interim president and vice president for Academic Affairs respectively.

Deans include: Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Dr. Edmund Buckner; Arts and

Sciences, Dr. Babu Patlolla; Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean School of Business, Dr. Donna Williams; Dean School of Education and Psychology, Dr. Ivan Banks; Dean School of Nursing, Dr. Debra Spring; Julia Odom, Director of Graduate Studies and Assistant

Vice President of Academic Programming Support; Dean University College, Dr. Valerie Thompson and Dean, University Libraries, Dr. Blanche Sanders.

Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob is a professor of Mass Communication, Alcorn State University, Lorman-

Mississippi. An author, journalist, photographer, poet and researcher, he is currently working on three projects. His latest publications are: Communication, Culture and Human Rights and Positive Vibrations. Contact him at: Jdomatob@yahoo.com.







# Eighteen cadets commissioned as U.S. Army officers

By Rachel James-Terry  
jsumsnews.com

Eighteen cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony inside the Jackson State University Student Center hosted by the College of Liberal Arts May 2. Lt. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, deputy chief of Staff, G-4, United States Army, served as keynote.

Celebrating the officers for joining what he described as one of the most respected professions in the world, Piggee said leadership is the “special sauce” that separates the American soldier from other occupations.

But an essential characteristic of leadership is trust, said the Arkansas native quoting his mentor, Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Secretary of State. He told the cadets that their challenge would be to gain the trust of the young men and women that the military has entrusted to their leadership.

“Gen. Powell stated that good leaders create conditions of trust in their organization. As a lieutenant, he said he learned from a sergeant in infantry school that no matter how cold it was you never would appear that you were cold,” he said. “It doesn’t matter how hungry you get in front of your soldiers; you would never appear to be hungry. No matter how scared you get (and you will be scared at some of the tasks we’re going to give you), you never let the soldiers that you lead know that you are scared because you are the example.”

As deputy chief of staff, Piggee appears to know a thing or two about being an example. He oversees policies and procedures used by all Army logisticians throughout the world. He has also covered a multitude of assignments including director of logistics and engineering, U.S. central, commanding general 21st Theater Sustainment Command and executive officer to the vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, the Pentagon.

Before issuing the oath of office, the general informed the cadets that no one wins a war alone. “The Army and what we do is a team effort. By saying your name and reciting that oath, you are signing up to be a key part of our special team,” he said.

Piggee then asked the cadets to remember that life is all about the journey and not a destination.

“You’re going to have bumps and bruises. You’re going to have ups and downs. You’re going to have challenges. But those challenges define who we are and make us the officers we become. So, I challenge you to learn from those challenges and, most of all, enjoy your journey,” he commanded.

Referring to noted JSU alum Walter Payton, Piggee said the former Chicago Bears running back described what it meant to be a winner. “And he said, and I quote, that ‘a winner is somebody who has given his best effort, who has tried their hardest to utilize every ounce of energy and strength within them to accomplish something. It doesn’t mean they accomplished it or that they failed. It means that they’ve given their best. That’s a winner.’”

The keynote said the army needs winners like Payton described. He then commended the cadets for their champion



Cadets of the Tiger Battalion's class of 2019 take the oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU



Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, deputy chief of Staff, G-4, United States Army, served as keynote for the commissioning ceremony hosted by the College of Liberal Arts May 2.



James A. Jefferson, graphic design major, who graduated May 4, is pinned by his parents during the commissioning ceremony.



William B. Bynum, (right) 11th president of Jackson State University, pauses to take a picture with Lt. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, (left) keynote speaker for the Tiger Battalion, class of 2019.

actions like getting a degree “from one of the greatest institutions represented here,” and waking up doing “PT,” serving their community, mentoring school children; volunteering at the food bank, at the zoo, at the museum and student government. “It tells me you all are winners today,” he said.

While he called this generation much more informed and connected than previous generations, due to technological advancements, Piggee said the following necessities have not changed:

- Competence: Strive for perfection. No soldier should be satisfied where he or she finds themselves.
- Commitment: Anything in life that’s worth doing is worth doing 100 percent. Always give your best effort. Never be afraid of hard work, putting in the extra time, reading on your own or finding the job that makes you uncomfortable.
- Character: A leader needs to possess a sterling character.

“For people who make mistakes trying to do something new or trying to make things better, I will underwrite those mistakes as long as they’re not illegal, unethical, immoral or unsafe...But, for me, of these three values, character is most important,” he said.

The general encouraged the new officers to remember the golden rule: “Always treat others with dignity and respect – the way you expect to be treated.”

Newly minted 2nd Lt., Conelous Stiff said he loved being a cadet at Jackson State University. He then credited Lt. Col. Dexter M. Brookins, department chair & professor of military science, for leading their battalion the right way.

“He showed a lot of tough love. Overall, it was a great experience. I’m really proud of my fellow second lieutenants. We stayed on each other,” said the Yazoo City native, who graduated with honors and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering.

This will be the last commissioning for Brookins who is set to retire this year. His advice to the 18 graduates is: “Do your job; show up early; do what your boss says to do and take care of folks.”

The commissioned second lieutenants are:

- **Melvin Williams, Jr.**, Bachelor of Science, biology
- **Conelous Stiff**, Bachelor of Science, civil engineering
- **April M. Bennett**, Master of Social Work
- **Marquise D. Robinson**, Bachelor of Arts, criminal justice

# JSU athletics receive favorable APR scores, ninth consecutive year

Jackson State University

For the ninth straight year, the Jackson State University Division of Athletics received favorable NCAA Academic Progress Rate scores, and no JSU teams were placed in the NCAA penalty structure.

Penalties arise when a team’s scores fall below 930. All of JSU’s 16 sponsored sports are eligible for post-season play heading into the 2019-20 academic year. As an athletic department, JSU finished with a 981.

Men’s cross country, men’s tennis and women’s bowling each earned a score of 1000 and was publicly recognized by the NCAA.

Ashley Robinson, vice president and director of athletics at JSU, applauded Tiger student-athletes for their continued dedication in the classroom, as well as on the court and field of competition.

“Our student-athletes continue to raise the bar each and every year, in conjunction with our athletics academic enhancement staff who in my opinion is the best in the nation,” Robinson said. “We have total buy-in from the entire campus – from the president’s office on down. I think all of those elements play a huge role in terms of our APR scores and why we are a model NCAA program.”

In addition, five of JSU’s Division I sports lead the SWAC in APR scores: football, men’s cross country, men’s tennis, women’s bowling and women’s soccer.



Robinson

Jackson State is one of the leaders in the area of APR among historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and limited resource schools. According to the latest APR reports, JSU’s single-year Academic Progress Rate for limited-resource schools has increased from 939 to 981 since 2010.

Every Division I sports team throughout the nation calculates its APR each academic year, like a report card. Student-athletes on scholarship earn one point each semester for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school or graduating. At schools that don’t offer scholarships, recruited student-athletes are tracked. Rates are an average of each school’s performance for the past four years.

# JSU alum youngest tenured associate professor of accounting at Howard University

Jackson State University

At the age of 34, Adrian L. Mayse, CPA, has become the youngest tenured associate professor of accounting at Howard University. A native of Byhalia, Mayse received his B.B.A. in finance from the University of Mississippi and his M.P.A. from JSU in ’07.

Months before starting his doctoral program at Jackson State, Mayse’s brother was killed in an unfortunate car accident. However, instead of giving in to grief, he soldiered forward and is reaping the rewards of his work.

