

## Charlotte Seals named Superintendent of Madison County Schools



Seals

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Madison County Board of Education proudly announces the selection of Charlotte Seals as Superintendent of Education.

“Mrs. Seals is an outstanding educator and leader with a proven track-record of moving our schools forward. The board has full confidence that under her leadership Madison County Schools will continue to be the mark of excellence in education for our state. We look forward to working with Mrs. Seals as she leads MCS to even greater heights,” said Board of Education President Wayne Jimenez.

A 30-year veteran with the Madison County School District, Seals has served most recently as interim superintendent and assistant superintendent for instructional services. Prior to service at the district level she served as both a teacher and principal. While principal at Madison Station Elementary School, she implemented the award-winning Arts Create Excellence Program. Madison Station became a model school for arts integration in the state and regionally. As assistant superin-

tendent, Seals has been instrumental in establishing Madison County Schools as one of the premiere public school districts in the state. When Seals is not at work serving one of the 23 schools in Madison County, she is enjoying her favorite pastime: community volunteerism.

A life member of Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, Seals is a past president of both the local chapter and the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries. Seals is also a former board member and chair of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company. She has also served on the Mississippi Children’s Museum Board of Directors and on the MCM Partners Board.

Seals is currently a sustaining member of the Junior League of Jackson having served in numerous leadership positions including president in 2015-2016.

Seals serves on the Millsaps Principal’s Institute Advisory Board and serves as a mentor for Millsaps Retention Advocate Program, an initiative designed to support minority stu-

**Seals**

*Continued on page 3*

## Tougaloo College salutes the Golden Class of 69 during Sesquicentennial Commencement Exercises



Hogan

**By Paulette Hayes Patton**  
*Guest Writer*

As hundreds of students rushed out of the gates of Tougaloo College last week, hundreds of former students rushed to come in; both to celebrate. The former, to celebrate another year completed, the latter to celebrate 50 years ago they graduated from this prestigious institution of higher learning. Approximately fifty-six members of the class of 1969 gathered Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 5 to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of Tougaloo College.

Thursday evening the Golden Class of 69’ gathered for a ‘meet and greet’ at the President’s House. As they read name tags and looked at faces trying to distinguish one another, they each verbally shared the love of Tougaloo. Even though some had not seen each other since 1969 they all seemed to have a strong bond.

Friday morning the class convened at the Civil Rights Museum in downtown Jackson where they discovered Tougaloo Col-

lege and many of its former students were incorporated in the museum. They were reminded of the role Tougaloo played in the struggle for equal rights.

Upon returning to campus for a walking tour, they reminisced how they had walked those paths 50 years ago. That evening the class discussed the civil rights icon who had visited the campus while they were students. They were reminded that the late Dr. Aaron Henry, then president of the Mississippi Chapter of the NAACP was their commencement speaker and the late Fannie Lou Hamer, one of the most powerful voices of the civil and voting rights movement received an honorary degree.

The culmination of the week-end for the golden class of 1969 ended at the Commencement Exercises presided by President Beverly W. Hogan. This particular graduation ceremony was bitter sweet for Hogan. She will be retiring at the end of this academic year after having served as Tougaloo’s first woman president with 17



Abrams

years of service. During the ceremony Hogan conferred honorary degrees on Stacey Y. Abrams, Reuben V. Anderson, Fred L. Banks Jr. and Vivian W. Pinn.

John David Johnson, the 2019 class salutatorian, told his classmates, “Today marks the beginning of our matriculation into a country that was not built with us in mind. Who could’ve known that the slaves growing crops on these very grounds were actually the soil that we all would bloom from.”

Valedictorian Shandria L. D. Sutton reminded her classmates that they are the future of this college and this country.

The highlight for many attending the commencement was hearing the commencement address delivered by Stacey Y. Abrams, a *New York Times* bestselling author who served for eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven as minority leader. In 2018, Abrams became

**Tougaloo**

*Continued on page 3*

# Facebook bans Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam

**By Frederick H. Lowe**  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*

Facebook and Instagram have banned Minister Louis Farrakhan, the highly regarded leader of the Chicago-based Nation of Islam, after lumping him together with paranoid white right-wing nuts who spew racial hatred and conspiracy theories.

Facebook announced May 2 that it banned Farrakhan who has been criticized for his anti-Semitic remarks, although members of Jewish groups sometimes appear on the Nation of Islam’s television show that is broadcast from Chicago.

“We always banned individuals or organizations that promote or engage in violence and hate regardless of ideology,” a Facebook spokesperson told Variety, a publication that covers the entertainment industry. “The process for evaluating potential violators is extensive and that’s what led to our decision to remove these accounts today.”



Farrakhan

### COMMENTARY

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which is based in Montgomery, Ala., also has long listed the Nation of Islam as a hate group.

Any criticism of Jews is considered

hate speech by members of the white-owned media, which knows little about Farrakhan.

They know so little that on May 2, CBS called Farrakhan the founder of the Nation of Islam. Master W. Fard Muhammad of Detroit founded the organization July 4, 1930 in Detroit. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Fard Muhammad’s successor, moved the Nation of Islam to Chicago.

Facebook confused Farrakhan with the likes of Alex Jones, Milo Yiannopoulos, Laura Loomer, Paul Nehlen, a white nationalist and Paul Joseph Watson, editor of Infowars.

The White House and Jewish groups have severely criticized Minnesota Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar for her comments, yet recent deadly attacks of Jewish synagogues have been carried out by white men who have self-identified as white supremacists.

Farrakhan has battled African Ameri-

cans whom he charged are agents of Jewish groups, working against the interest of African Americans.

In March 2018, The Nation of Islam published an open letter to Gregory Meeks, Danny K. Davis and Barbara Lee, all members of the Congressional Black Caucus, because of their criticism of Farrakhan’s 2018 Founders Day speech.

He accused the three of acting at the behest of the Republican Jewish Coalition, the anti-Defamation League and others who represent white supremacy and want to destroy the black community.

Black men highly regard Farrakhan for many reasons, one of which is that The Nation works with recently released black-male prison inmates, helping them to re-enter the community after incarceration.

Also, The Nation urges black men to live better lives to improve their communities. Although not every black

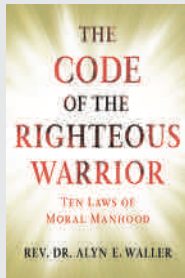
man belongs to The Nation of Islam, they are continually under assault by police and followed in stores by security guards – some of whom are black women – who immediately regard them as criminals.

As a result, black men suffer from high rates of high blood pressure which can lead to stroke, a blockage of blood to the brain that killed filmmaker John Singleton.

The Nation of Islam also urges black people to become self-sufficient and support each other instead of giving our money away to whites and others.

Even in a booming economy, the jobless rate for black men 20 and over was 6.8 percent in April, much higher when compared with other racial and ethnic groups. These are some of the reasons that The Nation of Islam has a strong yet silent following.

Books published by the Nation of Islam are sometimes available for sale in large black Christian churches.





# MVSU alum named MS Business Journal’s Top Entrepreneur

Mississippi Link Newswire

Tim Lampkin is a bonafide entrepreneur who works tirelessly to positively impact his community.

His love for entrepreneurship, his gift for community-building and his passion for Mississippi (particularly the Delta) were recently highlighted when the Clarksdale native received the Mississippi Business Journal’s Top Entrepreneur Award.

Lampkin, who is a 2009 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, was among 23 innovators from across the state honored for changing the world for the better and making their mark as business owners and thought leaders.

The honorees, who were nominated by colleagues or peers, were formally presented with the prestigious award during an awards ceremony hosted in Jackson.

Lampkin expressed his gratitude for the award and noted that his time at MVSU has been impactful in giving him the intellectual courage to do all that he is currently pursuing in his community.

“I’m truly grateful and honored to be named one of the 2019 Top Entrepreneurs by the Mississippi Business Journal,” Lampkin said.



“My journey at MVSU prepared me to work with various organizations and start several businesses.”

Lampkin is the chief executive officer of the nonprofit social impact agency Higher Purpose Co. which has been making moves that he’s grateful to be a part of.

“We are intentionally focused on building community wealth with black residents across Mississippi,” Lampkin explained. “Our definition of community wealth is anchored by owning our financial, cultural and political power. We truly believe in our collective vision to uplift our local economy and communities.” he added.

Lampkin said his team is currently working to pilot a business fellowship program in Coahoma County over the next few months with plans to eventually expand to other counties. They’re also fi-

nalizing the details of the Higher Purpose Funding Network which aims to connect minority entrepreneurs to affordable capital for their business.

In addition, the company’s paid internship program is looking to hire up to three more undergraduate or graduate students from Mississippi.

While the recognition received by Lampkin from the Business Journal is something he is proud of, he said he has no plans to rest on his laurels. He sees Mississippi as a place filled with great potential and believes he understands a way to help it continue to move in a good direction.

“Mississippi has the opportunity to become a beacon of hope and prosperity by empowering poor, low income and working-class black residents,” he said. “The racial wealth gap in our state and nation is continuing to grow. Higher Purpose Co. is focused on providing solutions and serving as a community resource by coordinating entrepreneurship, affordable housing and land ownership programs.”

To learn more about the work of Higher Purpose Co., visit [www.higherpurposeco.org](http://www.higherpurposeco.org)



Lampkin



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Paulette Patton, is a 1969 graduate of Tougaloo College. She retired in 2016 as director of Multi-Cultural Services at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA. Her husband Roy Patton is also a 1969 graduate of Tougaloo College. They reside in Collegeville, PA.

Seals will begin service as Superintendent of Madison County Schools immediately.

# Rev. Dennis Grant, guest revivalist at College Hill

**By Jackie Hampton**  
*Publisher*

The Alcorn Braves received high accolades for their per-



## Grant



**Larry Grant looks on as Pastors Williams and Grant shake hands.**



**Mae Grant, Dennis Grant, Terrance Hill and Malena Dowd**

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

Wednesday night Grant told the worshippers “You’ve Got to Use What You Got.” He said one thing a person can do is take inventory of what you have. He said you must follow divine direction and dare to do

Grant said the problems throughout the country are not political, not legal, not educational and not gender related; He said the root of what we see is a sin problem and those who believe need to do something.

Music Wednesday night was provided by the College Hill Mass Choir and the Jerusalem Baptist Church Choir. The College Hill Choirs are directed by Brandon Mitchell. Grant

stunned the audience when he left the pulpit and directed his church choir.

The College Hill Church family and the New Jerusalem Church family were united and they left the service in a mood that seemed all had been 're-lived.'

Larry Grant, a deacon from Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and brother of Dennis Grant, said he was very proud of the mission of his younger brother.

[illegible]



# Denault encourages Alcorn graduates to put love first



Denault

## Mississippi Link Newswire

Parents and loved ones gathered from around the world to witness students close a chapter on their educational journey at Alcorn State University.

Over 400 students earned their college degrees during Alcorn's 2019 Spring Commencement Exercise Saturday, May 4, in the Davey L. Whitney HPER Complex. The new alumni departed the university with well wishes and encouraging words from Entergy Corporation CEO Leo Denault, who delivered the ceremonial address.

Entergy's leader began his speech by congratulating the graduates on their dedication to achieving their goals.

"You are college graduates," said Denault. "You have earned your place among the 40 percent of Americans who have earned degrees. I applaud you and your drive, ambition and perseverance."

Love was the topic of Denault's message to the graduates. He encouraged them to define what success means to them and then proceed to pursue their passion.

"The most important word in your career is love. You must figure out what success means to you. Once you find your answer, grow to love what you do. It is also important to love who you are working with and who you are working for."

Developing bonds with fellow employees in the future was a trait that Denault motivated the graduates to remember when they enter the corporate world. He spoke on how critical it is to support their colleagues.

"Your co-workers are your family away from home. Make sure that you and your co-workers look out for each other and lift each other often. Motivate each other to do your best for the best re-

sults. Earn their trust and support them as they strive for excellence."

Lastly, Denault inspired the graduates to remember those who support them, including Alcorn. He reminded them to give back to the university for providing them with a solid foundation.

"Never forget that they are real people with real dreams, so love the community you serve. Understand that those who invest in you are putting their trust in you. Alcorn has invested in you, so continue to invest in your alma mater with your time, talent and money in the future."

Interim President Donzell Lee concluded the ceremony by congratulating the students for reaching the pinnacle of their undergraduate and graduate pathways.

The graduates expressed their excitement for completing their educational milestone. Ayana Jones, a Natchez, Mississippi native who earned a bachelor's degree in child development, was almost at a loss for words when describing her feelings about graduation. Because of the obstacles she's had to hurdle, earning a degree is a special accomplishment.

"It feels amazing to achieve a goal that I've been working on for years," said Jones. "Initially, I was a nursing major, but I realized that the field wasn't for me. So, I followed my true passion, which is working with children. So to overcome the obstacles is an indescribable feeling."

Ro'Myrus Preston, who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education, reflected on the hours of dedication it took for him to become the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year university.

"It was a journey filled with hard work," said Preston. "I had to juggle ROTC,

take 22 credit hours in a semester, and overcome the pressure of passing state exams to receive my teaching certification in Mississippi. It was a hard fought battle, but it was worth it. I love Alcorn, and I'm so glad I chose to attend this university."

Commencement featured other highlights during the celebration. A total of 81 members of Alcorn's 1969 Golden Class took the stage to receive their golden diplomas.

