

Holiday Spirit on full display at the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office



Hinds County District Attorney Robert S. Smith spreads holiday cheer with Santa. PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

By Othor Cain
Editor

Each year Granard McClendon, who serves as the victim assistance coordinator for the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office, coordinate efforts – during the holiday season – to recognize and honor victims that have gone through traumatic experiences.

“Usually we just focus on the children, by providing them toys and other types of gifts,” McClendon said. “This year our program was three-fold

in purpose. We honored the adults, our outgoing DA and we welcomed our incoming DA.”

Wednesday, Dec. 11, the second floor of the Hinds County Court House was transformed into a “Miracle on Pascogula Street.” Children leaped for joy with excitement as they opened gifts that were on their wish lists, parents celebrated receiving gift cards for shopping and all in attendance enjoyed the holiday spread of magnificent food. “This is absolutely amazing...I’ve been brought to

tears,” one victim that did not want to be recognized said. “If this had not happened, I don’t know how I would have been able to provide Christmas for my child,” she shared tearfully.

This year’s event was extra special as current Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith was honored for serving in this position since 2008. “DA Smith has led this office with pride and determination,” McClendon said. “We are going to miss him very much. We wanted to celebrate him because he

is always being asked to give or do something and usually does not receive anything in return.”

A man of many words was a man of few words today. “I showed up not knowing what to expect today and I can honestly say that I’m speechless,” Smith said. Smith’s officemates and assistant DAs were on hand for the celebration as well as his family.

“I’m truly humbled by all of this and thank every citizen in

Holiday Spirit
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Indian designer set to showcase fashions in local fashion show



Kaushal Vishukumar

By Othor Cain
Editor

Sunday, Dec 15, marks the second time Indian designer Kaushal Vishukumar will showcase his fashions in Jackson.

Vishukumar will be one of the featured designers in the annual charitable fashion show produced by Jackie Chinn Hill for the Carmila China Hampton Foundation. The Carmila Chinn Hampton Foundation (CCHF) was founded out of concern for

young children and adolescents who are battling cancer or who have lost one or both parents to cancer or other life-changing diseases.

The foundation’s purpose is to assist, support and advocate for the needs of these children. Further to give voice to children and families who have experienced this type of tragedy.

The show will take place at the Jackson Convention Com-

Fashion
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MISSISSIPPI ROUND UP

Associated Press

Mississippi authorities find 2 bodies

LEXINGTON, Miss. (AP) – Two bodies have been found in different locations in Mississippi’s Holmes County.

Sheriff Willie March says deputies are investigating the discoveries Wednesday as a possible murder-suicide.

WAPT-TV reports March says a woman was found dead at the Durant Motel and a short time later, a man’s body was found in his car parked on a road nearby. March says the man shot himself.

The sheriff says the man and woman

had been staying together at the motel for about a month.

Mississippi budget plan: Spend slightly less in coming year

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS-JACKSON, Miss. (AP)

Amid lagging teacher salaries and unsafe bridges, Mississippi legislative leaders are recommending that the state spend slightly less money on state government services during the coming fiscal year.

Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee met Wednesday and

adopted a broad outline for a nearly \$6.3 billion budget for the year that begins July 1. That would be nearly \$94 million less than the state is set to spend during the current year, about a 1.5% decrease.

This is just an early plan, though. The deadline for setting a budget is months away and numbers often change between the first set of recommendations and the final product.

Mississippi has long had some of the lowest teacher salaries in the nation and the plan would not remedy that problem. The plan also recommends a 3.7% reduction in transportation spending, even as the state deals with some unsafe bridges.

Mississippi started selling lottery tickets in November and the first \$80 million a year in lottery revenue is designated for highways and bridges. After that, the lottery proceeds go to education.

The budget outline recommends some spending increases.

The Department of Public Safety would receive an additional \$4.4 million to pay for new state troopers who are currently being trained and another \$1 million for pay raises for the department’s law enforcement officers.

The state would spend an additional

\$18.4 million to cover the current year’s shortfall for a teacher pay raise plan that was put into law but was underfunded because of a mistake in determining how much the pay plan would cost.

Overall spending for elementary and secondary education would be less than 1% higher than in the current year. Spending for community colleges would decrease about 3.6%, and spending for universities would decrease about 2.6%.

The plan recommends that the state spend about the same amount during the coming year for district attorneys, courts, financial aid for university students, disaster relief and rehabilitation services.

It would leave the state with about \$679 million in cash reserves in the rainy day fund.

It’s unclear whether the recommendations adopted Wednesday will be meaningful or useless.

The current four-year legislative term is ending, and the new one begins in early January. The new set of lawmakers – some of them rookies, some of them veterans – will decide how much the state will spend on an array of services, including education, transportation and health care.

“It should be noted that this is the last

budget recommendation of this eight-year cycle,” Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves said Wednesday.

Reeves is finishing his second term as presiding officer of the Senate and member of the Budget Committee, and will be sworn in as governor in January.

“We wanted to be conservative in our budgeting, but we also wanted to recognize that there will be new leadership. ... We wanted to give both the Senate and the House maximum flexibility going into the 2020 legislative session, and that’s exactly what we did,” Reeves said.

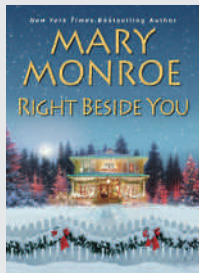
Legislators must set a final budget by early May. If the economy is strong, legislative leaders could increase the estimate of how much money the state will have available to spend.

Mississippi school district sues maker of e-cigarettes

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS-JACKSON, Miss. (AP)

A school district in Mississippi is su-

Mississippi Round Up
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‘Looking for Wine’ hosts steering committee kick-off with Chef Nick Wallace

Award-winning chef, coalition and supporters gather for night of food and wine pairings

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The coalition of Mississippians advocating for wine in Mississippi’s wet-county grocery stores, Looking for Wine Mississippi, recently co-hosted an evening of food and wine pairings with award-winning chef Nick Wallace at Cowboy’s Kitchens in Ridgeland, Miss. The event served as the launch of the coalition’s steering committee.

Steering committee chair Elliott Flagg greeted the group of supporters, and Chef Wallace prepared four dishes for attendees. The menu for the evening included a champagne compressed melon salad, heritage smoked-braised lamb, Delta catfish and chocolate tortino cake.

“It’s about adding wine into the grocery stores, but think about it on another level,” Wallace said of his support for the coalition. “Think about all the jobs, all the dollars it brings to the state of Mississippi.”

Based on a Mississippi State University study, stocking wine on Mississippi grocery store shelves would bring in an estimated \$18 to \$20 million in



Amanda Keith, Red Lips & Vino Sips; Brandi Perry, Backroads and Burgers; Chef Nick Wallace, Nick Wallace Culinary; and Cindy Cobb, Cindy Cobb Marketing



Deshawn Barnett, Nick Wallace Culinary; Lindsey Davis and Mary Myers Mitts, Cowboy’s Kitchens PHOTOS BY BROOKE KELLY MP&F/NASHVILLE, TN

state tax revenue and create an estimated 800 to 1,000 new jobs, with the majority being in food sales and the sectors that support the industry.