“I had to depend on a strength that was higher than myself. I have learned how to turn my tragedy into a testimony. So my hope today is to continue to serve students and contribute to the field of accounting and always remember those who have paved the way for me,” he said. “Special thanks to my mentors: Dr. Quinton Booker, Dr. Bobbie Daniels and my partner Duvalier Malone for all of their support.”

Before joining the faculty at Howard University in 2015, Mayse was a faculty member at Middle Tennessee State University. His research focuses on the judgment and decision making of auditors and financial statement users concerning audit standard setting and regulation. Additionally, his research appears in the Journal of Accounting and Finance, Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives, Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics, Journal of



Mayse

Behavioral Studies in Business and the Journal of Finance and Accountancy. Mayse also teaches international accounting and accounting information systems and the master of accountancy’s seminar in accounting course. He has taught cost accounting, accounting principles II and accounting principles I.

He worked for the Mississippi Department of Revenue for three years as a tax auditor. He is a member of the American Accounting Association, the American Institute of CPAs, the Ph.D. Project and the National Association of Black Accountants.

Mayse said he is looking forward to the next chapter of his career and hopes that his journey inspires others to achieve their dream.



## Employees honored for service at Miss. State Hospital



Mississippi State Hospital May service award recipients include: Front row (left to right): Vera Knight (Pearl, 25 years), Laniece Walker (Jackson, 10 years), Kenisha Travis (Flowood, 1 year). Second row (L-R): Same'as Howard (Madison, 5 years), Lisa Nichols (Brandon, 1 year), Zeno Mangum (Pearl, 20 years). Third row (L-R): Regina Shaw (Richland, 1 year), Demonbre Stapleton (Byram, 1 year). Back row (L-R): Shaunelius Davis (Pearl, 15 years), Shemecka Johnson (Pelahatchie, 15 year), Jonathan Taylor (Jackson, 1 year), Johnny Thompson (Brandon, 25 years).

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

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

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

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

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

MSH, a program of the

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

## Mississippi joins lawsuit against Teva Pharmaceuticals, others for fixed prices conspiracy

### Second lawsuit filed in ongoing expanding investigation

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney General Jim Hood joined 44 states, led by Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, in announcing a lawsuit against Teva Pharmaceuticals and 19 of the nation's largest generic drug manufacturers, alleging a broad conspiracy to artificially inflate and manipulate prices, reduce competition and unreasonably restrain trade for more than 100 different generic drugs.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, also names 15 individual senior executive defendants at the heart of the conspiracy who were responsible for sales, marketing, pricing and operations.

The drugs at issue account for billions of dollars of sales in the United States, and the alleged schemes increased prices, affecting the health insurance market, taxpayer-funded healthcare programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and individuals who must pay artificially-inflated prices for their prescriptions drugs.

The complaint alleges that Teva, Sandoz and Mylan, and 17 other generic drug manufacturers engaged in a broad, coordinated and systematic campaign to conspire with each other to fix prices, allocate markets and rig bids for more than 100 different generic drugs.

The drugs span all types and classes, including statins, ace inhibitors, beta blockers, antibiotics, anti-depressants, contraceptives, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and treat a range of diseases and conditions from basic infections to diabetes, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, HIV, ADHD, and more.

In some instances, the coordinated price increases were over 1,000 percent.

The complaint lays out an interconnected web of industry executives who met with each other during industry dinners, "girls nights out," cocktail parties, golf outings and communicated via frequent telephone calls, emails and text messages to establish their illegal agreements. Throughout the complaint, defendants use terms like "fair share," "playing nice in the sandbox," and "responsible competitor" to describe how they unlawfully discouraged competition, raised prices and enforced an ingrained culture

of collusion.

The lawsuit seeks a wide range of remedies including civil penalties and actions by the court to restore competition to the generic drug market.

"As we grapple with increasing drug prices, it is no surprise that nearly the entire generic drug market appears to be rigged. These are drugs that our citizens rely on every day," Hood said. "As Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, I have made protecting Mississippi taxpayers a priority, especially against big pharmaceutical companies who take advantage of our state's most vulnerable, and I am continuing my fight to hold those companies and individuals accountable."

The complaint is the second to be filed in an ongoing, expanding investigation regarding what may be the largest cartel case in the history of the United States. The first complaint, still pending in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, was filed in 2016 and now includes 18 corporate defendants, two individual defendants and 15 generic drugs.

Two former executives from Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Jeffery Glazer and Jason Malek, have entered into settlement agreements and are cooperating with the attorneys general working group in that case.

### Corporate Defendants

1. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
2. Sandoz, Inc.
3. Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc.
4. Actavis Holdco US, Inc.
5. Actavis Pharma, Inc.
6. Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
7. Apotex Corp.
8. Aurobindo Pharma U.S.A., Inc.
9. Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc.
10. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Inc.
11. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc. USA
12. Greenstone LLC
13. Lannett Company, Inc.
14. Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
15. Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc.
16. Pfizer, Inc.
17. Taro Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
18. Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC
19. Wockhardt USA, LLC

20. Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA), Inc.

### Individual defendants

1. Ara Aprahamian, vice president of sales and marketing at Taro Pharmaceuticals U.S.A, Inc.
  2. David Berthold, vice president of sales at Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
  3. James Brown, vice president of sales at Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
  4. Maureen Cavanaugh, former senior vice president and chief commercial officer, North America, for Teva
  5. Marc Falkin, former vice president, marketing, pricing and contracts at Actavis
  6. James Grauso, former senior vice president, commercial operations for Aurobindo from December 2011 through January 2014.
  7. Kevin Green, former director of national accounts at Teva from January 2006 through October 2013.
  8. Armando Kellum, former vice president, contracting and business analytics at Sandoz
  9. Jill Nailor, senior director of sales and national accounts at Greenstone
  10. James Nesta, vice president of sales at Mylan
  11. Kon Ostaficiuk, the president of Camber Pharmaceuticals, Inc
  12. Nisha Patel, former director of strategic customer marketing and later, director of national accounts at Teva.
  13. David Rekenhaller, former vice president, sales US Generics at Teva
  14. Richard Rogerson, former executive director of pricing and business analytics at Actavis
  15. Tracy Sullivan DiValerio, director of national accounts at Lannett
- In addition to Connecticut and Mississippi, other states who joined the suit include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Puerto Rico.



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# Metro Atlanta's diversity complicates Census count

By Khalil Abdullah  
TriceEdneyWire.com

Inside the Clarkston Community Center, a 20-minute drive from downtown Atlanta, Mayor Ted Terry talked about canvassing for votes in that neighborhood five years ago.

A woman from Bhutan, South Asia, he told his audience, had invited him into her apartment for a cup of sweet tea and cookies, apparently to practice the little English she knew. It was small talk. Her mother, draped in a sari, joined them. She spoke no English, but nodded politely.

Some pundits deemed Terry's European ancestry a handicap in his eventual mayoral victory. His claim that Clarkston, a small city of about 13,000, is "the most ethnically diverse square mile in America," is no idle boast. According to census data, more than 50 languages are spoken there, likely because of the city's willingness to serve as a refugee resettlement community since the 1990s.

Terry recalled his good fortune the day he canvassed, not so much for the cookies and tea that sated his sweet tooth, but for his host's 15-year-old son, who returned during the visit.

"He was dressed like Justin Bieber — tight jeans, baseball cap," Terry said. More important, his English was excellent, he was able to convey the issues at stake to his mother and grandmother — in their language — and he linked his high school friends to Terry's Facebook page.

The import of encountering a multigenerational immigrant or refugee family with a member fluent in English — and at ease with technology — wasn't lost on Terry's audience, who had been co-convened by the Leadership Conference Education Fund and Ethnic Media



Services.