Wilbert Jones, a board member for the ASU Foundation, Inc., presented Robert Tatum Jr., a Madison, Mississippi native who earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, with the Award of Excellence, which includes a \$1,000 check and a plaque of achievement from the Foundation. The award is the culmination of Tatum's dedication to academic excellence.

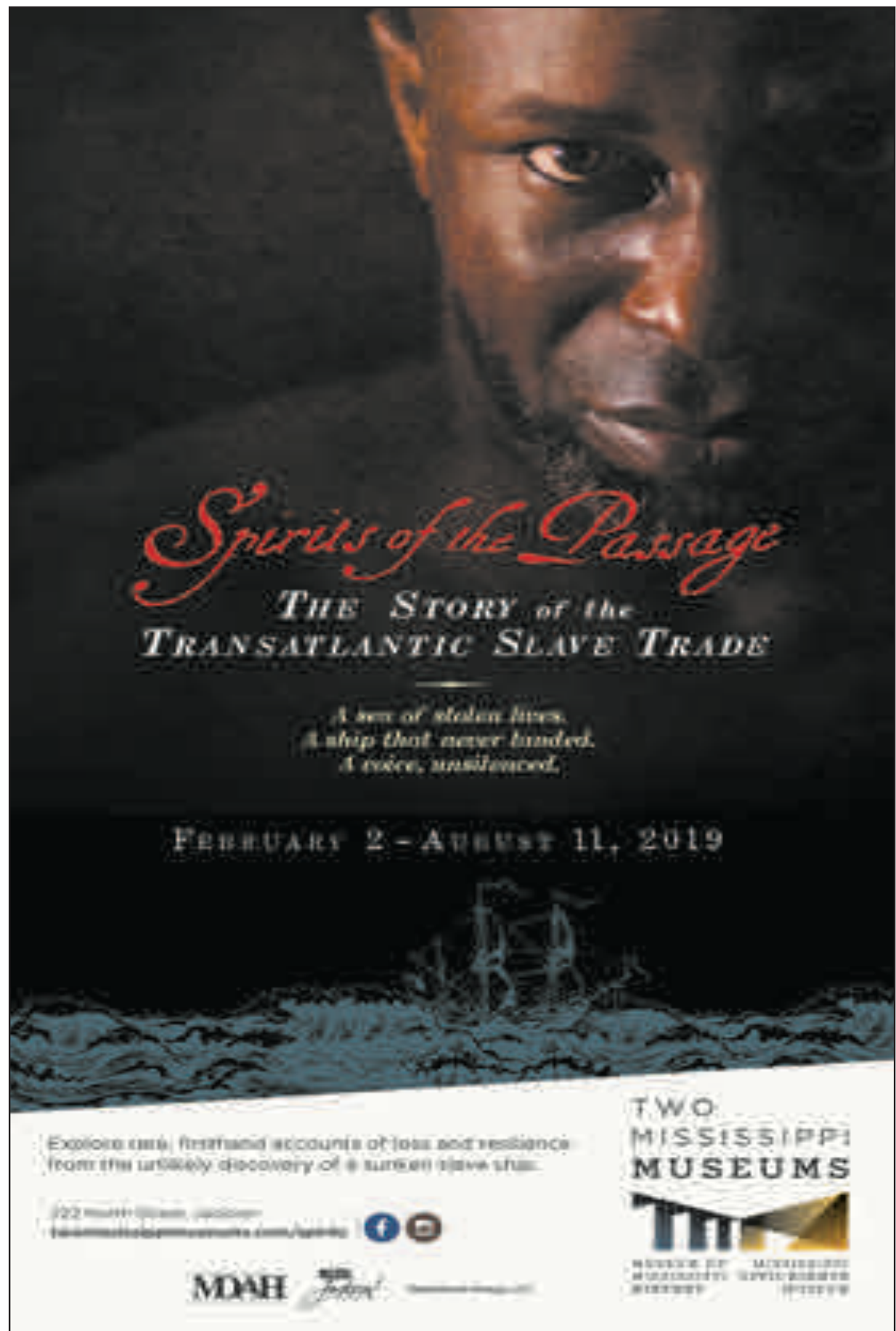
"I was always told to do my best, and that's what I strove to do," said Tatum. "I thank God for giving me the strength to persevere through all eight semesters. Being in this position is a surreal feeling because it's a prayer that has been answered. I've waited for a long time to share this day with my classmates that also worked hard to get to this point."

Before Denault's address to the graduates, Lee presented him with an honorary doctorate.

For the first time, three Alcorn alumni received the Alcornite of the Year Award. The Rev. Dr. Neddie Winters presented awards to Fred McNair, Braves head football coach; Dr. Alfred Rankins Jr., commissioner of Higher Education for the state of Mississippi; and Senator Willie Simmons, who has served in the Mississippi State Senate for 26 years.



Rev. Neddie Winters (at podium) representing Alcornite of the Year Awards. (L/R) Sen. Simmons, coach McNair and Dr. Rankins





# Tougaloo College 2019 Commencement

May 2 - 5, 2019 • Tougaloo College • Tougaloo, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Tougaloo College  
Class of 2019

Jay D. Johnson



## Captain Barrington Irving headlines JPS Spring Parent Conference



General session presenters included (from left) Shauntea Kelly, a student at Wingfield High; Ruben Banks, a student at Jim Hill High; Captain Barrington Irving, Jean Hairston, board president; Errick L. Greene, superintendent; and Carlin Nichols, a student at the Michelle Obama Early College Program.

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Captain Barrington Irving, who has set records in the aviation industry, headlined the Spring Parent and Family Engagement Conference hosted by Jackson Public Schools Thursday, April 25.

Irving shared his story of breaking barriers. Growing up in low-income areas of Miami where youth like him were more likely to steal cars than build them, a chance encounter with a pilot who became his mentor changed his life's course. Once he decided to become a pilot, the same ingenuity and street smarts that sustained him in Miami's two poorest districts led him to acquire his first airplane – he built it.

He shared his story before an audience of mostly parents in attendance at the districtwide parent conference. The meat of his message was meant to encourage parents and other adults to believe in what their children can become.

Later in his life, after achieving success as a pilot and conducting presentations for schools, it was a letter from a teacher that changed his mission again from inspiring youth to empowering them.

“That’s what this is about,” said Irving. “How do you empower young people?”

After receiving the letter, he became determined to get involved in education, starting in his hometown of Miami. He has challenged students as young as fifth-grade to build aerodynamic vehicles, either planes or really fast cars. One group of eighth-grade students in Miami built an airplane from scratch in 10 weeks. Irving admitted that one of the barriers to this ultimately successful outcome was that many adults involved did not believe students that age could build an airplane.

Irving’s presentation also emphasized the significance of mentorship. His own life was transformed by a mentor, a pilot who devoted 30 minutes a week describing his profession and various places his assignments took him. Likewise, when Irving became a successful pilot, he began mentoring students himself. His program turned students who could not do basic math into high-salaried professionals. Included among those he presented as examples were an engineer, a certified airplane mechanic, a fighter pilot and a medical student.



JPS Lead Counselor LeSian Davis explains graduation requirements and dual enrollment in a session for parents of high school students.



Blackburn Principal LaQuanta Murray Nelson gives parents pointers on how to help their children have a successful middle school experience.

“Parents, as important as the journey is, your children only care about the destination,” said Irving.

In addition to Irving’s eye-opening presentation during the general session, attendees were served dinner and took part in breakout sessions. Irving also conducted a hands-on STEM workshop with middle and high school students.

With session titles like Kindergarten Readiness: The Power of Early Literacy, Keep Calm and Relax: Helping Your Child Succeed in Middle School and Making Math Make Cents, there were relevant topics for every parent in attendance. The sessions were replete with strategies for parents whether their children are in preschool, middle school or teenagers in high school. Presenters provided tips for parents to help with behavior, classroom success and ways to use technology to enhance education, not just for entertainment. Participating parents could attend two sessions from more than a

dozen choices. The small groups and informal setting facilitated parent interaction with the presenters and each other.

The district holds the Parent Engagement Conference to encourage parents to become more involved with our schools. Through increased parent engagement students behave better in class and therefore perform better.

Conference presenters included JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene, School Board President Jeanne M. Hairston and JPS Parent of the Year Cheryl Smith.

Students who took part in the general session included Ruben Banks of Jim Hill High School and Shauntea Kelly of Wingfield High School.

Carlin Nichols, a ninth grader at the Michelle Obama Early College High School, introduced Barrington as the special guest speaker.

Workshop presenters were teachers and administrators of JPS schools and offices.

## JROTC holds 32Nd Annual Cadet Pass And Review



JPS Superintendent Errick Greene, Reviewing Officer Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Margaret Barnes, and MDE JROTC Bureau Director Edwin Butler present Scholastic Excellence Awards to the overall top academic cadet from each of our seven high schools and Powell Middle School.

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The 32nd Annual Jackson Public Schools JROTC Cadet Pass and Review was held in late March at Hughes Field. Approximately 1,000 cadets from the seven JPS high schools and the Powell Middle School Academy of Military Science participated.

The program consisted of the Formation of Cadets, Entrance of the Official Party, Cadet Change of Command, Honors to the Nation, Introduction of Cadet Battalions, the Cadet Creed, Honors to the Reviewing Officer and the Presentation of Awards. The entire Pass and Review Ceremony was conducted by cadets. The recently announced Cadets of the Year performed all of the key leadership roles in the ceremony.

Cadet Col. Brandie Wigley, the recently named 2019 Cadet of the Year, served as the Brigade Commander. Wigley welcomed the attending audience and recapped the program’s accomplishments over the year. As host commander for the ceremony, she introduced Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Margaret Barnes and JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene before they each gave opening remarks.

Barnes has led a distinguished military career of more than 37 years. She retired as the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Human Resource Command. She currently serves as a Mississippi Ambassador for the U.S. Army Reserves.

“One of the things that we observed was something that JROTC says that it strives to teach you,” said Barnes. “That is leadership and teamwork. See, there’s no way that you could have made it in that beautiful formation unless you knew how to act as a team and also had good leaders, from the cadre down to the cadet commanders.”

“The young people that I’ve seen march on to this field have demonstrated a level of integrity and a great deal of poise,” said Greene. “I know that there’s great leadership in these young people, and they have the level of focus that it will take to ensure that they’re all well-prepared to move forward.”

### Cadet Change of Command

Wigley and the 2019 incoming Brigade staff presented Medallions of Excellence as tokens of appreciation for a job well done to outgoing Brigade staff led by Brigade Commander Cadet Col. Ruben Banks, a graduating senior at Jim Hill High School. Along with Banks, outgoing Brigade staff receiving the Medallions of Excellence were:

Cadet Public Affairs Officer: C/LTC Jayla Crumb, Callaway High

Cadet Executive Officer: C/LTC Le’Jeric Humphrey, Forest Hill High

Cadet Command Sergeant Major: C/CSM Fabian Hill, Jim Hill High

Cadet S-4/Logistics Officer: C/LTC Joseph Mitchell, Murrah High

Cadet Personnel Officer: C/LTC Joseph Jiles, Lanier High

Cadet Security and Automations Officer: C/LTC LaDarian Carter, Province High

Cadet Training and Operations Officer: C/LTC Shamia Thompson, Wingfield High

All are graduating seniors in the class of 2019.

### Scholastic Excellence Award Recipients

Also referred to as the Superintendent’s Award, the Scholastic Excellence Award is presented each year to the cadet who exhibits the highest degree of excellence in scholastic areas. Listed are the 2019 recipients for each of the seven JPS high schools and the Powell Middle School Academy of Military Science:

C/MAJ Jayla Crumb, Callaway High – Crumb is the Battalion Executive Officer of Callaway High School 4th Battalion Charging Chargers. She is ranked 12 out of 219 seniors in her class with a 3.3 GPA and an ACT score of 26. She plans to attend Jackson State University in the fall of 2019 to pursue a degree in mathematics education and participate in STEM. After graduating from college, she plans to be a math teacher.

C/LTC Brittany Bradley, Forest Hill High – Bradley is a graduating senior currently ranked in the top ten of her class. She has served as the Battalion Commander of the 5th Battalion Patriots for the past two years. She aspires to become an artist and will be attending Mississippi College in the fall.

C/CPT Essence Byrd, Jim Hill High – Byrd is a sophomore in the International Baccalaureate Program at Jim Hill High School. She currently serves as the Battalion Logistical Officer (S4) for the Tiger Battalion. She has a 4.5 GPA and is ranked 8 of 246 students in her sophomore class.

C/SSG Christopher Washington, Lanier High – Washington is the 1st Battalion, Alpha Company, Platoon Sergeant. He is currently ranked 6 out of 188 sophomores and he holds a grade point average of 3.30. He plans to graduate Lanier High School as valedictorian, attend Alcorn State University, and major in nursing.

C/CPT Jaydin Reeves, Murrah High – Reeves is a graduating senior LET 4. She is an advanced placement student with a QPA of 4.07, ASVAB score of 70, ACT score of 27, and is ranked number 29 out of 296 students in her class. Reeves has applied for a NAVY ROTC college scholarship.

For a complete list of Scholastic Excellence Award recipients visit mississippilink.com

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Member:



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# MVSU student selected for competitive Bank of America tech program



Shapi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A Mississippi Valley State University student experienced the opportunity of a lifetime when she was selected as one of 50 students from more than 500 applicants for a competitive tech program.