In addition to talking with Wallace about his career and time on Food Network’s “Chopped,” guests discussed the importance of continuing to rally other supporters ahead of next year’s legislative session.

Supporters can join the coalition at LookingforWineMS.com.



Teresa Dickerson, Kroger; and Elliott Flagg, Cornerstone Government Affairs



Tiffany Boyte West, The Live Dive; Theresa Kennedy, Fifty-Five Twenty; and Karen Miller, The Live Dive



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Fashion

Continued from page 1



Some of Vishukumar's designs.

plex at 6 p.m. and it promises to be a fashion experience.

The Mississippi Link caught up with Vishukumar:

ML: How old were you when you discovered your love for fashions?

KV: Roughly around 18 years old.

ML: When did you design your first collection?

KV: I did my first collection in 2014 and showcased them in several shows.

ML: Which designers do you admire or inspire you?

KV: I love so many designers, like Micheal Kors, Calvin Klein, Indian American designers like Naeem Khan, bibs Mohapatra and Indian designers like Manish Malhotra and Sabyasachi Mukherjee.

ML: Describe growing up in your country.

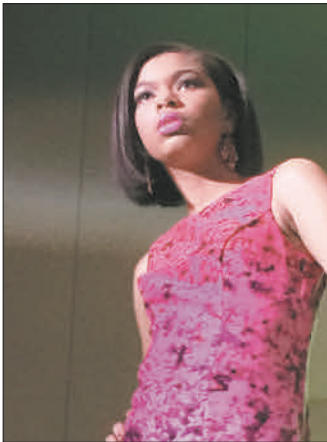
KV: Growing up in Mysuru, Karnataka, India honestly was incredible. I learned values of life, relationships and everything in between. I was blessed to have been born into my family.

ML: What are your future goals?

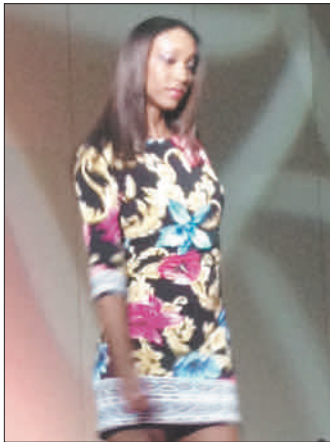
KV: I want to bridge the gap between the United States and India in terms of fashion and break down stereotypes here in the United States.

ML: Will you explain the barrier that exists here in the states?

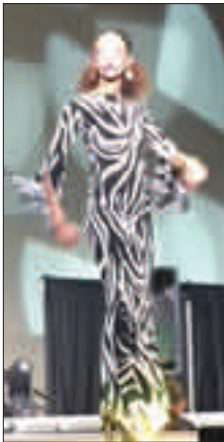
KV: In the United States, there's a misconception that Indians only come to the states for technology related jobs and educational opportunities. We also come for fashion and other en-



Model Brooke Thompson



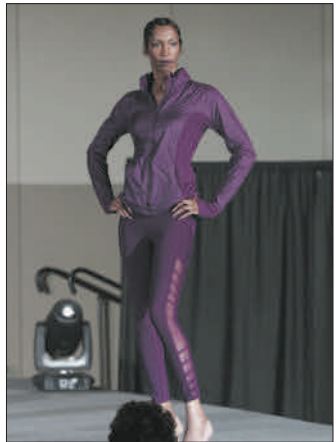
Model Shantelle Thomas



Model Lauren Porter



Designer Vishukumar and actor Tim Reid



Model Rosheka Edwards

tertainment industries. I also want to just inspire people to do whatever it is they like.

ML: What does the word fashion mean to you?

KV: Fashion for me, is feeling comfortable in whatever you wear...whether its a top brand or something cheap. It's all about creating life into what you wear and representing yourself through your fashions.

ML: How is being a fashion designer, show/runway director and stylist in the United States different in your country?

KV: Well, it is extremely difficult because of culture. The two countries are poles apart and secondly, I do not know enough people here in the states to expand my line or take advantage of the opportunities that exist. I've only been here for three years. Finally, I would say, the amount



Vishukumar receiving honor after a fashion presentation.

of restrictions that are placed on you when you're in this country on a VISA, does not lend itself to growth or full expansion.

ML: Preparing for this conversation, I viewed your profile...it appears you've done a lot of shows in the U.S.. Can you describe your first show?

KV: Of course I remember it like it was yesterday. It was in February 2017 on South Beach in Miami. I remember getting that show through eventbrite. There was a person looking to put a show together and by God's grace, I saw that and reached out to him....and things just fell in place. It was a wonderful experience as I ended up directing the entire show and my journey began.

ML: Your fashion trends seem different. What is the message that you try to convey through your designs?

KV: I love telling stories with my designs; especially stories about my culture, my country and my life. I understand both countries and I want to strike a balance with my designs and with my two countries. My ultimate goal is to be accepted in the United States and in India.

ML: Name some of the other shows you've been a part of here in this country.

KV: I've been a part of show's like Tim Ried's Summer Touch Fashion Show in Virginia, Mag-

nifie Fashion Show by America's next top model Victoria Henley and Miami Men's fashion week just to name a few.

ML: Finally, as you're climbing the ladder in the US fashion world at such a young age and in other countries, how does that feel?

KV: It truly feels overwhelming at times...it's a lot of hard work and I must say that I thank God for all of these opportunities, including being in Jackson, Mississippi this weekend. I'm looking forward to building relationships and I'm grateful for everyone that recognizes my work. Let's celebrate on the runway.

Along with Vishukumar, Van Miller designs out of Atlanta, and local designer Curtis Gore will also be featured in the show.

Hill, who is the sister to the late Carmila Chinn Hampton created the vision for this show. "I wanted to honor my sister. She loved fashions and we worked for many years with the Ebony Fashion Show and the annual UNCF shows," Hill said. "She and I started an agency and conducted shows all across the state. I thought what better way to keep her legacy alive."

This high energy show is produced annually with plans to incorporate out-of-state shows.

For ticket information please call Jackie Chinn Hill 601 317-0404.

Holiday Spirit

Continued from page 1

this county for their overwhelming support of me," Smith said. "My family and I are eternally grateful."

Incoming Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens was on hand to offer words of gratitude to his predecessor. "I have big shows to fill," Owens said. "We are going to build on the work of

DA Smith...not only that, we are going to lean on him as we move forward. I'm looking forward to serving the citizens of Hinds County."

McClendon said, "it was important for us as a full unit to welcome Mr. Owens into the fold."

Owens will be sworn into office next month.

See photos page 5.

Mississippi Round Up

Continued from page 1

ing the largest e-cigarette maker in the U.S., saying that Juul Labs is deceptively marketing its products to teenagers and causing young people to become addicted.

The Jefferson County School District filed the lawsuit Dec. 5 in federal court in southern Mississippi. Attorneys are seeking to have it certified as a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all Mississippi school districts. The suit seeks an unspecified amount of money, including some to pay for prevention education and addiction treatment.