This meeting's objective, said EMS Executive Director Sandy Close, was "to forge a sense of excitement and common purpose among the influencers, media, elected officials and, above all, the frontline organizers crucial to getting as complete a count as possible for the 2020 census."

Fair Count, an organization taking dead aim at increasing census participation in Georgia, was recently launched by Stacey Abrams, who narrowly lost her bid in the state's gubernatorial race. Her sister, Fair Count Program Director Jeanine Abrams McLean, said that 86 of Georgia's 159 counties have been designated as hard-to-count census tracts. Also, McLean reported, roughly 30 percent of the state's population didn't participate in the last census, and in some Georgia areas "20% of the population has no or limited access to the Internet."

The latter is of serious concern. Census 2020 will be the first to introduce Internet response as a critical method of

enumeration in a state that has seen a significant population increase.

Erik Woodworth, a senior planner with the Atlanta Regional Commission, told attendees that Atlanta, trailing only Dallas, Houston and New York, is fourth among the top 10 U.S. metro areas experiencing the largest population gain since the 2010 census. "We've added almost 600,000 people to the Atlanta metro region," he said.

Clarkston's DeKalb County sits east of and adjacent to Atlanta's Fulton County. Combining DeKalb's demographics with neighboring Gwinnett shows a pronounced presence of foreign-born residents and a decrease in those whose primary language is English.

As reported by the Census Bureau, "by 2016, more than two-thirds of the foreign-born resided in the South or West." That geographic shift, reflected in the DeKalb County region, portends a possible repeat of Georgia's census undercount in 2010.

Even with the Census Bu-

reau's multiple language-assistance initiatives, the concept of the census is unfamiliar to some communities and its benefits seem far removed. For others, concerns about privacy issues might impede census responses, particularly in households where immigration status may be in flux among occupants.

"Why should I participate in the census, as a foreigner, as an immigrant, or as a refugee?" That's the feedback Doris Mukangu from the Amani Women Center in Clarkson said she expects to encounter among the primarily African refugee population her organization serves. Restricted Internet access and lack of computer skills, added Mukangu, are hurdles to achieving high response rates. Another is illiteracy: "You give me the form and I can't read it."

To these and other challenges, Kevin Sinha, of CivicGeorgia, insisted that organizations work together to "fill in the gaps" for better coverage and to be persistent about going back to neighborhoods and communities that may have avoided or declined discussions about the census.



Hugley

"Go back again," Sinha said, urging attendees not take an initial reluctance to discuss census issues as final.

The two elected state officials at the meeting, Rep. Carolyn Hugley and Rep. Brenda Lopez, cited the high stakes for their constituents' future. Hugley, a 27-year veteran of the legislature, also serves as board chair for Fair Count. She said she learned from her mother, a school teacher, that it's important to tell people what they need to remember.

"There are three R's and two U's," Hugley said of the census: research, resources, representation, underfunded and underrepresented. Research yields the census data essential for planning school expansions, roads, and other infrastructure efforts. Resources that support various federal programs, like Section 8 housing or supplemental food programs, are derived from census data. Representation that enables constituencies to elect officials who reflect their aims and aspirations relies on census data for accuracy and fairness.

In order to reap benefits, Hug-

ley stressed, "you have to be counted. If you are undercounted, you will be underfunded and underrepresented."

Lopez concurred, and emphasized how participating in the census affects federal funding for school systems and social services — things that touch people's daily lives and particularly their children's quality of life.

Indeed, data show that, up to the age of four, Hispanic children lead the undercount at 8%. That rate is higher than even the historically undercounted African-American child population, at 6%. White children have the lowest undercount at 3%. Children invisible to the census may not bring dollars to their communities, but they still have needs that cost money, or, as Hugley observed, "services still have to be provided."

The enthusiasm generated by the event was palpable, despite the session concluding with a discussion of whether a question on citizenship status will be included on the census form. On a request from the Trump administration for an expedited decision, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on this issue in April. A ruling is expected in time for census forms to be printed July 1.

Whether the question is included or not, Lopez said the complete count work needs to continue. She encouraged the media to be fully engaged with what Sonum Nerurkar, Get Out the Count manager for the Leadership Conference Education Fund, calls "one of the most pressing civil rights issues in our country."

"If we don't get the census right," Nerurkar said, "we will see these impacts over the next 10 years. ...We want to make sure our communities are seen and heard."

# 65 years after Brown v. Board of Education, We Risk Going Backward

By Jesse Jackson  
TriceEdneyWire.com

This week marks the 65th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the unanimous Supreme Court decision that outlawed apartheid in America, declaring segregated schools "inherently unequal" and unconstitutional. Today, the common sense of the Brown decision is under attack. For nearly three decades, our schools have been resegregating, reversing the progress made under Brown, reflecting the deep racial and economic segregation of our communities.

Worse, several of Donald Trump's nominees to the federal courts refuse even to endorse Brown as unassailable law. As the United States grows more diverse, we run the risk of becoming more separate and more unequal.

The decision in Brown was and is compelling. Racially segregated schools were and are inherently separate and unequal. They also were and are unequal in resources. In affluent, largely white suburbs, public schools are new and modern, with advanced facilities and courses and good teachers. Research shows that integration works. Segregation injures the chances for



## COMMENTARY

be old and dilapidated, with less experienced teachers, fewer resources and fewer advanced courses.

Research shows that integration works. Segregation injures the chances for

achievement, college success, long-term employment and income of students of color. Integration raises those chances with no detriment to white students. Indeed, the experience of going to a diverse

school better prepares students of all races for the world they will enter.

With neighborhoods largely segregated a legacy of racially restrictive laws and covenants, of bank and real estate red lining and more integration of public schools inevitably required busing. Busing, of course, is routine across America, a service to parents.

But opponents of integration used "forced busing" to rouse fears and hatred. The question was never about busing, it was about where the bus delivered the students.

When the federal courts, packed by judges appointed by Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, retreated from desegregation orders, the schools began to resegregate.

Now, as Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA), chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor concludes: "After four decades without federal support for desegregation, we are right back where we started," with schools that are increasingly separate and unequal.

A recent report, "Harming our Common Future, America's Segregated Schools 65 Years After Brown," by the

UCLA Civil Rights Project and the Pennsylvania State University Center for Education and Civil Rights, detailed the bleak reality. As the *Washington Post's* Valerie Strauss summarizes, "Over the past three decades, black students have been increasingly segregated in intensely segregated schools (defined as 90 to 100 percent nonwhite)."

By 2016, 40 percent of all black students were in segregated schools. The worst states? The "blue" states of New York, California, Illinois and Maryland, with New York the most segregated for blacks and California the most segregated for Latinos.

This isn't just an urban problem: our suburbs are increasingly divided by race, with African-American suburban students attending schools that are three-fourths nonwhite, and white students in the same suburbs going to schools that are, on average, two-thirds white.

Charter schools — increasingly a profit-making venture rather than an educational one — are even more segregated than traditional public schools. Schools are segregated because our neighborhoods are segregated. Without residential

integration and without metropolitan — wide integration policies, segregation will intensify, even as the country grows more diverse. Yet requirements that communities pursue residential integration remain unenforced and programs to subsidize scattered affordable housing are weak at best.

Now 65 years later, we face a stark choice: the promise of Brown or a country torn apart by racial tensions. Sadly, as Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, reports, Donald Trump's nominees to the federal bench increasingly refuse to endorse Brown v. Board as unassailable law. The Republican Senate is about to confirm three of these judges to lifetime appointments. Like the Voting Rights Act, gutted by five right-wing justices in the Shelby case, Brown v. Board of Education itself may be at risk.