MVSU freshman Roseline Shapi was recently extended the opportunity to attend Bank of America’s Ignite with Tech Program in North Carolina.

The Zimbabwe native joined other first-year and sophomore students for the one and a half day program targeted to black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, and Alaskan Native and American Indian students interested in the Bank of America technology business.

The event provided a unique opportunity for students to meet business professionals first hand, learn about the financial services industry and start preparing for the application process.

“I was excited that I was among the applicants that were selected from a large pool of students,” said Shapi. “When I first arrived, I was a little intimidated seeing students from Ivy League schools and other well-known universities...But I quickly realized that I knew as much as they did.”

As a participant, Shapi learned about the unique culture and vast history at

Bank of America, while taking part in networking receptions, “Day in the Life of” panels, sessions with recruiters, interactive simulations, special presentations and diversity and inclusion conversations with members of Bank of America’s employee network.

“My two-days were spent networking with people who work at Bank of America and other students. I came to view the company as a tech company that is into banking,” Shapi said.

“We did some mock interviews, and that helped me learn how best I can market myself with authenticity. It was such a wonderful experience,” she added.

As an international student, Shapi said being a student at MVSU has helped her to adjust to life in America as well as prepare for opportunities like the Bank of America program.

“I like MVSU because the classes are small; I am not just a number. My professors are awesome and treat me like a partner,” Shapi said. “They want me to excel and are willing to do anything in their capabilities to make that happen including scheduling time for me where I can ask any questions and get help. I love how close-knit the community is, which has played a big role in making my experience at MVSU a wonderful one.”

# Hollingsworth Gospel Concert funds Hinds CC law enforcement scholarship

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The annual Good Old Fashioned Country Gospel Concert for the benefit of the Robert Wallace Hollingsworth Family Scholarship for Law Enforcement at Hinds Community College is at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 8 at Cain-Cochran Hall on the Raymond Campus.

Admission is free but donations are accepted.

The concert features the Born Again Quartet from Byram, Oneway Quartet from Ethel, vocalist Carl Hollingsworth of Byram, Raymond United Methodist Church’s Wellspring and master of ceremonies Jack Hollingsworth of Utica.

The annual benefit concert began in 2004 to help raise funds for Mike Hollingsworth, Jack Hollingsworth’s son, a Warren County deputy sheriff who was injured in the line of duty. Family members saw such great success with the event that they decided to make it a tradition.

Currently, all proceeds from the benefit go to the Hollingsworth Family Law Enforcement Scholarship, which ultimately helps a deserving Hinds student attend college. The scholarship made its first award to a Hinds student in 2009.

The scholarship is dedicated to five Hollingsworth men, all serving in some capacity in the field of law enforcement. The student receiving the scholarship must be majoring in criminal justice.

As Mississippi’s largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester. To learn more, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu) or call 1.800.HindsCC.

# 355 undergraduate degrees, 149 graduate degrees awarded at Delta State University’s Spring 2019 Commencement



Left to right: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Charles McAdams; Lauren Coleman Aldridge; her father, Thomas Coleman; and President LaForge celebrate the father-daughter undergraduate degree recipients.



Dr. Corlis Snow accepts the 2019 S. E. Kossman Teaching Award from President LaForge and Provost McAdams.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Delta State University awarded 355 undergraduate degrees and 149 graduate degrees at the 92nd commencement Friday, May 3, 2019, in the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the DSU campus.

“Today, graduates, you have reached a milestone, and we are very pleased to recognize your achievements,” declared Delta State President William N. LaForge, who led both the morning session, which honored undergraduates from the College of Business and Aviation and the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing and all DSU graduate students, and the afternoon event, which celebrated undergraduates from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Sciences. “I urge you to view your college education as a trust that commits you to a lifetime of learning and service.”

Keynote speaker Josh West, a 2005 Delta State graduate (bachelor of arts) and CEO of Blue Delta, a premium bespoke jean company that he cofounded in 2011 and relocated to the hills of Mississippi, echoed those sentiments. “Find the best people and join them,” advised the Delta State Student Hall of Fame member, and “give of yourself for the benefit of others.”

“Worry less about title, salary and location of a job, continued West, who served as Student Government Association president at Delta State and who was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society, and focus more on work colleagues. And remember that accomplishments mean little without anyone to share them with, observed West, one of the top CEOs in Mississippi in 2019, according to the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

New bachelor’s degree graduates Thomas Coleman, of Yazoo City, and his married daughter, Lauren Coleman Aldridge, of Cleveland, also embodied these sentiments. She was unaware that he would join her in moving tassels to the left at the afternoon ceremony – until shortly before festivities began via a letter read backstage in a private moment.

“I thought: How cool would it be to graduate with her?” Thomas recalled after to a reporter. “You could drop her out of an airplane and she’d hit the ground running. Nothing fazes her.” Owner of a sandblasting and paint company, he graduated from Delta State as a university studies major through the Complete 2 Compete program that encourages Mississippi adults to return to school to finish their degree.

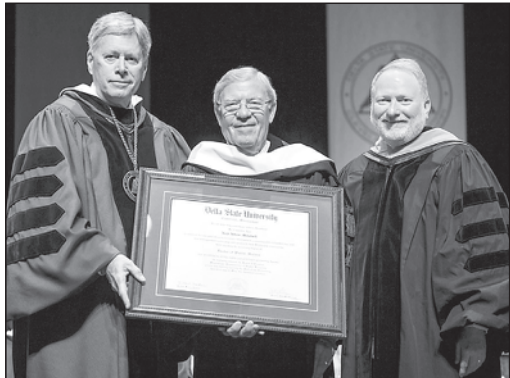
“I was completely surprised,” said Lauren, a speech and hearing science major and mother of a 2-year-old girl. “I tried not to cry because I didn’t want to mess up my makeup.” Spending just about all her waking moments as a student, parent and spouse left little time to keep tabs on dear old dad’s coursework, she suggested.

“This is the best graduation gift” to give and get, said LaForge before they took a photo with him and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Charles McAdams.

Thomas Coleman’s son is scheduled to graduate as a biology/premed major from Mississippi College in December. Parents aren’t supposed to have



Delta State University spring 2019 graduates and family and friends pack the Bologna Performing Arts Center on campus on May 3, 2019.



Delta State alumnus Ned Mitchell accepts his honorary doctorate from President LaForge and Provost McAdams.

favorite children. What will Coleman, who raised the kids on his own, do for his boy that’s on par with what he did for his girl? He’s thinking on it.

Corlis Snow, associate professor of teacher education and coordinator of graduate studies in elementary education and the master of arts in teaching program, received the 2019 S. E. Kossman Teaching Award, the highest distinction a faculty member may be accorded at Delta State. An 18-year veteran in the Division of Teacher Education, Leadership and Research, she is the 37th recipient of the recognition.

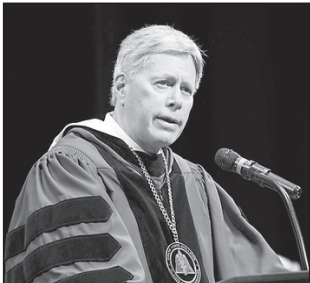
Longtime Delta State supporter Ned Mitchell, who earned a bachelor of science degree from Delta State in 1962, received an honorary doctorate.

A Cleveland native, Cleveland High School graduate, and much-honored insurance executive, he received the DSU title of Distinguished Statesmen of the Year in 1993 and Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1998. Mitchell is a member of the Delta State University Foundation Board and served as president of the foundation from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1998 to 2002. Most recently, he co-chaired the Campaign for Delta State, which raised funds to help in the creation and enhancement of scholarships; to strengthen academic and athletic programs; to support initiatives of faculty, staff and students; and to foster community and regional partnerships. Mitchell also has held numerous volunteer leadership roles in Cleveland and Bolivar County for many years.

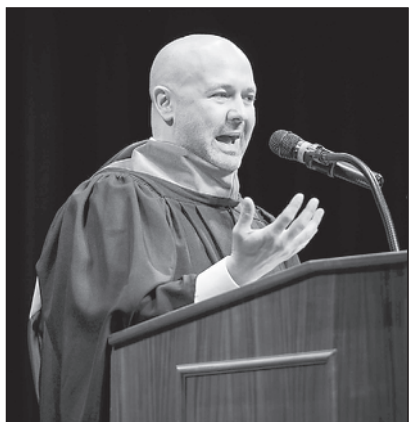
A faithful attendee of just about every Delta State event, from sports to arts, he called the honorary doctorate “the nicest and most heart-warming” of all his accolades.

Subject to completion of all requirements as certified by the registrar, the 504 total degrees at the 92nd commencement broke down as follows:

**The 355 undergraduate degrees:** College of Arts and Sciences, 151; College of Education and Human Sciences, 100; College of Business and



“Of course, this celebration does not belong only to you,” points out Delta State President William N. LaForge. “You have enjoyed the help of family and friends.”



Keynote speaker and Delta State alumnus Josh West indicates that only 7 percent of the world’s population have a four-year degree, so “be thankful and proud.”

Aviation, 63; School of Nursing, 41.

**The 149 graduate degrees:**

College of Education and Human Sciences, 87; College of Business and Aviation, 43; College of Arts and Sciences, 10; School of Nursing, 9.

“This nation and the state of Mississippi need the benefit of the skills and learning you have acquired here,” concluded LaForge. “We send you into the world with our deep affection and wish for each of you the fullest measure of success.”

**About Delta State University**

Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose more than 3,500 students come from most U.S. states and more than 50 countries. The university offers numerous unique programs, including the Delta Music Institute entertainment industry program, and is the only university in Mississippi to offer undergraduate and graduate aviation programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, which is recognized as the birthplace of American music, Delta State has become the center of music and culture for the state and the region. The university is also the academic center for the blues, offering an online blues studies curriculum that leads to a certificate for advanced study of blues music. In addition, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, and education, among other areas.





# Diamond in the rough: Aspiring teacher teased for being different proves naysayers wrong



Dortch, a native of Chicago, overcame the challenges of cerebral palsy to become an honor student, who will teach at Bolton Edwards Elementary in August. PHOTOS SPECIAL TO JSU

By Rachel James-Terry  
jsumsnews.com

“My mom told me, ‘People will talk about you until the day you die and even after you die. You just have to learn to prove them wrong and keep pushing,’” says Diamond Dortch, an elementary education major who will begin teaching reading at Bolton Edwards Elementary in August.

Refusing to let anyone or anything define her, Dortch heeded her mother’s advice and has been proving people wrong ever since.

Born with cerebral palsy, Dortch did not walk until the age of 4. Once she took her first steps, it was on her tiptoes, and she had trouble maintaining balance. A developmental and motor disorder, cerebral palsy affects approximately 500,000 U.S. children and adults annually. Although the condition can have both mental and physical ramifications, Dortch’s condition was limited to a difficulty walking. Yet, it did not make her trek less arduous.

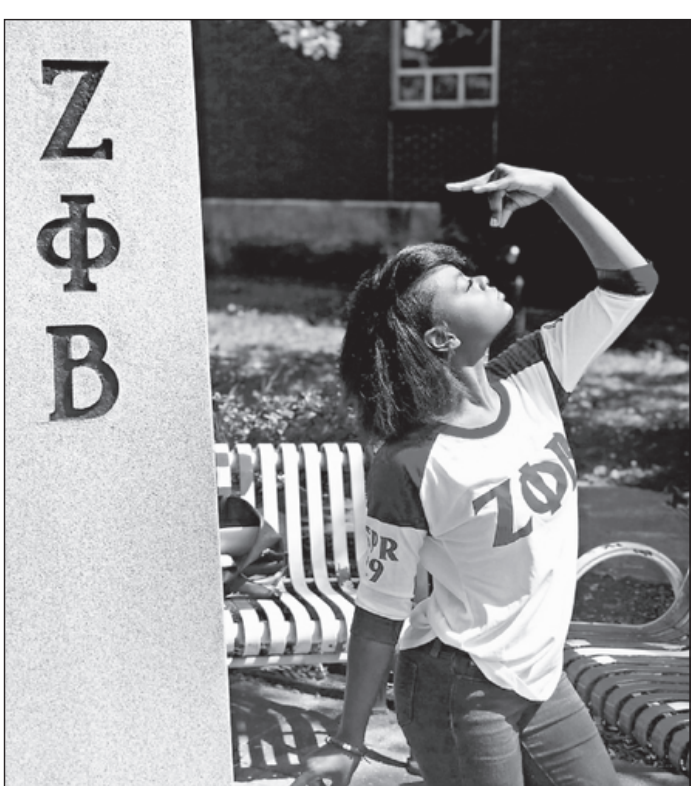
“They had to wait until my bones were a little more developed, so I had my first surgery at age 5 and the second surgery at 7,” she explains. “I also had to undergo about six or seven years of physical therapy.”

When it was all said and done, Dortch had knee extensions and a hip rotation, and a plate holds her hip together. She was also in a body cast for three weeks, something that proved difficult for her.

“I couldn’t move at all. Then, I was in a wheelchair for a long time,” she explains. “It really hit home for me seeing all of my cousins, brothers and sisters getting to play and be a child, but I was always in the hospital or in therapy.”