The lawsuit is similar to those filed this year by several other states and the District of Columbia. North Carolina became the first state to sue the San Francisco startup in May. School districts in Kansas and Kentucky have also sued Juul.

The Jefferson County School District, in rural southwestern Mississippi, has about 1,200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Attorneys representing the district in the lawsuit are based in Nashville, Tennessee.

The lawsuit says tobacco use among teens decreased significantly from 2000 to 2017.

"This success has been the result of years of litigation and strict regulation," the Mississippi lawsuit says. "It is also due to the widespread and mainstream public health message that smoking kills people – a message that Big Tobacco can

no longer dispute or contradict. This incredible progress towards eliminating youth tobacco and nicotine use has now largely been reversed due to e-cigarettes and vaping."

The Jefferson County School District's lawsuit also targets Altria, which owns Marlboro and other cigarette brands. Altria owns about one-third of Juul.

Juul launched in 2015 and now controls about two-thirds of the U.S. retail market for e-cigarettes. The company faces separate investigations by Congress, the FDA and other federal regulators.

Juul's top executives dispute allegations that they market their products to teens, declaring that they've taken unprecedented steps to combat underage use of the company's e-cigarettes. Juul has shut down its Facebook and Instagram pages and pulled several of its flavored products out of retail stores. Juul also backs federal legislation to raise the minimum age to purchase all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21 nationwide.

The Associated Press was seeking comment from Juul spokesmen Tuesday about the lawsuit in Mississippi.

Associated Press writer Matthew Perrone in Washington contributed to this report.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL – A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Hinds CC honors students named to Who’s Who

Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College recently honored students named “Who’s Who Among Students in American Community and Junior Colleges.”

To receive this honor, students are nominated by faculty or staff

based upon their academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and service to the college and/or the community as well as participation in extracurricular activities.

Among those who were recognized was Kendrick Hines of Bolton.

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

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



Hines

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Holiday Top Hat winners from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central Mississippi Chapter

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Staff Development and Holiday Closures for December 2019

Two upcoming system-wide closures for the Jackson Hinds Library System are as follows:

Staff Training Day
All branches of the Jackson Hinds Library System will be closed for staff training and development on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Holiday Closures
All branches of the Jackson Hinds Library System will be closed on:
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
Tuesday, December 31, 2019
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Following each closure, libraries will reopen at their normally scheduled hours and date depending on the library. Library’s hours can be found at www.jhlibrary.org.

Jackson Hinds Library System is funded by the Hinds County Board of Supervisors the City of Jackson.

Pause the WiFi? Most definitely.

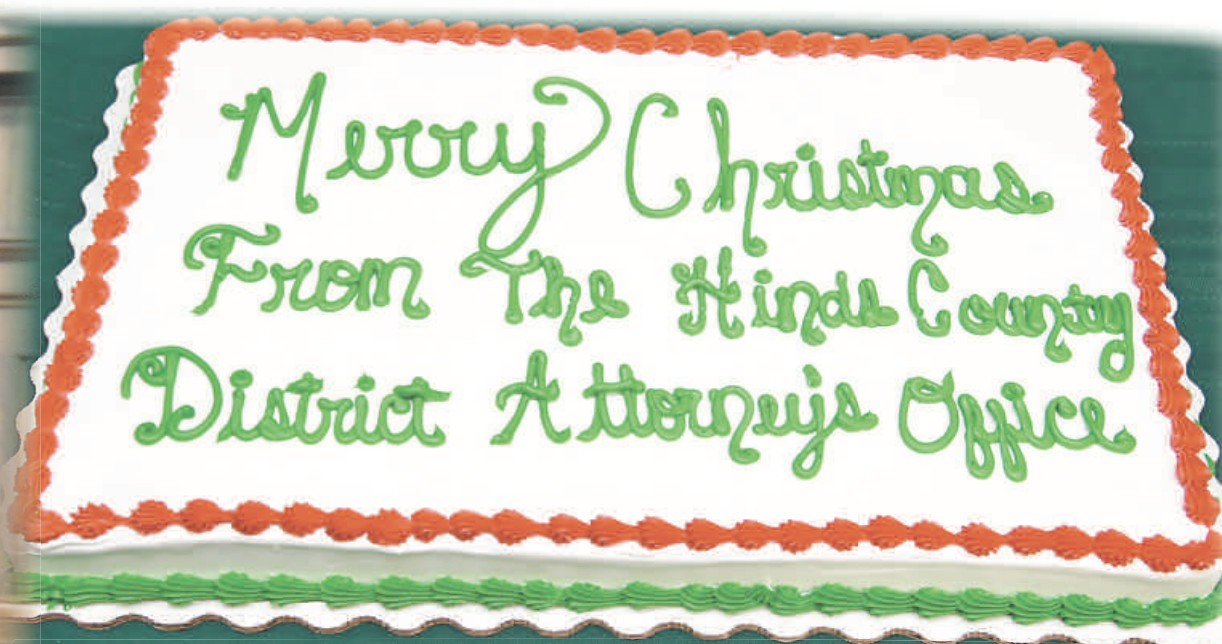
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Holiday Cheer from the Hinds County District Attorney's Office

Hinds County Courthouse • Jackson, MS • December 11, 2019

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY





Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
(State Association of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and American Farm)

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Dr Lashanda Hodges Precision Agriculture, Alcorn State University
Ben Burkett Census 2020 and Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Rockiell Woods, Director of NCAT, Alternative Farming Methods
Delmar Stamps, Consultant of Intouch Community Services Inc., Farm Bill Updates

Urban and Community Gardens & Agriculture Education
Church Hill 1
Facilitator: Joe Barnes, Agribusiness Specialist
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Otis Wright, Jr., AgEco LLC
Mr Otis Davis, Educational Facilitator, InTouch Community Services Inc.
Felix Russ, Agriculture Educator

Guest Speakers
Dr. Carey Ford, Empowerment and Motivational, Professor,
Kurt Readus, NRCS State Conservationists

Empowerment & Engagement
Church Hill 2
Facilitator: Myra Bryant, Mississippi Center of Cooperative Development

SESSIONS
Conservation & Forestry
Canterbury
Facilitator: Tremell Sherman, Agribusiness Specialist
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Tuwanna Williams, Williams & Associates LLC
Gloria Sturdevant, MSRBWIA
Nicole Bell, The Food Safety Lady

Freddie Davis III, River City Land Services
Byron Knox, Soil Health,
Hinds Co Educator Alcorn State University



Winners of the 2019 JPS reading fair announced



Mississippi Link Newswire

On Friday, December 6, Jackson Public Schools (JPS) released its three-year plan for school redesign throughout the district, which will expand the district’s pre-kindergarten offerings, support the development of a world-class teaching and learning center, and generate cost savings that pave the way for long-term strategic investments.

The school redesign plan, entitled Optimizing for Equity, builds upon the district’s five-year strategic action plan released earlier this year, which outlines five key commitments the district made to scholars and families that are guiding its decisions and actions.