Sixty-five years later, with our country more diverse than ever, we must once again decide if we will be one nation, with liberty and justice for all. That cannot be left to right-wing judges or timorous politicians. It is time once more for citizens of conscience to call this nation back to its better an-



# What must I do to be saved?

## PART 2

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



“What must I do to be saved?” What a tremendous question. Of all the questions ever uttered by the human soul, there is not one in all the universe of God, in the answer to which there are involved such tremendous issues for time and eternity. Have you ever asked it? Have you ever been troubled about it? If not, then let everything else go; shove everything else aside. There is only one important thing for you to do, and that is to ask that question honestly and get the right answer to it.

“What must I do to be saved?” Look at Paul’s answer. He gave that trembling jailer one compact, thrilling, tremendous answer. He told him what to do. There has been so much foolish speculation, there have been so many perversions of the Gospel, so many vagaries, so many delusions and isms in general that it is little wonder that an anxious soul sometimes gets bewildered. I think he

would have said in the first place, “Don’t get an idea that there is nothing to do. Don’t think you can do as you please about everything else and do nothing about Jesus Christ, and be saved anyhow, sometime, and in some way.” There is a certain kind of religion today that teaches something much like that, but it is an outrage on intelligence; it is an insult to an enlightened conscience, and many a man has lost his soul by clinging to a vain hope. There is something to do, and every man who really wants to be saved can do it.

“What must I do to be saved?” What answer did Paul give to that question? What did he tell the Philippian jailer to do? Did he tell him to get out of the place quickly before there was another earthquake? No, it was not that kind of salvation the jailer was inquiring about. Did he tell him to wait until the excitement was over? No, Paul knew the angels would shout over one sinner who fell on his knees, and he was not afraid of a little excitement. It’s worth it! Did Paul tell the jailer to give up his bad habits, to quit his mean-

ness, and to be decent? No, that is nothing but reformation. It is like whitewashing a dirty house or tying artificial flowers on a rose bush. Did Paul tell him to change his environment? No, if your automobile will not run, you cannot make it go by taking it out of the garage and putting it in the parlor. It has to be fixed on the inside. It is not a new town or a new suit of clothes that a man needs; it is a new heart. Did he tell him to go and join a church? No, joining a church does not make a man a Christian any more than going to an insane asylum makes him a lunatic. Something has to happen before he gets there. Did he tell him to follow his conscience? No, a man’s conscience may be scared and land him in hell.

“What must I do to be saved?” Well, what did Paul tell him to do? Only one thing: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” What does that mean? It sounds very easy, doesn’t it? Well, it is just as easy as it sounds. In the first place, when the Bible says to believe, it is always confidence, trust and faith that are meant. That is what Paul was talking

about. He was telling the Philippian jailer to put his confidence, to put his trust, and to put his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is only one kind of faith. You need to get that settled in the beginning. A man says, “I want to believe, but I haven’t the right kind of faith.” If you have any faith at all, you may be sure it is faith of the right kind. There is only one kind of faith, and it is the same kind you exercise every day in regard to other people. If you went around without any faith in anyone, people would say, “That poor fellow is not right above the eyes.” We find these words in Acts 16:25, “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Next week, May 24, 2019, Part III – “What must I do to be Saved?”

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

## PRESERVED

# Failing forward

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“When people succeed, they party; when they fail, they ponder.” A few weeks ago, I heard this statement while attending a conference and thought “Wow! What simple truth is in that statement?” It made me think about the many times in my life that I’d failed or succeeded at something and how I responded. I did “party” when I had success in my personal and professional life.

At that same conference, another speaker explained his theory of “failing forward” which means to begin to see failure as an intermediate step toward success. Thinking about this statement made me realize how many times I’d seen my failures as a step away from success. In actuality, these failures were moving me closer to my future successes.

It also made me think about legends like Oprah Winfrey, Thomas Edison and Sidney Poitier who used devastating failures to propel them forward to future success.

This new way of looking at failure reminded me of the Old Testament’s Joseph whose early adulthood was one seeming failure after another. First, he failed to develop a strong relationship with his brothers. As a result, he was sold by his brothers into slavery. He then spent time in jail after he failed to convince Potiphar’s wife to stop making sexual advances toward him. As a result, she got angry at his refusing to sleep with her and accused him of assaulting her. Despite this turn of events, Genesis 39:21 says, “But the LORD was with Joseph and


showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.” What could have been a time of great encouragement turned into a time of great favor for Joseph. This season of failure was actually one step closer to his future success. Part of the reason why he had such great success in his future when he was appointed leader of Egypt by Pharaoh was rooted in how he’d handled his earlier failures with grace and humility.

Regardless of how much success he had, Joseph never forgot his failures as shown in the names of his children found in Genesis 41:51-52: Manasseh: “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house,” and Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

In Genesis 45, Joseph finally admits to his brothers who come to Egypt seeking relief from a famine that God’s divine purpose had been fulfilled when he says in verse 8, “So now it was not you who sent me here, but God;” In other words, he’d effectively failed forward. Each seeming misstep was moving him closer to God’s ordained purpose for his life.

I read on social media recently that failure should be seen as temporary feedback and not a permanent reflection of who you are. So, if you find yourself frustrated by failure, remember that any personal or professional failure means that you are now one step closer to the success that God has ordained for your life.

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



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# Equal Rights Amendment

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



We get so consumed with stuff about the train wreck in the White House that we forget or miss important things going on in the nation and the world. Well, something good and historic happened in the U.S. Congress a few days ago. Chairman Jerry Nadler held a hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment. That should be so ordinary that it shouldn't even make the news. Yet, it had been 36 years since such a hearing had taken place.

This wasn't even a vote to make the ERA law, but women were actually excited that a hearing was held. It was only a hearing – not the passage of a bill to make it law. Yet, the hearing was historic. I had the honor of being one of several speakers for the press conference that followed the hearing. Women actually celebrated the fact that the issue got a hearing. As much as we talk about equality in this country, and as much as some of our leaders go around the world preaching to leaders in other nations about human rights, women in this nation still don't have equal rights in the Constitution!

It's unbelievable that women still do not have equal rights under our constitution, but women aren't giving up. It's time for women to stop asking to be a part of the constitution. We must demand our rights. Women must demand of the current Congress to make us a part of the constitution or elect people who are willing to do so. Supporter can be men or women, but we must not continue to accept second class citizenship.

Women brought millions of other women to the Women's March on Washington in January of 2017. We must bring millions more in 2020. We need more of our sisters to heed the words of Abigail Adams when she wrote her husband a letter that said: "I long to hear that you have declared an independency and, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation." That was well said Abigail!

Where is that spirit among more women today? We've asked too gently. Most often we hear the gentler form of Abigail speaking to her husband to "Remember the ladies," but she said more and sounds like she had a lot in common with Michelle Obama who was very influential in her husband's life.

The ERA did pass in the 1970's, but didn't get enough state votes to ratify the amendment when an arbitrary deadline was placed on passage. If 94 percent of the people support equality for women in the constitution, what is it that prevents passage?

I fear that too many women don't understand that we cannot successfully bring a case that is gender based in federal court. The ERA would give us that right. The ERA gives us the real possibility of succeeding in federal court with cases of hate crimes against us evident in so much derogatory and misogynist rap music. In the case of black women, we'd have a shot at winning on both race and gender. We have as much to gain with ERA as anyone else. Let's get more involved in its passage soon!