A Chicagoan, Dortch was homeschooled until she was able to walk comfortably with leg braces. Once she started classes at Brian Piccolo Elementary, the children teased and made fun of her because she was different.

“I have to give credit to my second-grade teacher. She actually created this day around my disability and students



Dortch, graduating senior, calls JSU a diamond in the rough and encourages students to take advantage of all that the school has to offer.



Dortch plans to teach abroad, get her ASL certification and become U.S. Secretary of Education. But first, she will be teaching at Bolton Edwards Elementary starting in August.

were able to learn why I was the way I was,” she says.

It may have taken time for others to see past her impairment, but not Dortch. She immersed herself in academics and activities. “After my sophomore year in high school, my disability was no longer a big factor,” she explains. “I was class president, captain of the debate team for two years. I was in a lot of organizations.”

With a 3.9 GPA, Dortch was also named valedictorian of her high school’s 2015

graduating class. “That was something I always wanted to accomplish. It was a big moment for me just because I know a lot of people counted me out because I was disabled,” she says.

“Never forgetting where you come from” was the theme of her commencement address. Dortch says she wanted her class to remember their foundation and that they needed to be resources to each other in the future.

“Even now, we go back to our old high school and talk



Dortch underwent years of therapy after being born with cerebral palsy, a permanent movement disorder.

to the seniors and freshmen about where we were then versus where we are now,” she states.

Dortch graduated from JSU Saturday, May 4, with a job already locked down. It is a position that arose as she participated in a mock interview with an administrator from the Hinds County School District. Seemingly impressed, “He stopped me in the middle of the interview and said he wanted me to meet a principal,” she explains.

The next day, Dortch was in an interview with Lashurn Williams, principal of Bolton Edwards Elementary.

“It’s that moment where everything you’ve been working toward for the past four years is coming to fruition. This isn’t a dream anymore. This is about to be my career,” says Dortch, who later accepted the offer.

“I urge people to connect with people.”

Reflecting on her time at JSU, she describes it as one filled with ups and downs, but overall “amazing.”

“My freshmen and sophomore years were some of my best years,” says Dortch. “My freshmen year, I got to study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, for free thanks to Jackson State.”

During the visit, she and her classmates played soccer with local children and treated them to a lunch of sandwiches and fruit. Dortch says their appreciative nature and the overall trip moved her to tears.

“That place kind of checked me as a person, not to say that I was conceited or ungrateful, but it brought me back to reality about the things that I’m afforded in America,” she says.

Dortch would receive another chance to use her passport when, as a sophomore, she spent a week in Tokyo, Japan, in the study abroad program.

“I learned a lot. They wanted me to come back and teach through their (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program. I did consider it, but I would like to know the language better before I live abroad.”

# Center for University-Based Development paints home of 100-year old West Jackson resident



By LaToya Hentz-Moore  
jsumsnews.com

Jackson State’s Center for University-Based Development (CUBD) recently partnered with Felicia McClinton, president of the Washington Addition Neighborhood Association to paint the home of long-time resident Carrie Bell Dean Wright as a birthday gift. Wright, the third daughter of seven children, celebrated 100 years of life April 27.

“We wanted to give a special birthday gift to Carrie for her 100th birthday,” says Heather Wilcox, director for Community Engagement and the Center for University-Based Development.

“She has been living in her home for over five decades. She suggested that we could show our appreciation for her commitment to the neighborhood by painting her home.”

The Riverdale, MS native enjoys fishing, singing and teaching Sunday school at her church. She moved to Jackson in 1949 and worked various occupations in local factories. In 1962, Wright became one of the first groups of foster grandparents to work in the state of Mississippi. Wright retired from working for foster grandparent programs at the age of 96. Wright’s personal motto is ‘think before you speak.’

# MDCPS awards \$150,000 to JSU School of Social Work

By LaToya Hentz-Moore  
jsumsnews.com

The Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services (MDCPS) has awarded Jackson State’s School of Social Work a \$150,000 grant to create public awareness regarding child abuse prevention and to strengthen families in Hinds county facing those obstacles.

“This grant supports the School of Social Work’s emphasis on vulnerable children, youth and families,” says Isiah Marshall, associate dean for the School of Social Work. “It prepares our students and faculty, through training and research to address complex social issues in today’s society. As an urban research university, this grant solidifies connections to the communities that we serve here in Hinds county and throughout the state of Mississippi.”

According to MDCPS, the grant will target the general population in Hinds county through public awareness and education activities in regards to preventing child abuse and neglect. This pilot project, supported by volunteers, students and faculty in the School of Social Work, is titled ‘The Capitol Area Child Abuse Prevention Program’ (CACAPP).

The project features three signature components: The Parent Academy, which are informational forums lead by parents to enhance parental relationships; The Parent Aids, who are students and volunteers that assist parents with life challenges and parenting skills; and the Family Resource Center, which houses literature, books, games, and other materials aimed at strengthening families.

Each programs focus is guided by the use of evidence based protective factors. Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that, when present, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families.

Protective factors help parents find resources, support, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively under stress (Child Welfare Information Gateway). Although MDCPS reports a decrease in the number of children in protective care, there is still a need to educate the community and assist families who face social, emotional, and economic challenges, especially for families of color.

“With a national focus on community based services and prevention, our signature programs here in Jackson can serve as a model for other communities across the country,” says Marshall.

This project is coordinated by the following principal investigators:

- Barbara Cheney (master’s of social work student)
  - Dr. Pedro Hernandez
  - Dr. Jaegoo Lee
  - Dr. Patrice Jenkins
  - Dr. Theresia Johnson-Ratliff
  - Professor Jacqueline Loggins
  - Dr. Isiah Marshall Jr.
  - Dr. Jeton McClinton
  - Dr. Belinda D. Smith
- For more information on CACAPP events, please visit [www.jsums.edu/socialwork](http://www.jsums.edu/socialwork) or call 601 979-8896.



# 60-year anniversary of first Wade-In to be remembered

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The six-decade anniversary of the first phase of South Mississippi's most famous and history-changing civil rights moment will be remembered and observed in a special ceremony which will include reflections by family members and past participants of the courageous act.

The 2019 "Wade-In Remembrance Program and Roll Call Tribute: 60th Year Anniversary" will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the Biloxi Civic Center, 591 Howard Ave., Biloxi. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the program starts at 5:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

Noted civil rights activist and economist Leslie Burl McLemore is the keynote speaker. Remarks will also be made by those who were a 1959 Wade-In participant. The People Mission Baptist Church of Gulfport will entertain with the performance of classic "Freedom Songs."

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason Jr., son of Wade-In lead organizer, the late Dr. Gilbert R. Mason

Sr., spearheads the organizing of the event, in collaboration with the Biloxi NAACP, the MLK Coastwide Celebration Committee, the Biloxi Historical Administration, the Biloxi Visitors Center and the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio.

On May 14, 1959, the first of three marches was conducted by Dr. Mason, a practicing physician, to protest the forced segregation of the 26-mile beach on the South Mississippi coast. He went swimming in the waters along with a small group of friends and family members, thus calling it the "Wade-In," before being ordered off the beach by the local police, being told that "Negroes don't belong on the sand beach."

Two more "Wade-Ins" followed, the largest and most violent April 24, 1960, which was dubbed "Bloody Sunday." The third, June 23, 1963, took place two weeks after the assassination of Mississippi NAACP Field Director Medgar Evers.

Combined with similar efforts by Gulfport physician

Felix Dunn, the actions led to a long series of court hearings, which resulted in the beaches being ordered to integrate in August 1968. The second protest also led to the formation of the Biloxi NAACP. Dr. Mason was elected president, a position he held for 34 years.

Keynote speaker McLemore is a former Jackson, Mississippi city councilman and served as interim mayor. He was highly active in civil rights activities in the 1960s with the NAACP and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

In tradition of the previous Wade-In Remembrance events, a "Roll Call" will name each of the close to 200 individuals – both deceased and living – who participated in any of the marches. Biloxi NAACP life members Vonnice Travis and Clarence Taylor will read the names to the audience.

A reception will follow the ceremony.

*For more information, contact the Biloxi Branch NAACP at 228 432-0206 or email blx-naacp@cableone.net.*

# 'I was so heartbroken': African-American student stripped of salutatorian honor lost Ole Miss scholarship opportunity, lawyer says

**By Aallyah Wright and Kelsey Davis**  
*Mississippi Today*

Tears ran down Olecia James' face when she did not hear her name called as the Class of 2018's salutatorian for the newly consolidated Cleveland Central High School, she said.

"I was so heartbroken. I was hurt. I had a blank stare at one moment and I just cried," she said. "I wouldn't know how it felt because it wasn't mine to have, but when I knew what I had and should've had, it hurt. It just hurts a different way."

Cleveland Central High wasn't where the Cleveland native dreamed of graduating, but she made the most of it. She became a tennis player, basketball player and homecoming queen all while working toward achieving salutatorian.

But a recent federal lawsuit filed Friday against the Cleveland School District alleges the district – which merged East Side High School and Cleveland High School in 2017 under a desegregation order – denied James salutatorian for the fear of white flight.

Now, James' attorney, Lisa Ross, says she missed out on an opportunity to attend Ole Miss because she was not named salutatorian.

"If she would've had the salutatorian position, she would've been at Ole Miss where she was accepted and got a scholarship for salutatorian," said Ross. "But she lost an opportunity to receive a scholarship because of what (the district) did. They went back on their word."

Legal counsel representing Cleveland School District said "unfortunately, at this time ... (we're) not in a position to comment on the new lawsuit."

James is suing the district's five-member school board, superintendent, assistant superintendent and former East Side High principal in their official and individual capacities.

The lawsuit alleges:

- Two weeks before graduation, James found out school officials lowered her grade point average (GPA) by reducing the quality points she earned from courses she had taken under the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at the former East Side High School

- James' family members, including her grandmother and father, met with school officials on more than three separate occasions to get answers on why the quality points were inaccurate on the grade scripts, but school leaders did not have an explanation or resolve the issue

- At a May 14 board meeting, the board members and school officials apologized to James. Jacqueline Thigpen, the superintendent who's retiring this June, presented her with a new grade script, showing that her cumulative weighted quality point average (QPA) was 4.41

However, at the May 17 graduation, a white male student, whose cumulative QPA was a 4.34, was announced as the salutatorian, the suit says.

The next day at a school board meeting, James and her grandmother learned her QPA dropped to 4.33, and she did not receive an explanation from Cleveland school leaders or board members, the suit alleges.

Quality points matter because a student who is in accelerated or



**James, former East Side High student, was crowned the 2017 Cleveland Central Homecoming queen. PHOTO BY AALLYAH WRIGHT, MISSISSIPPI TODAY**



**James snaps photos during Cleveland Central High's 2018 graduation**



**James poses with an Instagram frame at Alcorn State University**

advanced courses receive higher quality points than students who are not enrolled in those courses, said Ross.

For example, if a student makes an "A" in a regular class, they receive 4 points whereas a student in an accelerated class gets 5 points and 6 points for an advanced class, according to the district's 2017-2018 student policy handbook.

"The law can make you consolidate the school, but the law can't make you change your heart about how you feel about a group of people," said community member Edward Duvall. "We are one city. There's two different cultures, but we need to try to work together as much and as best as we can."

Although she didn't get to graduate from East Side or attend her first choice of college, James said she's still choosing to make the best of her situation.

Instead of pursuing a law degree at Ole Miss, she decided to attend Alcorn State University majoring in mass communications. She ended her freshman year with a 4.0 GPA, Freshman of The Year, a presidential scholar, the sports editor of The Campus Chronicle and a ROTC cadet.

"I was sad but at the moment it was all about resilience and controlling what you can control," she said. "I got a lot of doors opened for me ... and I can't wait to see what the future holds for me at Alcorn."



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# Nation’s racial wealth gap worsens with federal tax cuts: Black families have a dime for every dollar held by whites

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

If you’re like me, every time you hear a news reporter or anchor talk about how great the nation’s economy is, you wonder what world they are living in. Certainly these journalists are not referring to the ongoing struggle to make ends meet that so much of black America faces. For every daily report of Wall Street trading, or rising corporate profits, you’re reminded that somebody else is doing just fine financially.

To put it another way, ‘Will I ever get past my payday being an exchange day...when I can finally have the chance to keep a portion of what I earn in my own name and see how much it can grow?’

When new research speaks to those who are forgotten on most nightly news shows, I feel obliged to share that news – especially when conclusions find systemic faults suppress our collective ability to strengthen assets enough to make that key transition from paying bills to building wealth.

Ten Solutions to Close the Racial Wealth Divide is jointly authored by the Institute for Policy Studies, Ohio State University’s Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the National Commu-



nity Reinvestment Coalition. This insightful and scholarly work opens with updates on the nation’s nagging and widening racial wealth divide. It then characterizes solutions offered as one of three approaches: programs, power and process.

According to the authors, programs refer to new government programs that could have a major impact on improving the financial prospects of low-wealth families. Power refers to changes to the federal tax code that could bring a much-needed balance to the tax burden now borne by middle and low-income workers. Process

refers to changes to the government operates in regard to race and wealth.

“For far too long we have tolerated the injustice of a violent, extractive and racially exploitive history that generated a wealth divide where the typical black family has only a dime for every dollar held by a typical white family,” said Darrick Hamilton, report co-author and executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University.