In addition, the district relied heavily on information gathered through its ongoing community engagement activities and data from a recent enrollment study conducted by Education Resource Strategies based in Cambridge, Massachusetts to inform the school redesign plan.

“We are confident this plan will enable us to redesign school offerings and improve opportunities for scholars to receive similar educational experiences regardless of their zip code,” said Errick L. Greene, JPS superintendent. “As we emphasized in our strategic plan, we are fervently committed to providing each scholar in each school with equitable ac-

Timeline	Proposal	Sequence	Rationale
Fall 2020	Repurpose Van Winkle as an exclusive Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) School.	Students in K-5 at Van Winkle will be transferred to Bates.	Commitment #1: A Strong Start. Key Initiative: Expand the number of pre-kindergarten seats.
Fall 2020	Expand traditional Pre-K classes at McWille. Discontinue Montessori for 6th Grade at McWille.	Boyd kindergarten students (presently instructed at McWille) will be served at home school.	Commitment #1: A Strong Start. Key Initiative: Expand the number of pre-kindergarten seats.
Fall 2020	Close Barr Elementary. (Current Enrollment, 166)	Barr students will be transferred to Pecan Park.	Close Barr Elementary given severe under-enrollment and facility challenges.
Fall 2020	Consolidate Hardy Middle School with Blackburn Middle School.	Hardy students will be transferred to Blackburn. Hardy will be transformed into a premier Athletic complex.	Commitment #2: Innovative Teaching & Learning. Key Initiative: Robust elective offerings beginning as early as middle school.
Fall 2020	Consolidate Siwell Middle School with Cardozo Middle School.	Siwell students will be transferred to wither Cardozo and Peoples based on rezoning. Siwell building usage to be determined.	Commitment #2: Innovative Teaching & Learning. Key Initiative: Robust elective offerings beginning as early as middle school.
Fall 2021	Repurpose Rowan as a District Teaching & Learning Center.	RJAP Program to be relocated. Office of Teaching & Learning to move from Central Office to Rowan.	Commitment #3: Talented and Empowered Teams. Key Initiative: World-class Teaching and Learning Professional Development Center.
Fall 2022	Assign community stakeholder taskforce to develop plan strengthening the Lanier High School Feeder Pattern	Specific proposal to be developed by community stakeholder taskforce addressing enrollment, program offering, and facilities (in Spring 2020)	Commitment #2: Innovative Teaching & Learning. Commitment #4: Joyful Learning Environments

cess to high-quality instruction, courses and resources, and this school redesign plan brings us one step closer to delivering on that promise.”

Community meetings to inform parents about the specific impact of the redesign plan for their scholar’s school will be held starting Monday, December 9. The full school redesign plan will be presented to the

JPS Board of Trustees for consideration as information only at its regular board meeting on December 17.

“This process is extremely exciting because this plan will make it possible to give all children what they need to learn, thrive and succeed,” said Letitia S. Johnson, president of the JPS Board of Trustees. “I believe this plan creates true equity

throughout the entire district and enables us to maximize our resources in ways that will have long-term benefits for all of the scholars, families and neighborhoods the district serves.”

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) is the second-largest school district in Mississippi, serving nearly 24,000 scholars, serving more than 80 percent of school-aged children in the state’s capi-

tal and only urban municipality.

With a firm belief in the importance of equity, excellence, growth mindset, relationships, relevance and positive and respectful cultures, JPS works to develop scholars through world-class learning experiences to attain an exceptional knowledge base, critical and relevant skill sets and the necessary dispositions for great success.

Murrah students named Academic All Americans by National Speech & Debate Association

Mississippi Link Newswire

Four seniors from Murrah High School have been named Academic All Americans by the National Speech & Debate Association. Jeffrey Caliedo, Maisie Brown, Abigail Showalter and Evan Morrissey have all been recognized for their competitive excellence in Speech and Debate, academic success in the classroom and outstanding leadership and service.

Academic All Americans must hold a National Speech & Debate Association degree of Superior Distinction or higher within the Honor Society, reflecting the attainment of 750 or more degree points earned through speaking competition or service activities.

They must also have earned an unweighted GPA of 3.7 or higher over their high-school career. Finally, they must demonstrate outstanding character and leadership. According to the NSDA, from more than 140,000 high school student members of the National Speech & Debate Association, fewer than 2% of students earn the Academic All American award every year.

Jeffrey, Maisie, Abigail, and Evan join only eight other students in school history to have achieved the award: Joseph Araujo (class of 2015); Lauren Allen (2016); Jose Navas and Trevian Strong (2017); Justin Bell, Sophia Bowley and Alton Chambers (2018) and Matthew Araujo (2019).



Murrah seniors (from left) Jeffrey Caliedo, Maisie Brown, Abigail Showalter and Evan Morrissey have been named Academic All Americans by the National Speech & Debate Association.

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Member:



DSU receives grant from BCBS of Mississippi Foundation for tobacco-free policy on campus

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Delta State University has received a \$10,000 grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation to implement an expanded tobacco-free policy on campus.

“The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is working to build a healthy Mississippi. A healthy Mississippi is a place where health and wellness is the foundation for our schools, communities, colleges and universities and our entire culture,” according to its website.

Delta State continues to play its part to build on this crucial momentum, said Vernell Bennett, vice president for student affairs and project director of the tobacco-free initiative at Delta State.

“Students, faculty and staff will benefit from this grant in multiple ways, including educational and cessation programming and various services,” said Bennett. “Student Affairs is grateful to collaborate with the foundation for this healthy initiative.”

DSU was invited to apply for the grant in mid-October. Funds will be used to support new and or established health and wellness programs and other related needs on campus. These efforts are reasons why the Blue Cross



& Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, through what it calls “targeted funding and grant making throughout the state, focusing on health and wellness initiatives to support our schools, communities, colleges and universities,” selected Delta State for the underwriting.

DSU’s tobacco-free policy dates to September 2010. The Mississippi State Department of Health congratulated DSU at the

time for becoming Mississippi’s first four-year, state-funded university to implement a campus-wide tobacco-free policy.

“This tobacco-free grant is one of the many ways that the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is continuing to fulfill its mission. It was announced via Fox 13 News in Memphis last month that two new vaping illnesses were reported in Mississippi. At that time, nine people

had become sick and one, sadly, passed away. This indicates that there is an even greater need for tobacco-free initiatives at Delta State,” said Nerma Moore, director of development and corporate giving manager at the DSU Foundation. “We are thankful for our partnership and proud, too, in conjunction with the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, to build a healthier environment for Mississippians.”

Attendance + Attitude + Academics = refurbished computers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Twenty-five Holmes County Consolidated School District students demonstrating exemplary Attendance, outstanding Attitude and flourishing Academics were recognized as Triple-A students in November. Students from all schools were recognized by the Board of Education (BOE) at its November meeting for achieving appropriate academic and behavioral expectations and for being an integral part of the learning process in their schools. Students will be identified monthly and awarded restored computers and other educational learning manipulatives for home use.