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

# Amid a push for voting rights - protection from foreign interference

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



*"This is not Russia. This is the United States of America. And I will fight until the death to make sure every citizen – whether they're Green Party, whether they're Freedom Party, whether they're Democrat, whether they're Republican, whoever – has that right to vote. Because it is the essence of our democracy. For so many people, their rights are pulled away from them, then they've got to put in laws to get them back. What does that mean? They cannot progress rapidly. They cannot progress with the rest of society. All they're trying to do is control their own destiny."* – U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, Chair, House Oversight Committee.

The National Urban League's 2019 State of Black America® report, "Getting 2 Equal, United Not Divided," an unprecedented examination of the state of the Black Vote, was unveiled this week amidst a new push in Congress to protect

voting rights and secure democracy.

Just a day after we unveiled the report at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings announced he wants to "make sure we spend significant effort and time, perhaps even looking at even more states and seeing what they're doing and shining a light on what they may be doing illegally or improperly to stop or hinder people from voting and having those votes counted."

Specifically, the Committee is planning to examine voter suppression in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and Kansas.

In partnership with the Brennan Center for Justice and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the State of Black America revealed how the "Terrible Trio" of voter suppression – state legislatures, the Supreme Court and hostile foreign actors – worked together to disrupt American democracy.

Beginning in 2010 – following the first year of the first African-American president's term – state legislatures began passing restrictive laws intended to hinder black

voters. The Supreme Court opened the floodgates for voter suppression in 2013 when it gutted the Voting Rights Act with its decision in Shelby v. Holder.

It was into this suppression-happy environment that hostile foreign actors – specifically the troll farm of Russia's Internet Research Agency – unleashed a firestorm of manipulative, misleading and deceptive social media aimed at dissuading African Americans from voting.

Our report has landed at a crucial moment when some members of Congress are ramping up pressure to address foreign meddling and racially-motivated voter suppression.

The same day we unveiled the report, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced a proposal to bar foreign citizens who have interfered in the U.S. elections from entering the United States.

Last week, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey unveiled a bill that would fund states' implementation of paper ballots that could be audited and to enact new cybersecurity standards to protect against hacking

– a recommendation that is included in State of Black America®.

Other recommendations include H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which includes a wide range of voting reforms like enhanced cybersecurity protection of election systems, removing barriers to voter registration and prohibiting the distribution of false information about elections to hinder or discourage voting.

We endorse H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which restores the full enforcement protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We also make some bold suggestions like the elimination of the Electoral College.

Nothing is more important in the fight for economic and racial justice than protecting the right to vote. Make sure your congressional representatives know that combating voter suppression and foreign manipulation of our elections is a top priority.

You can tell Congress to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act by texting "VRA4" to the number 52886.

# To Commemorate Brown vs. Board of Education, Support Our Teachers

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Sixty-five years ago, the Supreme Court ruled, in the Brown v. Board of Education case, that the Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) doctrine of "separate but equal" was unconstitutional. That ruling ended legal segregation in public facilities, but it did not necessarily accomplish its goals in terms of school desegregation. Indeed, Richard Rothstein, the historian who is a Distinguished Fellow at the Economic Policy Institute and at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, wrote that in 2014, Black students are "more racially and socioeconomically isolated" than at any time since 1970, when this data was first available.

After Brown passed, there were some integration gains, through bussing and magnet schools, but the South resisted Brown because a second case ordered desegregation "with all deliberate speed," which was a euphemism for taking your sweet time. I attended a segregated school in Moss Point, Mississippi in 1969, fifteen years after the passage of Brown v. Board of Education. In 2016, Cleveland, Mississippi finally closed its segregated Black high school and renamed Cleveland High School, the white school, Cleveland

Central High School. Now, the district is in court because a young Black woman was denied the salutatorian honors she earned so that a young white man, with a lower GPA, could have the honor. Yes, the Brown v. Board of Education case made history, but it was an imperfect tool to tackle racial inequities in the public school system, mainly because these inequities are anchored in residential patterns and funding sources. When schools are funded with property taxes, those who live in wealthier districts will simply have better education, perpetuating inequalities.

It has been trendy to blame teachers for unequal education outcomes, even as these teacher's responsibilities expand with increased regulation, test-taking, and unrealistic requirements around engagement with parents and others. A school district in South Carolina, for example, requires that teachers respond to parent emails within 24 hours. The burden of one teacher's 10-12 hour days became so onerous that she quit her teaching job in the middle of the school year. Many questioned her commitment to children, but she fought fiercely to maintain her sanity and some semblance of a quality of life.

Teaching is not supposed to be trench warfare. It is supposed to be joyful for both students and teachers. There is nothing more gratifying

than to watch children gleefully grasp a concept, read a page, solve a math problem, or give a speech. But that sense of gratification is diminished when bureaucracy chips the joy away, or when a teacher has to take on outside work to pay her bills. Teachers have made national headlines as they seek supplemental income, driving Uber or Lyft, moonlighting as food servers, taking on side jobs as tutors, and living two or three in an apartment meant for one to save money. Those who teach really have to want to do it – they earn about a quarter less than their counterparts who have the same education, according to the Economic Policy Institute. We have been underpaying teachers for at least the last two decades!

So the nonsense we celebrated during the week of May 6, Teacher's Appreciation Week is a charade. If you want to appreciate teachers, pay them! Don't offer folks two for one burritos at Chipotle or other food fringes when what teachers need is fair pay. Don't give teachers apples and faux appreciation when the teachers who graciously accept your apples and recognition are hustling outside the classroom to make ends meet. Teachers are striking all over the country, even in places like West Virginia where we would least expect it because they are desperate to be valued. Paying them less than they are worth is disrespectful.

Offering half price burritos and other nonsense is hypocrisy at its highest!

Sixty-five years ago, the Supreme Court tackled the issue of segregation in our nation's school systems. The Brown v. Board of education decision changed the law, but not the structure of racial gaps in education. And it did not foresee the many ways that those who deliver the educational product, our nation's teachers, have been disrespected and disadvantaged by the structural indifference to classrooms that serve poor and Black students.

Sixty-five years after the Brown v. Board of Education decision, the achievement gap is persistent. Our nation's wealth gap is a function of that achievement gap, and the treatment of our nation's teachers is connected to the wealth and achievement gap. When we commemorate Brown v. Board of Education, we must embrace the importance of adequately compensating teachers. In embracing our teachers, we support the children they are teaching and guiding. In ignoring issues of fair teacher compensation, we are utterly abandoning our children!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com)

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# Forrest General honors Nurses of the Year



Byrd



Donaldson



Morrison



Rucker

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General honored its outstanding nurses during National Nurses Week celebrations, including announcing Clinical and Non-Clinical Nurses of the Year and Nurse Leader of the Year. Leadership surprised the award recipients on their units surrounded by their co-workers.

Clinical Nurse of the Year was awarded to Scott Rucker,

RN, radiology.

BJ Morrison, RN, Epic, was honored as the hospital's Non-Clinical Nurse of the Year.

Rosa Byrd, RN, director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab, was honored as this year's Nurse Leader of the Year.

Lakita Donaldson, Emergency Room, was honored as Tech of the Year.

"Nurses truly make up the backbone of our organization. With every patient, they of-

fer not only knowledge and talent, but also empathy and compassion consistently going the extra mile to keep patients and families comfortable. We certainly appreciate all of our nurses and their contributions to our community," said Angela Huggins, vice president, Forrest Health.

For more information on how to become a nurse at Forrest General, visit [joinforresthealth.org](http://joinforresthealth.org).