From 1983-2016, the median black family saw their wealth drop by more than half after ad-

justing for inflation, compared to a 33 percent increase for the median white households. Keep in mind that these years include the Great Recession that stole nearly \$1 trillion of wealth from black and Latinx families, largely via unnecessary foreclosures and lost property values for those who managed to hold on to their homes.

Fast forward to 2018, and the report shares the fact that the median white family had 41 times more wealth than the median black family, and 22 times more wealth than the median Latinx family. Instead of the \$147,000 that median white families owned last year, black households had \$3,600.

When Congress passed tax cut legislation in December 2017, an already skewed racial wealth profile became worse.

“White households in the top one percent of earners received \$143 a day from the tax cuts while middle-class households (earning between \$40,000 and \$110,000) received just \$2.75 a day,” states the report. “While the media coverage of the tax package and the public statements of the bill’s backers did not explicitly state that it would directly contribute to increasing the racial wealth divide, this was the impact, intended or otherwise.”

With the majority of today’s black households renting instead of owning their homes, escalating rental prices diminish if not remove the ability for many consumers of color to save for a home down payment. As reported by CBS News, earlier this year, the national average monthly cost of fair market rent in 2018 was \$1,405. Recent research by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition on housing affordability found that more than 8 million Americans spend half or more of their incomes on housing, including over 30 percent of blacks and 28 percent of Hispanics.

Homeownership, according to the Center for Responsible Lending, remains a solid building block to gain family wealth. But with an increasing number of households paying more than a third of their income for rent, the ability to save for a home down payment is seriously weakened. CRL’s proposed remedy in March 27 testimony to the Senate Banking Committee is to strengthen affordable housing in both homeownership and rentals. To increase greater access to mortgages, CRL further advocates low-down payment loans.

“The nation’s housing finance system must ensure ac-

cess to safe and affordable mortgage loans for all creditworthy borrowers, including low-to-moderate income families and communities of color,” noted Nikitra Bailey, a CRL EVP. “The lower down payment programs available through FHA and VA, provide an entry into homeownership and wealth-building for many average Americans.”

“Government-backed loans cannot be the only sources of credit for low-wealth families; they deserve access to cheaper conventional mortgages,” added Bailey. “Year after year, the annual Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data reveals how consumers of color, including upper-income black and Latinx households are disproportionately dependent on mortgages that come with higher costs. Our nation’s fair lending and housing finance laws require that the private mortgage market provide access for low-wealth families. We need additional resources for rental housing to address the affordability crisis that many working families face.”

There’s really no point in continuing to do the same thing while expecting a different result. When the status quo just isn’t working, change must be given a chance.

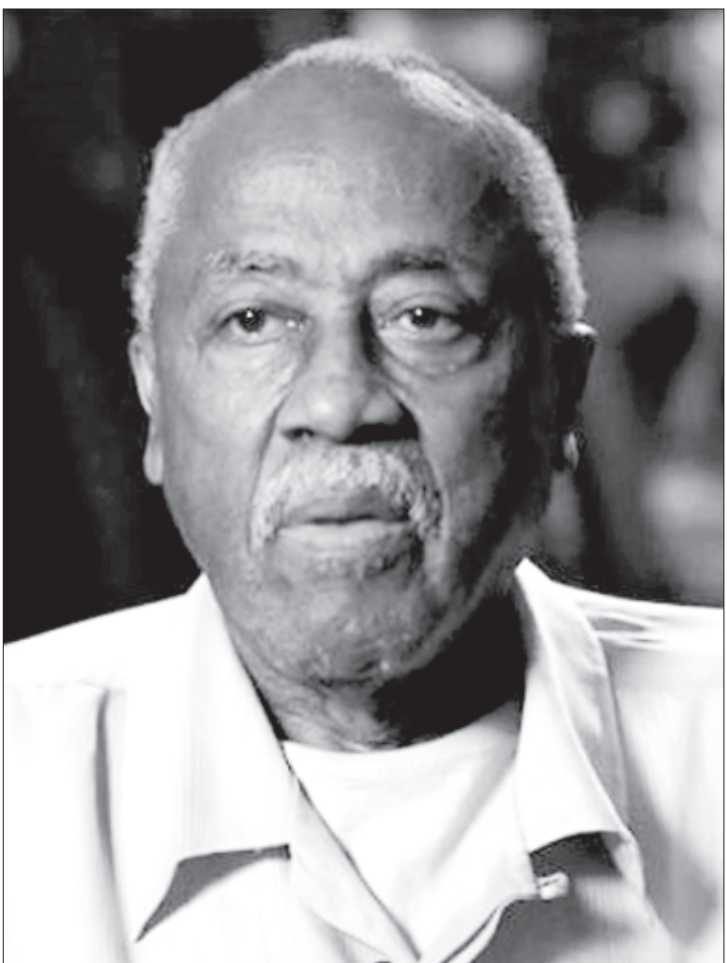
# A farewell to Earl Grant, A Pan-African warrior

By A. Peter Bailey  
TriceEdneyWire.com

Earl Grant, 89, a courageous and committed Pan-African warrior, died of what his doctors labeled heart failure April 7, 2019 in Los Angeles. Those of us who knew Earl know that his heart didn’t fail; it just closed down after enabling him, for many years, to make a productive and valuable contribution to the ongoing battle against white supremacy/racism. Earl, a brilliant mathematician, jokingly described himself as a “descendant of a long line of distinguished cotton pickers. His family had been one of those who fled the overt terrorism of East Texas to the more covert of the same in California.

He moved on to become one of the most important aides and supporters of Malcolm X, another great Pan-African warrior. Their close friendship and collaboration in the battle against white supremacy/racism in North America and race-driven colonialism in Africa is clearly reflected in the following excerpts from a letter Malcolm wrote to Earl in October 1964 while in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“My Dear Brother, Your letter was awaiting me upon my return to Addis two days ago. And I was very pleased to hear from you, especially to learn that you are expecting an addition to your family. This is a blessing and proves that what we oft-times are told by others is impossible is actually made very easy as long as we don’t



Earl Grant

become discouraged and give up. No one knows what can or cannot be accomplished until all efforts towards that end has been expended...I pray Allah will bless you and your wife with a very healthy child that may bring you much deserved happiness. It hurts me to think that you feel you have outlived your usefulness to me. Usefulness is not the yardstick I use to measure what I feel has always been a warm personal friendship between us. Ours has never been a minister to Muslim

relationship. It has always been brother-to-brother and on that basis you have confided many of your personal feelings and problems to me and, in turn, I have done likewise to you. As for my part that warm brotherly relationship has never faded.”

Later in the letter Malcolm wrote that Earl “should be the happiness of those whom I left behind because you have the most mature outlook over things, especially in the international context. Everything that I came here to do has been done

with maximum success...we are now more firmly fitted into and supported by world forces more than we could imagine previously. And I had to remain here this long to rightly lay the foundation. It has been a great personal sacrifice for my family because I left them at a time when they actually needed me the most. But the potential gain has been worth the risks. You and many others have also made great sacrifices but I believe no one will regret it in the long run.”

Earl’s equally deep feelings about their friendship is reflected by excerpts from his essay, “The Last Days of Malcolm X,” in the book Malcolm X: The Man and His Times. That’s a book conceived and formatted by Earl and myself as a response to what we considered efforts by other forces to gain control of Malcolm’s legacy. When we were totally rejected by several publishers we met with John Henrik Clarke who liked the project. With him on-board we finally got a publisher.

In his contribution, which is required reading for anyone dealing with Malcolm’s life and legacy, Earl included the following about a visit to his home by Malcolm. “...coming to my home was the one black man in the United States who was able to understand, define and identify with the problems of black Americans in the twentieth century...”

He also wrote that “Brother Malcolm called a business meeting for Saturday night, February 20, 1965, at a sis-

ter’s house. There were about a dozen of us present. Malcolm was very tired and restless but he said it was important that the meeting be held. He said he wanted a complete reorganization of the OAAU to be made. It had not been operating to his satisfaction. Also he wanted women to be given a more clearly defined role in the OAAU.”

I was not at that meeting but I do remember Malcolm saying to those of us backstage February 21, 1965 that right after a trip to Mississippi that week at the invitation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), he was going to spend six months building up the Organization of African American Unity (OAAU).

Earl’s reaction to the assassination of Malcolm February 21, 1965 is clearly revealed in the following quotes from his essay “...As I stood by his coffin, I looked upon the face that I had loved so much. The tears were streaming down my face as I said ‘As Asalaam Alaikum’ to him for the last time. I thanked him for allowing one, so unworthy as I, to share his life with him. I asked for forgiveness for my being unable to have done more for him.”

Through the past 54 years Earl attended and or participated in celebrations May 19, Malcolm’s birth date and commemorations February 21, the day he was assassinated by Negroes who willingly collaborated with proponents of white supremacy/racism.

Besides conceiving and for-

matting the book, Malcolm X: The Man and His Times, in 2006 Earl and I, along with former OAAU secretary Sara Mitchell, pulled together a reunion of former OAAU members. Eighteen brothers and sisters and their families experienced a powerful and memorable reunion.

In 2009, I amtrakd to Los Angeles and spent five days with Earl discussing ways to sustain and advance Malcolm’s critically important legacy. Tehuti Hughes, who basically looked after Earl during the last years of his life, interviewed us for nearly three hours.

The last time I spoke with Earl was a few days before his death. I told him about a book I was doing that will focus on Malcolm’s international agenda. Earl couldn’t speak but Tehuti said he was responding with body movement as I spoke.

Earl and I will be listed as co-authors of the book since he has provided me with critical information and insight.

Earl ended his “Last Days” essay with the following quote describing how he felt after the burial of Malcolm. “I returned home and fell into a deep sleep. It was the first real rest I had been able to get in months. There was no longer any reason to jump when the phone rang or to sleep with a loaded gun. The best year of my life was at an end. But, I along with all of the brothers and sisters, would live it again, Allah willing.”

Rest in peace, our warrior Brother.



# What must I do to be saved?

PART 1

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



People who are afraid of associating salvation with religion ought to give the story of the Philippian jail-

er's conversion a wide berth. If ever there was an exciting time, it was then. There was something happening every minute. Paul was a missionary, and he was well known on the streets of Philippi. He had been holding some special meetings and one day a young woman, possessed with an evil spirit, cried out against him on the street. Paul commanded the devil in her to come out and then he discovered that he had stirred up a hornet's nest. There was a set of degenerate and godless rascals who had been coining this young woman's madness into money and instead of thanking God because the young woman was set free, they commenced to complain and curse, saying that their business was being hurt. So the promoters of this brutal and devilish traffic, when they saw that their hope of gain was gone, laid hold on Paul and Silas and hustled them off to the chief magistrate of the city, who ordered them to be beaten and sent to jail. The jailer thrust them into the inner prison, so we are told and made their feet fast in

the stocks. Jails are miserable enough now, but in those days they were something awful.

Come on now, and let us pay a visit to the Philippian jail. It is midnight, but you would never know it, for in the dungeons it is always dark. Listen to the heart sickening sounds; the groans of the poor victims who have not seen the sunlight for years; the cough of the consumptive wasting away; the wail of despair, the deep sigh, the clanking chains of some poor culprit as he rolls over in his dreams; the shriek of some poor soul in a nightmare of horror; and the curses of those who are crying out against their cruel fate and you say, "God pity the poor prisoners."

But listen! Two of the prisoners are singing, singing praises to God. And now they are in prayer. You say, "Why, jailer, these are queer sounds for a place like this, where everyone else is groaning and cursing. Come, take us to them." In a moment, we are standing before the prisoners who are sitting on the cold ground with blood running from the wounds on their backs and their feet fastened tight in wooden stocks. It is Paul and Silas holding a prayer meeting at midnight in a dungeon. You say, "Why, jailer, do you have these men here?" He replied: "I didn't want to put them here, but I was commanded and had to do it. No

such prisoners ever came to this place before. They said, 'Good evening, jailer,' when they came in. Their faces wore a look that has tarried with me since the hour they entered and while I made them fast in the stocks, they talked to me about a strange new hope, and I have been disturbed in my soul"

We walked back with the jailer and suddenly, while the jailer was speaking, there was an earthquake. It was God's "Amen" to the prayer of Paul and Silas. The foundations of the old jail commenced to rock, the iron bars began to twist and some of the walls began to crumble. The doors burst open and every prisoner's bond was loosed.

The jailer knew that he would be held responsible if anyone escaped. He would have to give up his own life as a penalty. That was the Roman law. So, he drew his sword and was about to fall on it when Paul cried, "Stop! Do thyself no harm. We are all here." The jailer saw that Paul had spoken the truth. I can see him fairly rush up to Paul and Silas and out of the depths of a troubled yet grateful heart, cry, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

We find these words in Acts 16:25-34, "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there

was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household."

Next week, Part II – "What must I do to be saved?"

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

PRESERVED

## God's grace range

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



A few years ago, I moved to a neighborhood closer to my job. Instead of parking in the front, I now parked in the back of my townhouse and entered through the backyard. Even with the back porch light on, I noticed my backyard was very dark and so one of the first things I did was have a motion detector light installed. Not being a mechanically inclined person, I asked a good friend if he would install it for me as a favor. I noticed it didn't take long for him to put the light fixture up.

What took him the most time was to set the range for the light. As part of the process, he had me walk from the rear of my back yard toward the back door a number of times to make sure that the light came on at the exact moment I entered the back yard. After a few minutes of me walking back and forth and tweaking it, he told me that it was ready, gathered his tools and left.