The students were acknowledged as Triple-A students based on the following criteria:

- Attendance: on time each day and actively participating in the learning process.
- Attitude: exhibiting appropriate behaviors at all times, in all facets of the school day. These students add to the positive climate and culture of the building.
- Academics: the students soar academically. Not only does this mean achieving high grades, but also making adequate gains in each content area.

For their commitment to the 3 A’s, students received a newly refurbished computer. The computers were cleaned and new operating systems were installed and updated. The monitor, keyboard, mouse VGA and power cables were all repaired or replaced by new devices.

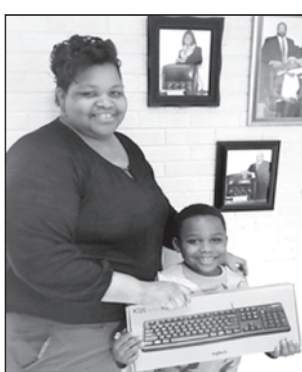
A cookies and punch reception was also held to celebrate their success.



Technology team member Bobby Williams distributes computers PHOTOS COURTESY OF HCCSD



Talyiah Gordon, William Dean Jr. Elementary, with father T. L. Williams Jr. III



Taylor Smart, Goodman-Pickens Elementary, with mother Joni Smart



Ava Grant, Durant Elementary School, with mother Alicia Grant and father Jimmie Kirklin

ACT 20+ Club is exclusive



Left to right: Jatoni Donelson, Slimaneshia Malone, Tamia Anderson, Ashayla Webster, Alexandria Hilliard, Jasmine Carthan, Tempress Mines, Rayla Thompson, Tyler Claiborne, Carmen Smith, Jalen Robinson, J'mya Robertson, Cameron Keys, Jada Groves, Isaac Randle. Not pictured: John Mitchell, De'trayvious Frizell, Timothy Thomas

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Middle and high school students from Holmes County Consolidated School District are recognized for scoring 20 or higher on the ACT exam – the standardized test used for college admissions in the United States – with membership in the ACT 20+ Club. Mississippi students who score 20 and above will receive scholarships to Mississippi colleges and universities. The ACT test covers four academic skill areas: English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. It also offers an optional writing test. HCCSD students who score 20 or higher are welcomed into the club and given a t-shirt and a yard sign that says Jaguars ACT 20+ Club Member to proclaim their accomplishment to their neighborhood.

Eighty-one students in grades 9-12 took the ACT exam October 26. Most of them took the test at either Holmes County Central High School or at Holmes Community College. School teachers, counselors and administrators encourage students to take the ACT and continue to offer incentives for effort and achievement

SV Marshall Elementary plays the fight songs of the Mississippi universities during morning announcements and communicates the ACT requirements to attend each college. As an extra incentive, students of S.V. Marshall in grades 7 and 8 scoring 95 or above on the 1st term ELA or Math benchmark assessment will have their names entered into a drawing for the Golden ACT Ticket. The ticket entitles the student to 1 paid ACT registration.

At the high school, there are friendly competitions between organizations such as the band and football team. All staff is involved in encouraging students to register for the test, including custodians, cafeteria staff and bus drivers. Morning announcements celebrate students who score 20 or higher. A bulletin board in the hallway shows the students’ photos. Students are recognized by the Board of Education at its monthly meeting. Incentives at the high school include an honorarium for the student who is responsible for getting the most students to register for the test, pizza parties and non-uniform days. Eighty-nine students registered to take the test at HCCHS December 14.

District partner Nathaniel Armistad of the Armistad Law Firm in Brookhaven, MS is underwriting many of the rewards and activities. He has a life-long passion to improve minority students’ ACT results and has worked with districts throughout the state to improve ACT test scores. He believes in creating an academic culture and is encouraging other businesses to contribute to support students who are college-bound.

Currently, the ACT 20+ Club has 18 members. Three of them are a result of the October test. Delta State University’s Educational Opportunity Center provided two free ACT prep workshops at HCCHS on two Saturday mornings in October prior to the exam. Some students credit the workshops with improvements in their scores over prior exam results.

To date, the highest score obtained by any HCCHS student this year is 24 with two students achieving the above-the-national-average score, putting them higher than 74% of the national test-takers.

ACT 20+ Club

1. Tamia Anderson, 12
2. Jasmine Carthan, 12
3. Tyler Claiborne, 12
4. Jatoni Donelson, 12
5. De'trayvious Frizell, 11*
6. Jada Groves, 12
7. Alexandria Hilliard, 12
8. Cameron Keys, 18
9. Slimaneshia Malone, 12
10. Tempress Mines, 12
11. John Mitchell, 12*
12. Issac Randle, 12
13. J'mya Robertson, 10
14. Jalen Robinson, 12
15. Carmen Smith, 10
16. Timothy Thomas, 10*
17. Rayla Thompson, 11
18. Ashayla Webster, 11

*Not pictured in photo

For more information contact Deborah Antoine, media spokesperson by email at dantoine@holmesccsd.org, or call 662 854-3447.



By L.A. Warren
isumsnews.com

“If you know something say something,” Brown pleaded. “All calls and tips need to go to a hotline (The National Human Trafficking Hotline, 888-373-7888). That information then goes to the task force.”

SBA Disaster Assistance available to Mississippi private nonprofits affected by severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced recently that certain Private NonProfit organizations (PNP) in Mississippi that do not provide critical services of a governmental nature may be eligible to apply for low-interest rate disaster loans. These loans are available following a Presidential disaster declaration for Public Assistance resulting from damages caused by a severe storm, straight-line winds and flooding Oct. 26, 2019.

PNPs located in the Mississippi counties of Alcorn, Covington, Itawamba, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Leake, Lee, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Scott, Simpson, Smith and Tippah are eligible to apply.

Examples of eligible non-critical PNP organizations include, but are not limited to food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, schools and colleges.

PNP organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or

replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. The interest rate is 2.75 percent with terms up to 30 years. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs, such as ongoing operating expenses to PNP organizations. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the organization suffered any physical property damage.

PNP organizations are urged to contact their county's emergency manager for information about their organization. The information will be submitted

to FEMA to determine eligibility for a Public Assistance grant or whether the PNP should be referred to SBA for disaster loan assistance.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov. Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Loan applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to submit applications for physical property damage is Feb. 4, 2020. The deadline to submit economic injury applications is Sept. 8, 2020.

Mississippi State Hospital Events



Volunteers from the Jimmy Bullock Family of Jackson, MS

Volunteers from the Jimmy Bullock Family of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 7 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

The Jimmy Bullock Family is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

"We appreciate the generosity of all of our volunteer groups and the happiness they bring to the patients and residents during the holidays," said Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services director for the hospital.



Volunteers from Greater Fairview Baptist Church of Jackson, MS

Volunteers from Greater Fairview Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 7 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Greater Fairview Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



Byram Middle School Choir

Volunteers from Byram Middle School Choir shared their time and talent Dec. 5 to perform a Christmas concert for patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Byram Middle School Choir is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



Volunteers from Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Terry, MS

Volunteers from Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Terry, MS, shared their time and talent on Dec. 7 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

"We appreciate the generosity of all of our volunteer groups and the happiness they bring to the patients and residents during the holidays," said Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services director for the hospital.