# Public health students get \$41,000 annually for med school, aims to make Delta healthier

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

Graduating master's student Kierra Jones wants to return to the Mississippi Delta as a medical doctor because she's seen how a lack of education impacts the health of many people, and two scholarships totaling \$41,000 annually will help her achieve that goal.

Jones, a native of Cleveland, continues her journey when she earns her degree from Jackson State University's School of Public Health, which is the only one in Mississippi. Her concentration is in Behavioral Health Promotion and Education within the Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health.

She applied to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2017 but didn't get accepted the first time. A car accident had fractured six vertebrae, prevented her from supplying adequate information to UMMC and took her three months to recover.

At the time of the accident, Jones had been en route to assist her boyfriend who had been injured in a shooting incident. Both are now physically well.

Today, she's looking ahead to an even brighter future.

She was recently accepted into UMMC for fall 2019. She has been awarded \$30,000 per year toward her tuition by the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and \$11,000 per year by the Robert M. Hearing Support Foundation Minority Scholarship.

"I plan to specialize in family medicine and return to a rural area of Mississippi to practice. As many who've led the path before me, I plan to integrate public health and clinical care in my practice. I want the legacy of my career to be labeled as a physician who considers influences of my culture and who aims to generate understanding among my patients," Jones said.

The daughter of a single parent said her passion for helping people results from her Delta roots, working with



Kierra Jones wants to wipe out some of the health disparities throughout the Mississippi Delta and especially in her hometown of Cleveland, Mississippi. She will advocate for preventive measures when she eventually specializes in family medicine. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

Girl Scouts, mentoring and being crowned Miss Tougaloo College (2017-2018).

"Communities are riddled with health disparities, lack of health education and health maintenance interventions," Jones said. She bemoans the failure of experts to follow up with patients and their neglect to educate patients as science evolves.

Even though coronary heart disease is a huge problem in the area, Jones has observed a rise in kidney disease, especially in Cleveland.

She sees preventive measures as the best way to prolong life and promote health in underserved sectors of Mississippi.

Jones said people don't have to suffer from similar problems such as behavioral health issues that have affected grandparents and other relatives. She urges individuals to trace their lineage to see where a disease started and learn how that knowledge can help prevent future issues.

HBCUs have played another important part in her life, having graduated from Tougaloo and now earning her master's at JSU.

"I love HBCUs in regards to its communication and rep-

resentation. They have faculty and staff who represent what you want to obtain." She especially appreciates the one-on-one conversations with academic scholars.

"I'm not the smartest, so I had to study a lot more than other people. I don't really have skills or natural talent; I have abilities. But even that's been a struggle, too. You have classmates who pick it up quickly in class, and I'm studying three hours after class to obtain the same knowledge."

While pursuing her ultimate goal of becoming a physician, she's also teaching at Forest Hill High School. She said she wants everyone to understand that "circumstances shouldn't determine your future, and don't be afraid to dream outside of what people decide your realm is."

There were many doubters around her, Jones said. "A lot of people never thought I would not have had a child by the age of 18 because my grandmother and my mother did."

Instead, the future doctor said she has proved that dedication, family support and resilience can help an individual compete and succeed.

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MAY 8, 2019

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 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 14, 2019 (the "Bid Deadline"), for services in connection with the Lawncare and Landscape Maintenance Services, Project No. 6000-007-19, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will also accept electronic sealed bids as specified in the bid documents. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. central time on June 14, 2019, Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://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 documents.

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:15 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 14, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the Bid Opening.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: "Lawncare and Landscape Maintenance Services, JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-007-19." 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 will award the Work to the lowest 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 best bidder. Any Addenda 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 Instruction to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered a part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208  
Telephone: (601) 939-5631  
Email Address: [dherndon@jmaa.com](mailto:dherndon@jmaa.com)  
Attention: Deuntagus Herndon.  
Procurement Specialist

Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.

The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at [dherndon@jmaa.com](mailto:dherndon@jmaa.com) or 601-360-8622.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 22, 2019, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly recommended 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 and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract.

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 30% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: MAY 8, 2019  
/s/Perry J. Miller, A.A. E., I.A.P. Interim Chief Executive Officer

5/9/2019, 5/16/2019

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.  
2010 Kia FLX KNAFT4A27A5057239  
Registered to Jackson, Mary & Ronnie D. Santander  
Consumer USA, Financial, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 31, 2019  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;  
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
Jackson, MS 39213  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.  
Time: 10:00 A.M.

5/16/2019, 5/23/2019, 05/30/2019

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE  
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR  
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
PERIMETER SERVICE ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JMAA  
PROJECT NO. 003-18

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 2:00 p.m. central time on Friday, June 14, 2019 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and renovations in connection with the Perimeter Service Road Rehabilitation project at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will also accept electronic sealed bids as specified in the bid documents. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. central time on Friday, June 14, 2019. Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://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 documents.

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:15 p.m. central time on Friday, June 14, 2019 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community 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 include the wording: "JAN Perimeter Service Road Rehabilitation, JMAA Project No. 003-18". 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 the Bid Opening.

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

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.  
2000 JAGU SAJDA01C9YF30916  
Registered to Acker, Cynthia  
Paradise Auto Sales, Financial, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 31, 2019  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;  
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd.,  
Jackson, MS 39213  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.  
Time: 10:00 A.M.

5/16/2019, 5/23/2019, 05/30/2019

LEGAL

100 International Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208  
Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 623  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713

Attention: Bonnie Spears, Procurement Specialist  
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 \$225.00 plus \$25.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$35.00 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 payment is received.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. central time on Tuesday, May 21, 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 possible 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 22% for the Work solicited by this RFB. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: May 8, 2019  
/s/ Perry J. Miller, A.A. E., I.A.P Perry J. Miller, A.A. E., I.A.P. Interim Chief Executive Officer

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.  
2014 HYUN SGL 5NPEB4AC2EH865790  
Registered to Shippings, Shuretta  
Standard Credit Acceptance Corporation, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: May 17, 2019  
Place of Sale: Wright's Auto & Garage – 1311 University Blvd. Jackson, MS 39204  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.  
Time: 10:00 A.M.

5/9/2019, 5/16/2019

Office  
Space  
for Rent

Garrett  
Enterprises  
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199



## Crossword Puzzle

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

**ACROSS**

1. To incite
5. At hand
9. Panel
11. National capital
12. Adios
13. Fees
14. Grain
15. System international (abbr.)
17. Nuke
18. Metal
20. Violated
22. Single
23. Loudness unit (abbr.)
24. Lube
27. Some (2 wds.)
29. Jeweled headdress
31. Ocean movement
32. Basic beliefs
33. Eye infection
34. Phoenix's BB team

**DOWN**

1. Far away
2. Person
3. Canal
4. Day of the wk.
5. Affirmative gesture
6. Car manufacturer
7. Shine
8. Hospital (abbr.)
10. Shellfish
16. Ascribe
18. Oklahoma (abbr.)
19. Neuter pronoun
20. Unsuitable
21. Indigent
22. Grain
24. Island
25. Smooth
26. Child
28. Teensy
30. Possessive pronoun