I remember being so excited the first time I opened the gate to my backyard and the light came on. It's not that I doubted that it would work, but it was beyond my understanding how the light would shine as soon as it detected me. I felt much safer knowing that all I had to do was make a motion like wave my hand and the light would come on all by itself.

Fast forward a few years and

that same light protected me in a different way. And it was ironic that I was talking to the same friend who'd installed the light, when a neighbor came over and told me that she and my next-door neighbor had their cars broken into the night before.

Another neighbor shared that one witness noticed that my backyard light was on around 2:30 a.m. but didn't think anything about it. He then guessed that my light coming on probably scared away whoever was breaking into the cars. They even dropped the flashlight they'd been using as they apparently ran away. The best part for me was nothing was touched on my car.

Later, I thought about how the motion detector light had two purposes: it provided both exposure and protection at the same time. It reminded me of how God's word can do the same thing. Psalms 119:105 says that God's word is a "lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." God's word provides protection when we need it but also gives light on those sometimes-dark paths that our lives may take us. God's word also reminds us how God's grace protects us even when we may not realize it. We just have to be sure that we are in "range" by praying, fasting and seeking God's truth.

*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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# Imagine a nation of equality and justice for all!

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



Those of us of the darker hue in the USA have never known what a nation of justice for all looks like. That doesn't stop us from seeing the difference in how others are treated and how different it is for us as others enjoy unearned protections.

Like many Americans, I watched the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing with Atty. General William Barr, May 1. If we even imagined the attorney general was there to represent the American people, we were so wrong. He personally took on the responsibility of representing our known corrupt president. As if that were not enough, Sen. Lindsey Graham took on the role of Barr's protector-in-chief.

To put this craziness of Graham in perspective, he spoke the truth in 2016 about Trump when he was running for office. Graham is the same person who was bashing the man then running for president. He said horrible but true things about Trump. Now, Graham is trying to protect Trump and Barr from having to live within the laws of our land.

Graham is the same person who said, "I'm not going to try to get into the mind of Donald Trump because I don't think there's a whole lot of space there. I think he's a kook. I think he's crazy. I think he's unfit for office." I wonder what changed since Trump has been in the White House.

I know President Barack Obama set such high standard for honesty, integrity and respect for the American people that it's extremely hard to live up to who Obama was, and still is. Barr, Graham and Trump together with all the privileges they have enjoyed as a result of just being white can't even come close to the way Obama represented and inspired our country and people around the world.

Graham is floor-showing that he's had enough, but fortunately he doesn't have the last word about what happens with the Mueller Report or what happens with our corrupt president who has obviously corrupted the attorney general. I believe judgment day will come for them. The majority of the people surely don't want their children to grow up thinking laws don't apply to them. A policy about not being able to indict a sitting president is ludicrous. Everybody who commits such immoral acts as this president should have long been kicked out of office. Nobody should want their son or daughter to be like him!

Dick Gregory warned us about this chaos we would experience under Trump. A lot of people probably didn't believe him. Even I was a bit reluctant for a while because I couldn't see how somebody like Trump could possibly be elected – and I don't believe he actually was elected. Everything points to serious cheating. He got into the White House to disrupt our democracy with the help of a lot of crooks. I continue to hear that nothing has happened to prevent the same thing from happening again. With the use of the term diversity, some of us were lulled into thinking we were approaching equality and justice for all, at least moving in the right direction – but we have been fooled again. When Trump is finally out of the White House, instead of moving forward as we should, we'll have to go back and recoup some of the rights we thought had been secured.

Barr didn't read the underlying evidence before he concluded that Trump was cleared in the Mueller Report. I'm fairly confident that everybody on the Mueller Team isn't crazy and isn't a crook trying to hide something. It's obvious who the real crooks are.

E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women and host of WPFW-FM's "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

# Judge Damon Keith: The Nation mourns a peerless champion of justice

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



*"By denying the most vulnerable the right to vote, the majority shuts minorities out of our political process. Rather than honor the men and women whose murdered lives opened the doors of our democracy and secured our right to vote, the majority has abandoned this court's standard of review in order to conceal the votes of the most defenseless behind the dangerous veneers of factual findings lacking support and legal standards lacking precedent. I am deeply saddened and distraught by the court's deliberate decision to reverse the progress of history. I dissent."* – Judge Damon J. Keith, dissenting in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on *Northeast Ohio Coalition, et al. v. Husted, et al.*

As the National Urban League prepares to release the 2019 State of Black America ® – focused for the first time on the state of the Black



Keith

vote – we mourn one of the greatest champions of voting rights in American history, Judge Damon J. Keith. Keith, the grandson of former slaves, was judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and a former judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He died this week at the age of 96.

His extraordinary career included the desegregation of a public schools in Pontiac, Michigan, establishing affirmative action in police

departments, and halting President Richard Nixon's illegal wiretap program.

Following his desegregation order, Keith received death threats and 10 Pontiac school buses were firebombed by Ku Klux Klansmen.

His dissent in *NEOCH v. Husted*, which upheld Ohio's draconian voting restrictions on early in-person and absentee voting, included a photo gallery of voting rights martyrs.

"I wanted to dramatize the racist attitude of the majority," he told a reporter shortly after the decision. "Look at those pictures. These are men and women who died for the right to vote. I was really so hurt by the decision of the majority of the court. My grandparents lived in Georgia, and they were not allowed to vote because of racism. I thought about them."

Keith was born in Detroit, the son of parents who were part of the Great Migration from Georgia. His father worked for \$5 a day in a Ford Motor plant. He served in the segregated U.S. Army during World War II, working mainly at kitchen duties

and was discharged as a sergeant.

While studying the law, he worked as a janitor at a newspaper, where a white reporter told him "keep moping," rather than strive for a legal career.

He earned his law degree at Howard University, where future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was a mentor.

"He used to tell us to remember those four words engraved on the Supreme Court: Equal justice under law," Keith said of Marshall. "He'd say, 'The white man wrote those letters on the Supreme Court. Now use those words to make equal justice under law a reality. Use the law as a means of social change.' I tried to do that throughout my judicial career."

We in the National Urban League join his family and friends in mourning his passing. His landmark decisions reflect the highest ideals of the equitable, honorable nation we strive to be. His life and work stand as an example of dignity, integrity and determination. As a civil rights organization, we strive to uphold his legacy.

# How strong is our economy?

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The April unemployment rate, at 3.6 percent, is at its lowest rate since December 1969. Payroll employment increased by more than 250,000, outperforming expectations and reversing the disappointing job creation numbers of last month. First quarter growth was reported at 3.2 percent, a robust figure that exceeds estimates, earlier this year, that growth would be somewhat slower. This perhaps gives the man who lives in the house that enslaved people built something to crow about since he so enjoys crowing.

But many economists are waiting for the other shoe to drop, having workshops and forums about the coming recession. And as positive as the numbers seem, there are always gaps and inequities reflected in the fine print. Take the unemployment rate. It declined overall, and for adult men and women, whites, Asians and Hispanics. At the same time, the unemployment rates for African Americans and teenagers were unchanged. The black unemployment rate, at 6.7 percent, is more than twice the white rate of 3.1 percent. This ratio of 2.16 percent is higher than the usual 2:1 unemployment rate, widening inequality.

Should African-Americans really celebrate a strong labor market

when so many are sidelined from it? Despite claims of economic improvement and an improvement in some of the indicators, the fact that others remain stagnant is telling. For example, 1.2 million people have been out of work for more than half a year. They represent one in five of the unemployed.

The number may seem small, but the persistence of unemployment for some individuals should be troubling for those who make public policy. The number of people who are considered "marginally attached" to the labor force, which means that they'd work if they could find work, but they've ceased to look, is the same as it was this time last year.

These marginally attached workers include discouraged workers, and there are nearly half a million of them, again the same as last year. With these numbers being at the same level as they were a year ago, there is an indication that the 3.6 percent unemployment rate that is being hailed as so historic is a false indicator of progress.

While employers are clearly hiring, they aren't hiring enough people to make those at the bottom confident enough to look for work.

The labor force participation rate is also falling, again suggesting that our "strong economy" is not pulling enough more people into the labor market.

Instead, some are leaving. Why? Even though wages grew at 3.2

percent last month, which is more than they increased last year, they have not yet reached the 3.5 percent level that the Federal Reserve Bank would consider healthy. Thus, the Fed indicated that they change the interest rate, although 45 has pushed for a full percentage point drop in the interest. I'm not sure what part of the Fed's independence he fails to understand.

The Fed's decision to hold interest rates constant is partly a result of weaknesses in the first quarter growth report. It's always good news when the growth rate is more than 3 percent, but consumer spending is down for the third straight quarter. While the words "government shutdown" have not been uttered recently, the 2018-2019 35-day shutdown clearly had some impact on consumer spending.

Many expected that purchases deferred in January and February might be realized in March, but too many consumers who are still recovering from the shutdown and many, who are not government employees but contractors, who lost roughly 12 percent of their annual income. They won't be doing much discretionary spending this year.

How strong is our economy? It is undoubtedly stronger than it was a year ago, but it's not as strong as some claim that it is. Labor market weaknesses and inequality are of particular concern to African Americans.

Companies are hiring, but they

aren't hiring enough African Americans to close the unemployment rate gap. There is legislation that might improve the economic status of African Americans. HR 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, would provide remedies to close the gender pay gap.

Congressional Black Caucus member Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced the Raise the Wage Act, HR 582.

It would provide increases in the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the legislation would give African-American workers a 38 percent pay increase (compared to 23 percent for white workers). And when workers earn more, they can spend more, strengthening economic growth. Whenever you hear the words "strong economy," think of the folks at the bottom.

While the top one percent are certainly benefitting from growth and expansion, those at the bottom haven't yet benefitted. Indeed, some have yet to recover from the Great Recession. Why aren't the needs of those on the bottom, those who are poor (the data says 40 million people, but Rev. William Barber says it's more like 140 million) significant enough to address?

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.juliannealmalveaux.com

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# BCBS of Mississippi Foundation continues its support of schools

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation works to support our state’s schools in creating healthy learning environments through innovative programs and strategic funding opportunities. With the increasing need for health education and resources, the foundation is partnering with schools and school leaders to bring awareness to the support and funding opportunities available.

The foundation hosted the School Health and Wellness Conference April 25 at the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi headquarters in Flowood. School administrators and health and wellness coordinators learned about grant opportunities and health and wellness programs aimed at supporting healthy lifestyles and strengthening school health programs. The foundation shared the successes seen at Pontotoc Middle

School and the school garden created with grant funding from the foundation.

Pontotoc Middle School’s garden has become a focal point of the school and incorporated in many of the subject areas. Students work in the garden and accompanying greenhouse learning gardening skills, science and weather, good nutrition and more.

“The Pontotoc Middle School Garden has not only engaged students and staff in gardening and growing healthy food, but has also promoted the school’s academic performance,” said Sheila Grogan, president of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. “The school’s approach to planning and developing the garden, and how they are managing it, is a best practice approach being extended to other schools.”

The School Health and Wellness Conference included dis-

cussions around health opportunities for school staff members, the vaping epidemic, the Get Ready to Run School Program, as well as funding opportunities through the Healthy School Awards Program and Building Healthy Schools grants.

“The [School Health and Wellness] conference was filled with quality information. It was inspiring and motivating and has challenged me to take action,” said John Conway, assistant principal at East Flora Elementary School.

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation has a vision for a healthy Mississippi and provides targeted grants to fund initiatives and programs to improve the health and wellness of Mississippians.

*Learn more about available grant and program opportunities as well as other efforts of the Foundation at [www.healthiermississippi.org](http://www.healthiermississippi.org).*

# As a gay man and person of color...

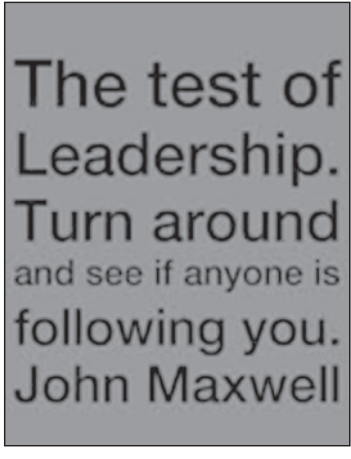
By Paul Kawata  
NMAC

I’ve had to learn how to survive society’s contradictions. Even though it shouldn’t matter, the color of my skin impacts people’s perception of my value. People might assume I’m straight until I open my mouth.

Being gay means more judgments that have nothing to do with my actual worth. These are the contradictions that face the communities we need to reach to end the epidemic. Daily, they must negotiate a world that minimizes them because they are different.

HIV impacts some of the most stigmatized communities in America. Our programs to end the epidemic must reach gay men, particularly young gay men of color, the transgender community, black women and Latinas, and drug users.

Last week the administration released the “conscience rule” for health care providers. This federal rule lets people discriminate based on their personal beliefs. At the same time, \$291 million was recommended by a House Appropriations subcommittee to support the administration’s plan to end the HIV epidemic. The irony of this contradiction is not lost on NMAC. On one hand the administration wants to end the epidemic; on the other hand, they want to codify discrimination in HHS-funded programs against the same people they need to reach to end the epidemic.