Holiday festivities at MSH culminate Santa Day, Dec. 20. An annual tradition, Santa Day is a day when community volunteers and leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa and deliver gift bags to each and every patient and resident.

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House leaders announce articles of impeachment against Trump

TriceEdneyWire.com

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has ordered the House Judiciary Committee to draft articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump following hearings that he violated the U.S. Constitution.

The articles of impeachment, announced Tuesday morning by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, concern Trump’s effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate political rival, Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for president. Impeachment means the legislative body issues a written accusation against a government official, who must be convicted of impeachment in order to be removed from office.

“President Trump’s misconduct is as simple and as terrible as this. President Trump solicited a foreign nation, Ukraine, to publically announced investigations into his opponent in a baseless conspiracy theory promoted by Russia, to help his re-election campaign,” Nadler said in a televised announcement Tuesday morning. “President Trump abused the power of his office.”



U. S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), chair of the House Judiciary Committee

Pelosi had already laid the groundwork in a public announcement last week: “The facts are uncontested. The president abused his power for his

own political benefit at the expense of our national security by withholding military aid and a crucial Oval Office meeting in exchange for an announce-

ment of an investigation into his political rival,” Pelosi said. “Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and our hearts full of



U. S. Rep. Val Butler Demings (D-Florida), House Judiciary Committee member

love for America, today I am asking our chairman to proceed with articles of impeachment,” Pelosi said, referring to Nadler. “The president leaves us no choice but to act.”

As Republicans fight vehemently to defend the president, at least two articles related to abuse of power and obstruction of Congress will likely be voted on by the full House next week, according to widespread reports.

Nadler has described Trump as a “continuing risk to the country,” according to MSN.com.

“Nadler forcefully accused the president of using his office to pressure Ukraine to launch political investigations and then trying to block Congress from investigating him.” Nadler has repeatedly asserted, “President Trump put himself before country.”

“The evidence presented does not prove any of these Democrat allegations and none of the Democrats’ witnesses testified to having evidence of bribery, extortion, or any high crime or misdemeanor,” according to a copy of the report reviewed by CNN.

Meanwhile, House Majority

Whip Jim Clyburn, the highest placed African American in Congress, has issued a statement encouraging all involved in the hearings. to be bold enough to protect the country rather than themselves or a political party.

He praised Pelosi’s speech announcing her directive to start the impeachment articles.

“My own personal philosophy which I keep right over my head, at my desk, is a little poster of a turtle,” Clyburn stated. “I have been worshipping turtles since my childhood. I have them scattered all over my office and all over my home. The turtle to me is a metaphor for public service. The shell is there to protect us from all that surrounds us, but if you ever want to make progress, the turtle has to stick its neck out. I think if we want to make progress, we will do what is necessary and sometimes that entails sticking your neck out. We can be safe under the shell, but I hope that we all want to make progress for this great country of ours. And I hope, that as we move forward on this question, that the rest of the country sees us as being protectors of this great republic.”

Bloomberg tries to make everyone forget Stop and Frisk

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In 2010 in New York City, 601,285 people were stopped-and-frisked by the New York City Police and 315,083 of them were black. In 2011, 685,724 individuals were stopped and 350,743 were black. Over 90 percent of those stopped by police where African-American or Hispanic.

Michael Bloomberg was Mayor in New York from 2002 to 2013. When new Mayor Bill DeBlasio took office in 2014, and after an ACLU lawsuit against New York City, the stop and frisk program was greatly reduced. All the theories that stop-and-frisk reduced crime were disproven by crime stats going down along with the use of the policy.

Now Bloomberg is running for president and his use and endorsement of a policy targeted to minorities and members of the Muslim faith is again under discussion. This week Bloomberg lied and said he hadn’t been asked about stop-and-frisk until his run for the White House. Bloomberg’s money has allowed him a place on the national debate stage at a time when a creeping sense of doubt remains regarding the Democratic candidates currently competing.

There are now “more billionaires than black people in the 2020 race,” said Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) after Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) dropped out of the presidential race December 3.

“Stop and frisk was an outdated and unfounded law enforcement policy of racial harassment. It harmed black communities and communities of color and did not make us any safer. Police officers regularly violated rights by stopping a disproportionate number of black and Latino New Yorkers who they often threatened or physically harmed. These stops rarely ended in an arrest and mostly served to terrorize and criminalize our communities,” said Monifa Bandle, vice president of MomsRising, who is a long-time New



Bloomberg

COMMENTARY

York City resident and an expert on criminal justice.

The effects of this destructive policy had a profound psychological impact, too. It affected how young black and Latino men lived their lives in their own neighborhoods, it increased feelings of stress, anxiety and trauma, increased racial discrimination in a city already struggling with massive inequality,” Bandle told NNPA.

But Bloomberg continues to attempt to minimize the impact of a policy that impacted thousands of New Yorkers over ten years during his time as mayor. Even though the current presidential race just lost a candidate, Sen. Harris, who repeated the line “justice is one the ballot,” another candidate who is likely to bring up Bloomberg’s achilles heel will be on the stage. Sen. Booker is likely to bring up justice reform and stop-and-frisk if he is on stage with Bloomberg.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LV-Burke

House passes voting rights measure to restore portions of law gutted in 2015

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

More than four years after sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were taken out by the Supreme Court and following four attempts under a House led by Republicans, Rep. Terri Sewell’s (R-Ala.) bill to reinstate voting protections has finally passed.

“Voting is personal to me because it was on the streets of my hometown, Selma, that foot soldiers shed their blood on the Edmund Pettus Bridge so that all Americans – regardless of race – could vote,” Sewell, who is African-American, wrote on Twitter.

“I am so proud the House voted to #RestoreTheVote,” she added.

The measure, H.R. 4, passed by a 228-187 margin, with all Democrats voting in favor while Sewell and Pennsylvania Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick counted as the only Republicans to support the legislation.

Many are now calling on the Senate to take up the measure.

Rev. William Barber, the president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and the architect of the Moral Mondays Movement in North Carolina, counts among those calling out Senate leaders.

“The U.S. House passed legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act,” Barber stated.

“If [GOP Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McConnell refuses to take it up in the Senate, he’s confessing that he believes the GOP can’t win without voter suppression.”

Gerrymandering, unfair voter I.D. laws and intimidation at the polls are among the tactics being used to prevent voters of color from casting votes, stated Marcela Howell, the founder, and president of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda.

“Passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act by the House is a first step toward restoring our



Sewell

democracy. We applaud the House of Representatives for passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019,” Howell stated.

“The wholesale disenfranchisement of voters threatens our democracy. Conservative lawmakers across the country are pulling out all the stops to prevent people of color – especially black people – from exercising our right to vote,” she stated.

Howell continued:

“We didn’t march and die fighting for our right to vote only to have that right denied us in this new Jim Crow era –fueled by the racist policies of conservative state legislators and the terrible decision in Shelby v. Holder by the Supreme Court that reinforced these oppressive laws.