# MCAN

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<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Employment</h3> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mississippi Dept. of Corrections HIRING CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join and Get a 5% Increase in Starting Pay</p> </div> <p>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. <b>FOUR (4) WEEKS OF PAID ON-SITE TRAINING.</b></p> <p><b>STATE PRISON LOCATIONS:</b>          •Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) 3794 Highway 468, Pearl, MS          •Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) Hwy. 49 West, Parchman, MS          •South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) 22689 Hwy. 63 North, Leakesville, MS</p> <p><b>WALK-IN INTERVIEW DATES/TIMES:</b>          •Saturday, May 4, 2019 – Applicants will be admitted from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.          •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.</p> <p><b>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</b>          •21 years of age and proof of U.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</p> <p><b>INTERVIEW SCREENING CONSIST OF:</b>          •Interview, Math Test, Report Writing Exercise          •1 mile walk/run within 15 minutes and Tower climb          (Appropriate athletic clothing and tennis shoes may be worn)</p> <p>For additional information, contact MDOC Personnel Services at (661) 359-5898 or the Personnel Department at each facility: CMCF (601) 932-3880 ext. 6761; MSP (662) 745-6611 ext. 2346; or SMCI (601) 394-5600 ext. 1217.</p> <p>Individuals may also apply online at the Mississippi State Personnel Board website, <a href="http://www.mspsb.ms.gov">www.mspsb.ms.gov</a>.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Employment</h3> <p><b>L. E. TUCKER &amp; SON, INC. - CDL DRIVERS</b> needed to run from S.E. to West Coast. Late model conventional tractors. Home weekly. Benefits package. Pearl, MS. 601-939-8088. <a href="http://www.tuckerandson.com">www.tuckerandson.com</a></p> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Classes / Training</h3> <p><b>AIRLINES ARE HIRING</b> - Get FAA approved hands on Aviation training. Financial aid for qualified students. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 1-866-367-3510.</p> <p><b>HEALTHCARE CAREER TRAINING ONLINE.</b> Start a new career in Medical Billing and Coding. Medical Administrative Assistant. To learn more, call Ultimate Medical Academy: 1-844-664-5478</p> <p><b>PHARMACY TECHNICIAN - ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE!</b> Take the first step into a new career! Call now: 1-866-664-4140</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">For Sale</h3> <p><b>CHURCH FURNITURE:</b> Does your church need pews, pulpit set, baptistry, steeple, windows? Big Sale on new cushioned pews and pew chairs. 1-800-231-8365. <a href="http://www.pew1.com">www.pew1.com</a></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Insurance</h3> <p><b>DENTAL INSURANCE.</b> Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. HCF just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7243 or <a href="http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress">http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress</a>. Ad# 6118</p> <p><b>FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES.</b> See how much you can save! High risk 5023 driver policies available! Call 844-714-2407</p> <p><b>FREE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT QUOTES!</b> Top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obligation quote to see how much you can save. Toll free: 855-400-8352</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Medical Supplies</h3> <p><b>OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere.</b> No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 888-964-0893</p> <p><b>VIAGRA and Cialis 50/85/150 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed.</b> CALL NOW! 844-821-3242</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Miscellaneous</h3> <p><b>DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY.</b> Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263</p> <p><b>STATEWIDE DIGITAL ADVERTISING</b> starting at just \$700 for two weeks on newspaper web sites. Call Sue at 601-981-3060 for advertising information.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Services-General</h3> <p><b>DIRECTV NOW.</b> No Satellite Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports &amp; On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-866-616-8331</p> </div>	<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Services-General</h3> <p><b>DISH NETWORK \$59.99 For 199 Channels.</b> Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$14.95/month. Best Technology Best Value. Smart HD DVR Included. Free Installation. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-628-3143</p> <p><b>Get DIRECTV ONLY \$35/month! 150 Channels and 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost.</b> Call DIRECTV 1-855-928-3110.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Services-Financial</h3> <p><b>OVER \$10K IN DEBT?</b> Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 844-719-8928.</p> <p><b>SAVE YOUR HOME!</b> Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Is the bank threatening foreclosure? CALL Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help! 1-866-833-1513</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Services-Medical</h3> <p><b>A PLACE FOR MOM.</b> The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-877-224-1336</p> </div>
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Week of May 12, 2019

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# Mississippi Beautiful Day

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# FILM REVIEW: TOLKIEN

## REVEALING BIOPIC CHRONICLES FORMATIVE YEARS OF LEGENDARY FANTASY WRITER

By Kam Williams  
*Columnist*

J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) was a British fantasy novelist best known for “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings.” After being orphaned at an early age, he attended King Edwards, an exclusive boarding school where he forged close friendships with classmates which would endure over his lifetime.

There, he first referred to this semi-secret association of writers and artists as a “fellowship,” a term which ostensibly influenced the unique lexicon of his fictional work. He was also very sensitive about the pronunciation of his surname to the extent that he even complained about it to the school administration, emphasizing that

it was “een” as opposed to “in.”

While at King Edwards, he met and fell head over heels for Edith Bratt (Lily Collins), an attractive classmate who would not only serve as his muse but as the inspiration for a couple of his characters. The lovebirds wed in 1916 but unfortunately their marital bliss would soon be interrupted by his deployment to France in World World I.

Unfortunately, the separation from his wife exacted a further emotional toll on the already traumatized Tolkien. Sadly, it spelled the demise of his confederacy of dunces, too.

Directed by Dome Karukoski, Tolkien is a poignant portrait which reveals its subject to be quite a complicated soul. The title

role is capably played by Nicholas Hoult who delivers a piercingly evocative performance, probing the depths of the literary giant’s psyche in plausible fashion.

The ethereal plotline drifts back and forth between the sobering and the surreal, unfolding against a war torn landscape of dire proportions. Childhood angst plus wartime trauma yields escapist fantasies for the ages.

Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated PG-13 for war violence  
Running time: 112 minutes  
Production Companies: Fox Searchlight Pictures / Chernin Entertainment  
Distributor: Fox Searchlight Pictures / Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures



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By Kam Williams  
*Columnist*

For movies opening May 17, 2019

### Wide Releases

**A Dog’s Journey** (PG for peril, rude humor and mature themes) Heartwarming family tale about a stray dog that touches the lives of all the strangers it meets. Staring Dennis Quaid, Betty Gilpin and Josh Gad.

**John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum** (R for profanity and pervasive violence) Third installment of the action-fueled franchise finds Keanu Reeves returning as assassin with a \$14 million bounty on his head and on the run from a gang of blood-thirsty hit men. With Laurence Fishburne, Halle Berry and Ian McShane.

**The Sun Is Also a Star** (PG-13 for profanity and suggestive content) Romance drama about a teenage girl who falls in love with a boy of her dreams on the same day her family is supposed to be deported from New York City. Co-starring Yara Shahidi and Charles Melton.

### Independent & Foreign Films

**All Creatures Here Below** (Unrated) Harrowing tale of survival revolving around a desperate homeless couple (David Dastmalchian and Karen Gillan) on the run from the police as they travel from L.A. to Kansas City. With Jennifer Morrison, David Koechner, John Doe and Richard Cabral.

**Aniara** (R for for strong sexual content, graphic nudity, disturbing images and drug use) Adaptation of Harry Martinsson’s sci-fi thriller of the same name about a crew that only learns en route that their space trip to Mars is only one way. Cast includes Emilie Jonssen, Bianca Cruzeiro and Arvin Kananian.

**The Meanest Man in Texas** (Unrated) Adaptation of Clyde Thompson’s (Mateus Ward) memoir of the same name, recounting the death row inmate’s conversion and redemption after being convicted of murder. Co-starring Jamie McShane, Alexandra Bard and Casey Bond.

**The Souvenir** (R for some sexuality, graphic nudity, drug material and language) Suspense thriller, set in the Eighties, revolving around a young film student (Honor Swinton-Byrne) who becomes romantically involved with a charismatic stranger (Tom Burke). With Neil Young, Tosin Cole and Tilda Swinton.