While NMAC is very thankful for the federal government’s commitment to end the HIV epidemic, that does not mean we give up our values or our voice. Our movement must speak out against injustice. It is the only way to lead. I live with and manage society’s contradictions on a daily basis. I’ve learned how to work with the administration to end the epidemic and call out policies that are unjust.

Our plans must reach people who know they are HIV-positive and still don’t see a doctor. This contradiction is also not lost on me. According to the federal plan there are 400,000 Americans living with HIV who have fallen out of care or are unaware of their HIV status. Given the stigma and discrimination these communities face, it is easy to understand how the conscience rule is not helpful to our work.

To all my friends in the federal government, I know you walk and chew gum at the same time (I stole that line from Terrence Moore @ NASTAD) to fight to end an epidemic while enforcing the conscience rule that hurts the people we need to reach. Can you understand why community might need you to take a back seat? Not ending the epidemic means 40,000 new cases per year as HIV continues to overwhelm communities already marginalized by life. This is why ending the epidemic will be one of the greatest tests of our leadership.

# Kidney disease at staggering rates in black community but there is hope

By Glenn Ellis  
TriceEdneyWire.com



Did you know African Americans are at increased risk of developing chronic kidney disease (CKD) leading to dialysis and transplant? Compared to other ethnic groups, the African-American population has higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, which are the two leading causes of kidney disease.

Almost one in every three African Americans has high blood pressure. Because there are no warning signs, frequently people have high blood pressure or kidney disease and don’t even know they have a health problem. Even diabetes doesn’t always have symptoms.

Many African Americans already know they have diabetes or high blood pressure but are not aware they may also have kidney disease. They are shocked to be diagnosed with kidney failure and then immediately begin dialysis. Even though their kidney disease progressed over time to kidney failure, it’s as if it happened all of a sudden.

Talking about race is never just black and white, but when it comes to health, one thing is crystal clear: racial disparities exist and a variety of factors, including genetics, seem to play a role.

Time and space for this column doesn’t permit me going into the “why’s and wherefores;” I am only dealing with the “what is” as it relates to black folks.

Black Americans are three times more likely than white Americans to develop kidney disease and to require dialysis. This is both a troubling statement and a sad reality for the African-American population. Of great concern is that this racial disparity remains constant across all age groups. It may not make many headlines, but it needs to be brought to the attention of the public.

Given the staggering rates of kidney disease in the African-American community, African Americans need to pay particular attention to their kidney health. Kidney disease often has no symptoms until it is very

advanced, so it can go unnoticed. Diabetes and high blood pressure are two of the leading causes of kidney disease, but the news is not all grim. Lifestyle changes can make a big difference in reducing one’s risk for developing kidney disease and early testing and treatment can slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease and its complications. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention truly is worth a pound of cure.

Dialysis treatment – either in a hospital, a dialysis unit or at home – is needed when the kidneys cannot filter wastes from the body sufficiently. This is what is known as kidney failure. Each year, about 37,000 dialysis patients in the United States develop potentially deadly bloodstream infections associated with their treatment, the CDC says.

Kidney failure life expectancy, like anything depends on many things – some of which you can control, and others that you cannot control: age, gender, genes, race, diet, lifestyle choices, what caused your condition, the type of treatment you choose, etc.

It should be noted that I am discussing life expectancy in relationship to kidney failure. This means that the kidneys are now functioning at or below 15% – also termed as End-Stage-Kidney-Failure or Stage 5 Kidney Failure. It is important to make this distinction, because the life expectancy severely drops once at this level.

The high risk of infections in dialysis patients is due to a number of factors including the close distance of dialysis patients to each other, the fast patient turn-over between dialysis sessions, and health of the person receiving dialysis. The most common form of treatment for end-stage renal disease (ESRD, or kidney failure) is hemodialysis.

Estimates are that between 10 and 30 per cent of dialysis patients carry the hepatitis C virus compared to 1 per cent of the non-dialysis general population. Most people acquire the virus during blood transfusions, and kidney patients, who sometimes suffer severe anemia, are more likely to have had a transfusion. If your medical facility does not follow guidelines for infection

control in the right way, it is possible to get hepatitis C from being on dialysis.

Many dialysis patients, particularly African Americans, have other health conditions and/or a weakened immune system which can increase susceptibility to infections, especially when infection prevention practices are not strictly followed by dialysis staff. These health conditions often result in dialysis patients having frequent admissions to hospitals which expose them to antibiotic therapy and drug-resistant bacteria.

In the U.S., dialysis patients are several times more likely to be infected with hepatitis C, and in some countries, up to half of dialysis patients are infected.

In the early years of dialysis, there was a danger of getting hepatitis B through exposure to the blood of an infected person at the dialysis unit. However, today the chance of getting hepatitis B through your treatment is very small because of two important advances. One of these advances is the use of strict infection control measures in dialysis units. The second improvement is the availability of a vaccination for hepatitis B.

This is all good news. There are new treatments for Hepatitis C and a cure is now possible in most cases, including dialysis and kidney transplant patients.

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

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

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- Laundry Services
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- Transmission Line Construction

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**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR HAWKINS FIELD PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**JMAA PROJECT NUMBER: 006-19**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a “Statement of Qualifications”) to establish and assist JMAA with the implementation of a Pavement Management Program (“PMP”) (the “Services”) to JMAA in connection with the Hawkins Field Pavement Management Plan, JMAA Project No. 006-19, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.

JMAA will receive Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. central time on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 (the “Deadline”).

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

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Robin Byrd, JMAA Manager of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager of Procurement  
Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 616  
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713

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**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**

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.

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

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**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.

5/2/2019, 5/9/2019, 05/16/2019

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**ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS LAWNCARE AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

**BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-007-19**

**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

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## Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS**  
1. Wooden leg  
4. Sacred poems  
10. Single  
11. Choice  
12. Avail  
13. Afternoon nap  
14. Red potato  
16. High-school club  
17. Look for  
18. Railway  
20. State of being  
22. Mexican money  
26. Brassiere  
29. Yearning  
31. Yardsticks  
33. Pain unit  
34. Attack  
35. Bard's before  
36. Mr. Lucas  
37. Crimson
- DOWN**  
1. Rains hard  
2. Result  
3. Birds with webbed feet  
4. Behave  
5. Malevolence  
6. Dined  
7. What children talk with  
8. Speck  
9. Fasten  
15. Winter sport  
19. Licensed practical nurse  
21. Small bunch of flowers  
23. \_\_ duck  
24. What people do in their sleep  
25. Eyed  
26. Tout  
27. Tactic  
28. Ditto  
30. Island  
32. Hearing part

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## Sudoku Solution

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

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## Crossword Solution

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

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## Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ  
XVMOBZWL TUGCDASJ PQNIKRHEFY

I KNOW THAT IF I WASN'T SCARED,  
T GASH ILXI TZ THXNA I NMXQBO  
SOMETHING'S WRONG, BECAUSE  
NSDBILTAW N HQSAW VBMXKNB  
THE THRILL IS WHAT'S SCARY.  
ILB ILQTCC TN HLXI N NMXQF

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**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St  
**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2030 N Siwell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
4331 Highway 80W  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
304 Briarwood Dr  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2855 McDowell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
104 Terry Rd  
**J & A FUEL STORES**  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
**LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**  
2325 Livingston Rd.  
**MCDADÉ'S MARKET**  
Northside Drive  
**MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2**  
653 Duling Avenue  
**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**  
Jackson Medical Mall  
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
**SHELL FOOD MART**  
5492 Watkins Drive

## SPORTS MEDICINE

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**REVELL ACE HARDWARE**  
Terry Rd (South Jackson)  
**WALGREENS**  
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave  
  
**CANTON**  
**A & I**  
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS  
**B & B**  
702 West North Street - Canton, MS  
**BOUTIQUE STORE**  
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS  
**BULLY'S STORE**  
Church Street - Canton, MS  
**COMMUNITY MART**  
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS  
**FRYER LANE GROCERY**  
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS  
**HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**  
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY**  
507 Church Street - Canton, MS  
**K & K ONE STOP**  
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS  
**LACY'S INSURANCE**  
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**  
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**TRAILER PARK GROCERY**  
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS  
  
**BYRAM**  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.  
**HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**  
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

## VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road  
**CITY HALL**  
Terry Road  
  
**CLINTON**  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS  
  
**TERRY**  
**SERVICE STATION**  
at Exit 78  
**CITY HALL**  
West Cunningham Avenue  
  
**RAYMOND**  
**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**WELCOME CENTER**  
505 E. Main Street  
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122 Old Port Gibson Street,  
Raymond, MS  
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120 E. Main Street,  
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**UTICA**  
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-South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) 22688 Hwy. 60 North, Leakesville, MS

### WALK-IN INTERVIEW

**DATES/TIMES:**  
-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.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

-21 years of age and proof of H.S. diploma or G.E.D.  
-Males between the ages of 21-25 proof of Selective Service Registration  
-A Valid Driver's License  
-No felony or domestic violence

### INTERVIEW SCREENING

**CONSIST OF:**  
-Interview, Math Test, Report Writing Exercise  
-1 mile walk/run within 16 minutes and Tower climb (Appropriate athletic clothing and tennis shoes may be worn)

For additional information, contact MDOC Personnel Services at (601) 359-5696 or the Personnel Department at each facility: CMCF (601) 932-2660 ext. 6701; MSP (601) 745-6611 ext. 2366; or SMCI (601) 394-5000 ext. 1217.

Individuals may also apply online at the Mississippi State Personnel Board website, [www.msptb.ms.gov](http://www.msptb.ms.gov).

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**L. E. TUCKER & SON, INC. - CDL DRIVERS** needed to run from S.E. to West Coast. Late model conventional tractors. Home weekly. Benefits package. Pearl, MS. 601-939-8088. [www.tuckerandson.com](http://www.tuckerandson.com)

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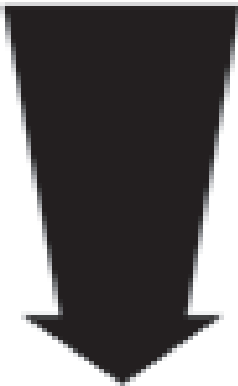
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Week of May 5, 2019



# Farish Street 2019 Womens Day

April 28, 2019 • Farish Street Baptist Church • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





# FILM REVIEW: BOLDEN

## OVERDUE BIOPIC BELATEDLY PAYS TRIBUTE TO JAZZ PIONEER

By Kam Williams  
*Columnist*

Buddy Bolden (1877-1931) was born in New Orleans, where he took up the cornet at an early age. His unique approach to the instrument involved a novel form of improvisation while playing a combination of gospel, blues and ragtime.

Well before the emergence of Louis Armstrong, Buddy was a popular bandleader credited with creating a new genre of music: jazz! Sadly, this genius has mostly been forgotten by history because no recordings or arrangements of his songs survived.

However, thanks to legend-

ary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis in collaboration with writer/director Dan Pritzker, we now have Bolden, a brilliant biopic painting a poignant portrait of what Buddy's life might have been like. Marsalis composed, arranged and played on the soundtrack, relying on what scraps of his subject's work he could unearth.

Similarly, Pritzker cobbled together a speculative storyline based on the few facts available about Bolden. What we do know is that his career ended in 1907 when he was committed to the mental institution where he would spend the last of his days in obscurity.

Bolden is basically a flash-

back flick unfolding from the surreal perspective of a patient struggling to make sense of his life. The film stars Garry Carr who delivers a riveting performance as black man whose spirit has been broken by racism and a host of other maladies flowing from that oppression.

Don't miss this overdue tribute to a forgotten jazz pioneer. Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for sexuality, graphic nudity, profanity, ethnic slurs, brutal violence and drug use

Running time: 108 minutes  
Production Companies: King Bolden LLC  
Distributor: Abramorama





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## Kam's Kapsules

### Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

By Kam Williams  
*Columnist*

For movies opening May 10, 2019

#### Wide Releases

**The Hustle** (PG-13 for profanity and crude sexuality) Unlikely-partners crime comedy ostensibly based on Bedtime Story (1964) and revolving around a low-brow (Rebel Wilson) and a high-class con artist (Anne Hathaway) who join forces to fleece a naive, young billionaire (Alex Sharp) of his fortune. With Tim Blake Nelson, Meena Rayann and Ingrid Oliver.

**Pokemon Detective Pikachu** (PG for action, peril, rude and suggestive humor and mature themes) Kid-friendly whodunit finds a wisecracking Pikachu (Ryan Reynolds) teaming with the 21 year-old son (Justice Smith) of his partner in order to solve the veteran detective's mysterious disappearance. Voice cast includes Bill Nighy, Kathryn Newton and Ken Watanabe.

**Poms** (PG-13 for profanity and sexual references) Female empowerment comedy about a resident of a retirement community (Diane Keaton) who recruits a few fellow geriatrics to form a cheer leading squad. Co-starring Pam Grier, Jacki Weaver and

Rhea Perlman.

**Tolkien** (PG-13 for war violence) Nicholas Hoult portrays J.R.R. Tolkien in this biopic chronicling the fellowship the legendary fantasy writer forged with prep school classmates during his formative years. With Lily Collins, Colm Meaney, Patrick Gibson and Anthony Boyle.

#### Independent and Foreign Films

**All Is True** (PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and suggestive material) Kenneth Branagh directs and stars as the Bard of Avon in this biopic revisiting the last days in the life of William Shakespeare. Cast includes Judi Dench, Ian McKellen and Jack Colgrave Hirst.