“We call on Sen. Mitch McConnell to follow the leadership of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to stop the assault on voting rights by scheduling a Senate vote on the Voting Rights Advancement Act as soon as possible.

“We encourage voters across the country to unite in resistance by holding their elected representatives accountable and, most of all, by exercising their right to vote in local, state and federal elections.”

Sewell’s bill initially would cover 11 states, including nine in the South, and also California and New York.

The bill would require all states to get federal approval for election changes known to disproportionately affect voters of color, like strict voter I.D. laws, tighter voter registration requirements and polling place closures in areas with large numbers of minority voters.

The Voting Rights Act is perhaps the most significant piece of civil rights legislation in U.S. history, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer stated.

For more than 50 years, the law stood as a powerful force to prevent the type of racial discrimination in voting that marred America’s history before the bill’s passage, Schumer said.

“The Supreme Court’s disastrous decision in Shelby County v. Holder gutted this critical legislation and unleashed a surge of pernicious Republican-led voter suppression laws,” he continued.

“The House of Representatives passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act. This is a critical step towards restoring the protections of the Voting Rights Act and beating back the scourge of voter suppression,” Schumer added.

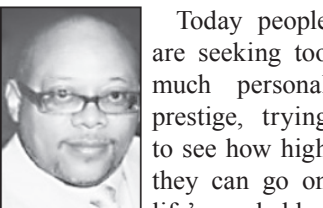
He continued:

“The right to vote is the very wellspring of our democracy. Generations have organized, protested, marched and died to extend the franchise to all Americans.

“It is incumbent upon every member of Congress to continue to fight to increase, rather than impede, access to the ballot box and ensure that every eligible American can have their voice heard. I urge Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring this legislation to the floor of the Senate. Voting rights are simply too important to be banished to Leader McConnell’s legislative graveyard.”

The day in which we live

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



Today people are seeking too much personal prestige, trying to see how high they can go on life's ladder. People want the world in one hand and a religious affiliation in the other. You cannot effectively serve God with a churchy attitude. The draw of the world will be too strong. You have to get it settled that you are not going to play church. You need to get deeply rooted and settled in your Christian experience. Too many things out in the world can draw you away. That is what the enemy wants to do. Deep down in too many people's lives, they have no

true desire to rid themselves of the materialism of this old world. Materialism is what draws the majority of people away from God. They want to hang onto material things. Friend, if you want complete victory, your love for the things of this old world will have to go. You have to get rid of hindrances to have complete victory. Complete victory will be achieved at an altar of prayer when you have it settled that you are going to follow Jesus Christ. Too many people do not get it completely settled that they are going to follow Jesus Christ. Instead, they have a shallow experience that causes them to be drawn away. The winds of this old world are strong, and they will blow you away.

The Lord knows your true treasures. He truly knows what gets your attention and what your affections are set upon. You may try to fool the pastor and other members of your congregation, but the Lord knows your true affections. I ask you, do you truly enjoy going this holy way? The Lord sees your heart. Do you rely on worldly entertainment to satisfy you? Friend, the worldly scene takes time and money. When people spend too much money, they go out and borrow more money to keep up with their worldly pleasures. Why are people not satisfied with what the Lord has given them? They have not completely settled things in their hearts and lives. Friend, Jesus Christ satisfies. Your

satisfaction is guaranteed. If you do not have that complete satisfaction down deep in your heart and soul, you lack something in your experience. You can know exactly what you lack in your life if you do not have complete satisfaction. The Holy Spirit will reveal it. What if the Apostle Paul had said no to Christ? He was having the time of his life. Telling the Philippians about the things he had given up, Paul declared, "I consider them rubbish" and why? "That I may gain Christ and be found in Him" (Philippians 3:3-9). *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.*

Winning the race


By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



When I made my list of prayer requests for 2019 back in January of this year, I thought about the things that were on the list this year that were also on the list last year...and the year before. I have to admit that I've gotten frustrated watching other people be blessed with the same things that I 'd prayed for. Honestly, it is hard not to be envious of them and question God. It seems like the longer I've waited, the harder it's gotten to wait.

I asked God if the reason why the prayers were unanswered was because I was praying amiss (like it says in James 4:3). I then thought maybe my prayers were not strong enough, long enough or intense enough. The answer came to me one evening as I prayed and wrote in my journal before I went to bed. "The last lap is always the hardest which is why only the best are chosen to run it." I laughed and wrote that I didn't necessarily need to be last...but after thinking about it, it made a lot of sense. I even did a little research on relay races. The website *trackandfield.lifetips.com* described how saving the best runner for last is the normal strategy for relay races. Part of the reason the best runner is on the last leg of the relay race is because that runner usually knows what to do to win the race. By the time they get the baton, they know how to adjust their time in-

cluding speeding up if necessary, to win the race for their team. This reminds me of my success as a childhood athlete. For two years, I was the reigning 100-yard dash winner at Tinker Elementary in Oklahoma City. I even thought at one point, (remember this is the overactive mind of 9-year-old) that I was going to go to the 1976 Olympics. One race that I remember running was the relay race. To me it was always challenging to see if I catch the baton without dropping it and then, of course, being the first over the finish line. As 2019 ends and you begin to make plans for 2020, you may feel like you are still waiting for God to bless you and answer your prayers. You may even find yourself getting tired of waiting. Know that God is not deliberately trying to hurt you by making you wait. He might just be allowing you to wait a little longer for the answer to your prayers because he trusts you to know what to do while you wait. I Corinthians 9:24 encourages, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." It's about building your character while you endure. Merry Christmas! Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.




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LETTER
TO EDITOR

The University of Mississippi recently fired its head coach after another mediocre football season. Mississippi State, Jackson State and Southern did not fare much better on the gridiron.

I am not a rabid football fan but I believe strongly that all of our four major state supported universities face major structural problems, at least for the foreseeable future.

Mississippi is a small state, with a population much less than Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee. The latter three states have essentially a unified higher education system, basically one university system that is able to consolidate its elite talents. Although Alabama has two major state supported universities, Auburn and University of Alabama, the state has a much larger population base from which to draw blue chip athletes. Both universities also have much better name recognition at the national level and have a ton of SEC and national championships.

The revolving door of frequently firing and changing coaches will not fix this structural dilemma in Mississippi.

House Judiciary
impeachment hearings

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



A few days ago brilliant constitutional law professors testified in Congress on the grounds for impeachment after hearing the facts coming from the Intelligence Committee under the direction of Chairman Adam Schiff. If anyone had told me before this hearing that Professor Jonathan Turley would have taken the positions he took, I would have argued against that possibility. He was such a disappointment after hearing him for years.

I expected the usual craziness from Representatives Jim Jordan, Mike Johnson, Doug Collins, Matt Gaetz and several others, but not from Mr. Turley for whom I'd held in high regard. I can't imagine what his current and former law students are thinking about him after such a performance.

Several of the Republican Members of Congress must've had earplugs or been out of the room during the impeachment hearings when so many witnesses presented the facts as to why Donald Trump should not only be impeached, but also convicted. I would be willing to bet that any high school student who heard the facts and heard these constitutional experts discuss the laws of our country and what it takes to impeach a government official, that student would both impeach and convict the president.