**The Third Wife** (R for graphic sexual content) Romance drama, set in the 19th Century, revolving around a 14 year-old girl (Nguyen Phuong Tra My) torn between freedom and marrying a wealthy landowner (Le Vu Long). Cast includes Lam Thanh My and Mai Thu Huong Maya. (In Vietnamese with subtitles)

**Trial by Fire** (R for pervasive profanity, some violence, disturbing images, sexual material and brief nudity) Crime biopic recounting the courtroom drama surrounding Cameron Todd Willingham’s trial for murdering his three children based on shaky evidence. With Laura Dern, Jack O’Connell and Emily Meade.

### Sudoku

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

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

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### Cryptogram

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

**Hint: Quote by Diana Ross**

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

K S B D P S T K S B W S P C C W Y C P J S L O G B J T P J F C C P W K S B L C E X X K R B O J P C C W J S G C X T C Q C T P K S B L O C X V

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)





## Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter Community Involvement

Mississippi Link Newswire

As part of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated's National Zetas Helping Other People Excel (ZHOPE) Program, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter along with its sponsored auxiliaries (Amicae, Archonette, Amicette and Pearlette) and undergraduate chapters, Lambda Beta (Jackson State University) and Nu Beta (Tougaloo College) have been committed to providing service to the Jackson community.

ZHOPE is an interactive holistic multi-dimensional outreach program designed to enhance, cultivate and empower participants to develop health promoting lifestyle choices across the lifespan. Specific to the population groups of women, youth, seniors, men and inter-national women of color.

Through this program Alpha Delta Zeta, its sponsored chapters and auxiliaries have been supporting an Eldercare initiative. This initiative has programs that focus on issues such as elder abuse awareness, financial peace, supporting the caregiver and volunteering at senior care facilities. One way that Alpha Delta Zeta carries out this initiative is by conducting monthly outreach with the residents of Pine Forest Nursing and Rehab (Cottage Grove), Jackson Run and Indian Run Estates, all located in Jackson, MS.

During these monthly visits members play games with the residents and on special occasions, residents are honored with special gifts as a way to show love and appreciation.

Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter members conducted a Mother's Day celebration with the residents of Pine Forest, Jackson Run and Indian Run Estates. Residents shared their personal stories about their mothers, sang hymns and all mothers were presented with a special gift from Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

About Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated: Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter is a non-profit community conscious, action oriented organization. Chartered on October 14, 1938, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter is the 'oldest' Zeta Chapter in the State of Mississippi and is comprised of over 100+ members. The local chapter owns a Tutorial Complex, Stork's Nest, sponsors four auxiliary groups for community women and children and two undergraduate chapters – Lambda Beta Chapter (Jackson State University) and Nu Beta Chapter (Tougaloo College).

For more information, please visit our webpage at [www.adz-1938.org](http://www.adz-1938.org)

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG



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### THE NINE IRON GOLF CLUB

## 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

May 18 - 19, 2019

#### FORMAT

36 Hole Medal Play  
Six (6) Men Flights  
(Includes Championships & Seniors)  
Ladies Flights  
(Minimum of 4 players)  
\*Completion of 9 holes will constitute a Tournament due to inclement weather\*  
Tournament Committee Decision

#### TOURNAMENT FEE

Registration Fee \$160.00  
NO SATURDAY REGISTRATION  
Men, Women & Seniors  
(Includes Green Fee & Cart)

All checks or money orders  
should be made payable to:  
The Nine Iron Golf Club  
P.O. Box 114131  
Jackson, MS 39283

#### CONTACT

Larry Allen (601) 573-9724  
Marshall Webber (601) 594-1786

#### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY MAY 17, 2019**

ON-SITE REGISTRATION  
EAGLE RIDGE GOLF COURSE

**PRACTICE ROUND**

(CART FEE ONLY)

**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2019**

FIRST ROUND OF PLAY

9:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START

LUNCH AT THE GOLF COURSE

IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLAY

\*\*\$20.00 OPEN SKIN GAME\*\*

SATURDAY ONLY

**SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018**

FINAL ROUND OF PLAY

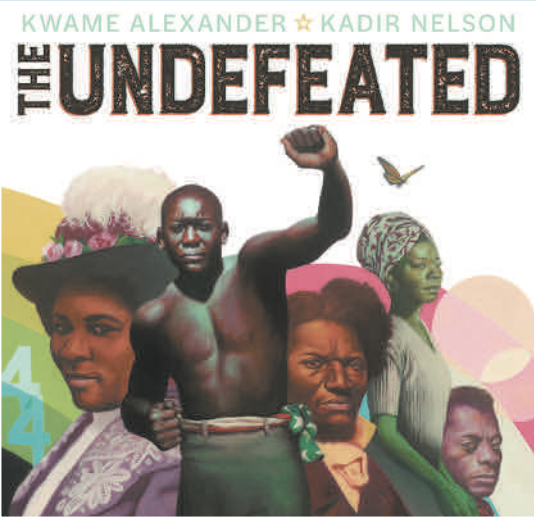
9:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START

AWARDS CEREMONY - AFTER PLAY

OVERALL CHAMPIONS-MEN & LADIES

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BOOK REVIEW:

“THE UNDEFEATED”

BY KWAME ALEXANDER,  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KADIR NELSON  
C.2019, VERSIF  
\$17.99 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 40 PAGES

**By Terri Schlichenmeyer**  
*Columnist*

You wanted it. And you wanted it very much.

But, ah, well, you didn’t get it. You worked and you begged and maybe you even saved but you didn’t get what it was that you wanted. You were sad, but you got over it. You’ll try again, work harder, save more and, as in “The Undefeated” by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson, one day, you’ll reach your goal.

This book is just for you. But it’s something you have to share because it’s “for the forget-

table,” too. It’s for those people who opened the doors to all kinds of new opportunities for everyone, but they never became famous for it.

It’s for people who did whatever it took to get to America, to thrive and find a home and happiness. This book is for people who struggled, and for those who didn’t.

It’s about people who were strong and were admired for that strength. It’s for those who believed in themselves but who also put their faith in a higher power. It’s for those who “tack-

le vision” and those who don’t hide their light behind anything, ever.

It’s for soldiers and dancers, marchers and players, boxers and parents and kids, and it’s for you. It’s for black lives that matter and for the people who never got a chance to know that. It’s because of the “unspeakable.”

Share this book for those who won’t be stopped, who’ll keep dreaming and reaching and imagining and proving. It’s for the athletes we know, and for the ones we don’t know about yet. It’s for performers we sing

along with, and for songs not written. It’s for those who tried and tried until the last breath they had.

You’ll have to share it, but this book is for you. It’s “for us.”

“The Undefeated” is one of those things that’s really hard to nail down.

It’s a quick read that may be too quick for some kids; it’s over almost before it begins because author Kwame Alexander’s words are spare and not very attention-grabbing for the very youngest of children. It doesn’t

help that the picture-book-style illustrations are attractive but they aren’t particularly colorful or active.

For gradeschoolers, none of that will matter because “The Undefeated” is a poem set to picture and it’s inspirational for them, especially if they’re just learning about African-American history.

But there’s a possibility for those kids that the power behind the illustrations by Kadir Nelson might be missed because the stories of the people in this book are at the end and not al-

ways with the pictures.

Adults, however, might find this book to be a treasure. Alexander’s poem pulses with strength and the artwork, from an adult’s POV, is perfectly rendered. You may recognize the people depicted – and if not, there’s always the back of the book.

The trick, perhaps, is to carefully share this book with the child you love, explain and let it spark conversation. Once kids understand, “The Undefeated” is a book they’ll want very much.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCS D Students Attend Braves

Game for Reaching AR Goals!