**The Biggest Little Farm** (PG for brief profanity and mature themes) Eco-documentary about a couple that decides to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres in Ventura County after being evicted from their tiny L.A. apartment.

**Charlie Says** (R for disturbing violence, graphic sexuality, frontal nudity, profanity and drug use) Crime drama revisiting the infamous Manson family murders as seen through the eyes of the three female cult members (Hannah Murray, Sosie Bacon and Marianne Rendon) who participated

in the slaughter. With Grace Van Dien, Matt Smith, Chace Crawford and Suki Waterhouse.

**My Son** (Unrated) Vigilante thriller revolving around an anguished father (Guillaume Canet) willing to take the law into his own hands upon learning from his estranged wife (Melanie Laurent) wife that their 7 year-old son (Lino Papa) has suddenly disappeared while on a camping trip. Supporting cast includes Antoine Hamel, Mohamed Brikat and Marc Robert. (In French with subtitles)

**The Professor and the Madman** (Unrated) Literary biopic chronicling Professor James Murray's (Mel Gibson) work on the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary with the help of a patient (Sean Penn) from a criminal lunatic asylum who provided over 10,000 entries. With Eddie Marsan, Steve Coogan and Natalie Dormer.

**Serengeti Rules** (Unrated) Climate change documentary following the pioneering work of five scientists whose decades-long study of the Amazon Rain Forest, the Serengeti Plains, the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Tide Pools has led to some surprising conclusions offering hope for restoring the planet.

### 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.

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

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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.

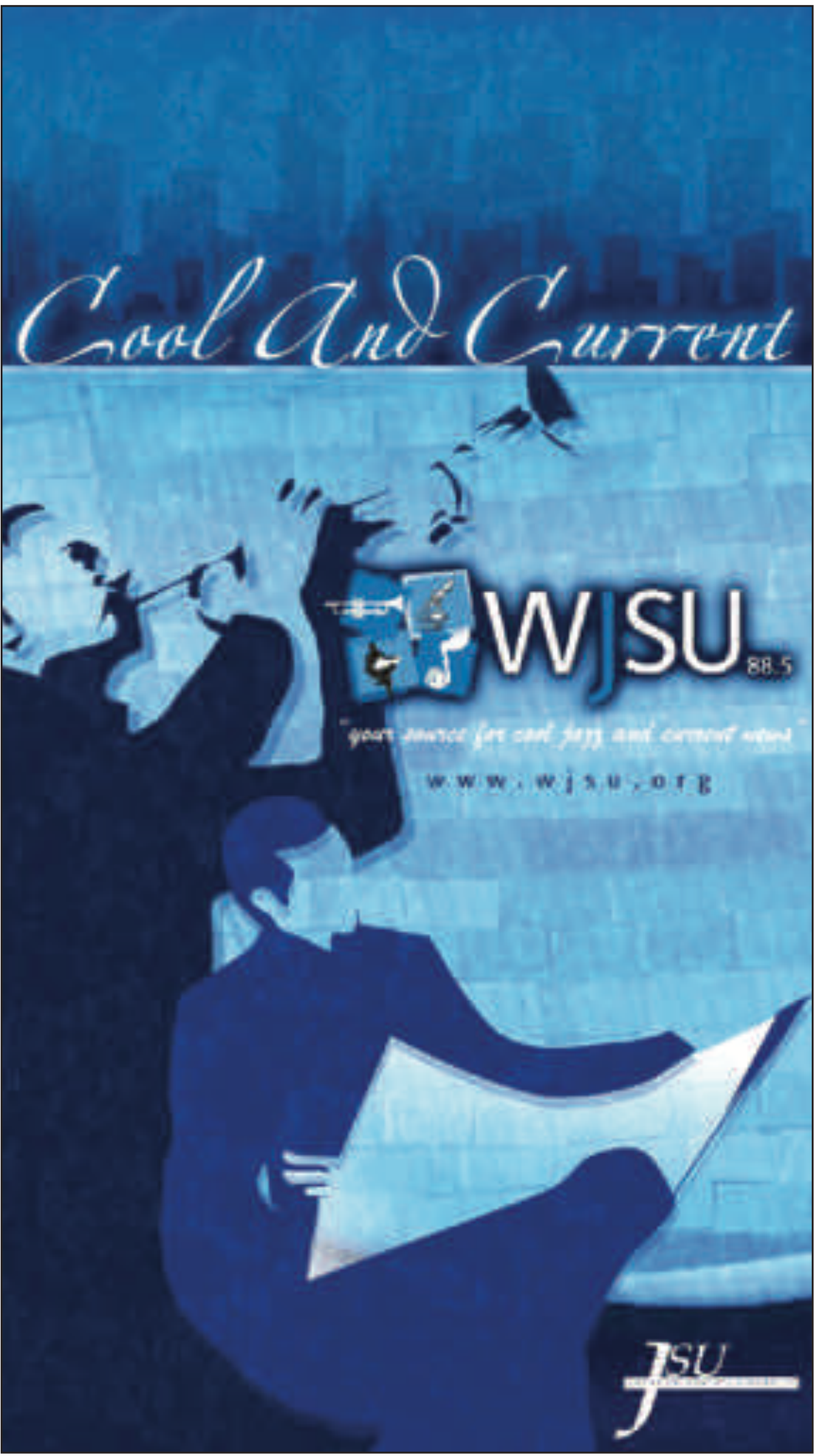
**Hint: Quote by Richard Pryor**

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
X																									

T GASH T L X I T Z T H X N A T N M X Q B O  
N S D B I L T A W N H Q S A W V B M X K N B  
T L B T L Q T C C T N H L X I N N M X Q F

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)





## Bishop Crudup advises JSU Graduates: 'Don't be average, be darn good'

Mississippi Link Newswire

Distinguished alumnus Ronnie C. Crudup Sr. encouraged graduates to decide to be great in their field of study, confront tough circumstances and people, and positively change the world during his commencement speech for the master's and doctoral degree candidates Friday, May 3, in the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center.

"Make the decision to be great. Make the decision that you will be darn good and the best in your field of study that folk has ever seen, make that decision today," Crudup said. "Decisions are key for wherever you go; feelings follow decisions; determination follows decisions; energy follows determination; and swagger follows energy. So, make the decision not to be average and be darn good at what you do."

Crudup is the administrative bishop for the Fellowship of International Churches. He is also senior pastor of New Horizon Church International, a congregation of more than 3,000 members in Jackson, Mississippi, which he founded in 1987.

The social entrepreneur advised graduates to achieve greatness and that choices would be determined by their "willingness to deal with problems."



Commencement speaker Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup Sr. said, "Somewhere along your journey failure will find you, but failure is not final." PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU



Students are all smiles after receiving their degrees at Friday's graduate commencement ceremony.



"I feel extremely prepared and equipped to compete globally and continue the legacy of Jackson State University of 'Challenging minds and Changing Lives.' My journey through the doctoral program at JSU was extremely rigorous and rewarding. There were times I wanted to throw in the towel, but I had a praying wife and family who kept me motivated throughout the process," Donyea Hargrove said.

Crudup, speaking with a strong conviction, proclaimed that problem-solving skills correlate to wealth.

He suggested that problem-solving can generate more revenue than great grandkids will ever be able to spend. "Some-

where along your journey failure will find you, but failure is not final. Failure allows one to pick themselves up and be even

better than before."

The founder and president of New Horizon Ministries, Inc., used spiritual affirmations to

further encourage JSU graduates to be outstanding.

"God gave you a purpose on earth, and there is something that you are supposed to do, and you will be good at it if you ask him for help," Crudup said. "God will give you massive ideas, and it only takes one darn good idea to change the whole world."

Crudup concluded his speech by urging the newest JSU alumni to be world changers.

"Great days are coming for you so leave here today with the decision to be darn good. Once you make that choice, peace and joy will follow you," says Crudup. "Go change the world and be really good at it."



Renowned actress Tonea Stewart, who appeared in "A Time to Kill" and "In the Heat of the Night," basks in the moment before receiving her golden degree.

## JPS senior named U.S. Presidential Scholar



Ruben Manasseh Banks of Jim Hill High School has been named a U.S. Presidential Scholar for 2019. He is one of three Mississippi high school students and 161 high school seniors nationwide making up the 55th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars. These students are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in academics, the arts and career and technical education fields. Banks is a 2019 United States Senate Youth Program selectee and a recipient of the 2019 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award. For the past year, Banks has served as Brigade Commander over all seven JROTC units in Jackson Public Schools.

## 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  
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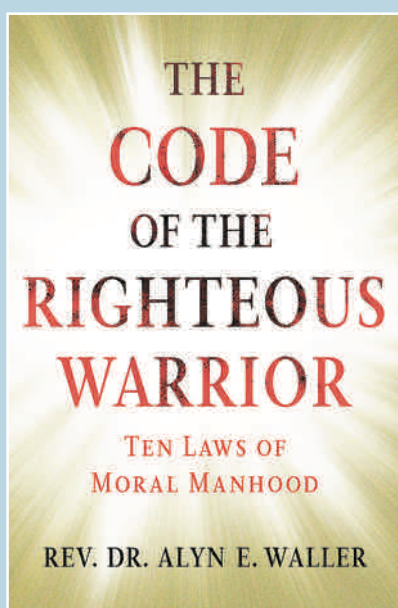
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## BOOK REVIEW:

# “THE CODE OF THE RIGHTEOUS WARRIOR”

BY REV. DR. ALYN E. WALLER

C.2019, ATRIA

\$27.00 / \$36.00 CANADA • 290 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Columnist

These days, you just don't know what to expect.

Things used to be laid out nice and easy: a real man took care of business, he settled disagreements with his fists, and he was head of his household. But it's a new world now with new expectations, and in "The Code of the Righteous Warrior" by Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, you'll know how to get through it.

Even when he was a small boy, Alyn Waller "really, re-

ally" loved to fight but, alas, he was the smallest boy in his class and was bullied. That changed when he was in fifth grade and his cousin came to live with Waller's family. Lonnie taught Waller how to fight.

That was largely forgotten by the time Waller got to college; alcohol and parties were more important and he lost his way until an older man in his church trained Waller and some of his friends in the martial arts. Waller took his training further himself, and earned "advanced ranking" in four additional

disciplines, including one that teaches "leadership, spiritual development, fiscal responsibility, a positive mental attitude" and more.

A Righteous Warrior, as Waller calls a man who wants to live life with a "Christian Warrior's code," has three choices when "he is under any type of attack:" he can run, which is a valid option. He can fight, as Jesus did in the temple. Or he can "take one for the team," knowing that "everything will be okay in the end – and if it ain't okay, it ain't the end."

There are ten principles of a Righteous Warrior.

Keep life simple and ask yourself what's essential and what's merely interesting. Know the difference between true and True. "[D]evelop a mindset that prepares you to play whatever cards life deals" and be judicious with your assets. "Expect the unexpected." Fight for your family, no matter what it looks like. When things get bad, "keep your head in the game..." Remember that a "righteous man learns... earns... and then he returns to

others" and finally, don't quit, but know when it's time to stop.

Considering that this book was written by a minister, it's quite a surprise: "The Code of the Righteous Warrior" doesn't completely advocate nonviolence.

And yet, that may be why it works. Waller offers advice for today's Christian man, but in a way that reaches back centuries, as though he's mixed the Bible with Zen teachings and inserted his own experiences to make things even more relatable. It has the feel of lightheartedness,

rather than lecture, but readers will surely know that Waller is serious in his advice.

He's also thorough, touching on issues that may be touchy for some, including the ever-controversial topic of "submissive" women. On that, Waller has surprising words.

Although this book is meant mostly for African-American men, it's worthwhile for any man, and for mothers and wives of those men, too.

Start "The Code of the Righteous Warrior," and you can expect good things.

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 (to designated pick-ups/drop-offs)

**For Talent Search Participants Only**  
**Rising 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th Graders**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 15, 2019**

**For More Information, Contact:**  
 Pamela Williams @ 601.885.7165 or email [pwilliams@hindscc.edu](mailto:pwilliams@hindscc.edu)  
 Cynthia Jones @ 601.885.7065 or email [cjones@hindscc.edu](mailto:cjones@hindscc.edu)  
 Margaret Minns @ 601.885.7197 or email [margaret.minns@hindscc.edu](mailto:margaret.minns@hindscc.edu)

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 Crystal Springs High: Mr. Glen Williams  
 Grand Springs Middle: Ms. Yolanda Clay  
 Hazlehurst High: Dr. Linda Towns/Mrs. Wynette Wilson  
 Hazlehurst Middle: Mrs. Karwana Turner/Mrs. Anita Kesterling  
 Raymond High: Ms. Stephanie Smith  
 Union Middle: Ms. Willette Jacobs

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Hinds County School District Exceptional Education Students participate in district Annual Field Day



### HCSD hosts Retirement Celebration!

Thursday, May 2, the Hinds County School District honored four employees who have retired within the past year or plan to retire at the end of this school year. Personal sentiments were shared about each retiree by Superintendent Delesicia Martin. Joined by family members and friends, each individual was recognized for their many years of dedication and service to the Hinds County School District. The superintendent presented each retiree with a gift on behalf of the district and thanked them for their commitment to the school district.