I suppose many Republicans don't understand the laws of our country and don't understand high crimes and misdemeanors. It's scary to see the behavior of these mostly white men and few white women who are responsible for creating the laws for all of us to live by. If those of us who successfully went through law school are having trouble understanding these Republicans' lack of understanding of the meaning of abuse of power by advancing personal interest, betrayal of the American people by enlisting the help of another nation to interfere in our elections for personal benefit, of obstruction of justice by thinking that he can do whatever he wants to do and

I believe the future and possible solution to this problem, the inability to compete in the SEC, SWAC (nationally), may be found in long term planning, quality education and training, economic development, growth of a middle class (across race and gender lines) increasing and not losing population, making some hard, equitable and unpopular decisions about long term viability of eight state supported universities, significantly improving the state image, which may encourage star athletes in Mississippi to stay home, and also attract a few blue chip prospects from neighboring states and around the nation.

This kind of planning and hard decision-making will support more than competitive sports but, the long-term growth, survival and sustainability of the state and its entire people.

Roy DeBerry
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Oxford, MS 38655
601 942-9438
roydeberry69@gmail.com)

that he can even shoot someone on 5th Avenue and nothing could be done to him – what is the average person thinking?

Thank God for Prof. Pamela S. Karlan, Prof. Noah Feldman and Prof. Michael Gerhard who are giving both the Republicans and the American people an explanation of our laws. They explained that even Trump is not above the law.

Democrats have voted with Republicans on far less offenses by a president. Where are the sensible Republicans who know the current president has torn our country apart by refusing to acknowledge stacks of shameful impeachable behavior? If we can't impeach this president with the repeated impeachable behavior that is so shameful and so clear, when can we stop any harmful behavior by any government official?

If our laws mean nothing for the person charged with executing our laws, why should any American be expected to follow them? There are people who've done far less harmful things than our current president and so many of his staff, his personal lawyers and friends yet they languish in prisons for very long periods of time. Why should our so-called leaders be above the law?

Rep. Val Demings said, "The rule of law is the strength of our democracy." Why should someone who's violated so many of our laws get away without punishment?

Shame on Rep. Ben Cline for belittling the constitutional scholars who're so brilliantly helping us to understand the laws of our nation that people like him are charged with making our laws, but can't stand to uphold them because it's so obvious they're little more than lapdogs for their party instead of protecting the laws of our nation. We must insist that we the people have the right to elect our leaders in 2020, not the Russians.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. (www.national-congressbw.org). She's also host of WPFW.FM 89.3's "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

Black communities are
making a difference
in the fight against aids

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



"The fact that there's a conversation that occurs on an annual basis on World AIDS Day is significant. The fact that the President of the United States, on an annual basis, now, comments and discusses AIDS, keeps it on the agenda. I think a very, very concrete outcome of that discussion is that President Bush put forward billions of dollars toward the AIDS prevention and education effort for the United Nations. I don't think that would've happened had it not been for World AIDS Day ..."– Jim Block, co-founder of World AIDS Day

The theme of World AIDS Day 2019, which took place December 1, is "Communities make the difference."

As part of the Centers for Disease Control's Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS (PACT), the Urban League community is making the difference for nearly 300,000 people annually through outreach awareness, testing and education.

Worldwide, there are 37.9 million people living with HIV, 1.1 million

of whom are in the United States. A shocking 42 percent of those – 468,800 – are black.

Sadly, black Americans remain the racial group most affected by HIV in the United States, accounting for 42 percent of new diagnoses last year. The rate of new diagnoses for African Americans was eight times the rate for whites and twice the rate of Latinos.

According to the CDC, one in seven African Americans living with HIV don't even know they have it, and therefore can't take advantage of HIV care and treatments and are more likely to pass HIV to others unknowingly.

Even after diagnosis, only about two-thirds of black gay and bisexual men with newly diagnosed HIV, and 58% with previously diagnosed HIV, were linked to HIV medical care within 90 days of the diagnosis, when the virus is easier to suppress.

Further compounding the problem is the higher poverty rate among black Americans.

Limited access to high-quality health care, housing and HIV prevention education increase the risk for infection and make worse outcomes more likely.

Through PACT, the Urban League

Movement – along with groups like the National Black Justice Coalition, and the Black Men's Xchange – is raising awareness about testing, prevention and retention in care among African Americans.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, the international agencies charged with confronting the AIDS epidemic, have set a target for 2020 known as 90-90-90. By the end of next year, 90 percent of all those infected will know they are infected; 90 percent of those infected will be receiving antiretroviral therapy and 90 percent of those receiving therapy will have had the virus effectively suppressed.

In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has set a goal of reducing the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent within five years, and then by at least 90 percent within 10 years, for an estimated 250,000 total HIV infections averted. This initiative is known as Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.

By raising awareness, and connecting high-risk populations to testing and health care, the Urban League Movement is helping to move African Americans toward both the 90-90-90 goal and the HHS Plan for America.

Kamala Harris –
still a winner

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



California Senator Kamala Harris (D) threw her hat in the ring for the Democratic nomination for president before more than 20,000 people in Oakland, California. She made the announcement on the official Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, January 21, 2019. She jumped into the race with enthusiasm, and many had high hopes for her. Unfortunately, she suspended her race basically because she lacked resources.

Negative media coverage, perhaps informed by race and gender bias, along with rumors of discord in her campaign, were being circulated widely. While I was sorry to see Harris exit the field, I'm still a fan, and I think she is still a winner.

Harris has three more years in her Senate term. Until 2022, she can continue to slice and dice witnesses in the Senate, advance legislation "for the people," as her campaign slogan suggests and solidify her base in California. Hopefully, then, she can be reelected and look at presidential possibilities in 2024 or 2028. And she can use her most recent experience to guide her in her next national campaign.

Few candidates for president collect the nomination on their first time out. President Barack Obama was an exception, but this is Vice-President Joe Biden's third bite at the apple, and

many (including Bill Clinton)) tried at least once before winning.

Kamala was the third black woman to vie for the Democratic nomination. Shirley Chisholm's historic run in 1972 inspired black women all over the country. She was the first black woman to sit in the United States Congress, and is well known for her motto, "unbought and unbossed." She made it to the convention floor with 152 delegates, some who had been pledged to Hubert Humphrey until he released them. Chisholm said she ran because she had the "sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo."

Carol Mosley Braun, the first black woman to serve in the United States Senate, attempted a presidential run in 2003 and dropped out in early 2004. John Kerry ended up with the Democratic nomination that year, but thanks to Republican dirty tricks, the electoral count wasn't even close. Mosley Braun had a handle on the issues, especially issues about women's financial security. But she had neither the resources nor the support to make it to the convention.

Now we have Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor and California Attorney General who burst onto the Senate scene with skills and focus. Few will forget the way she made Attorney General Jeff Sessions look like a bumbling fool. And her cross-examination of Brett Kavanaugh was masterful. As she crisscrossed the country, she inspired black women and girls and others.

Indeed, she garnered the support of Higher Heights, a black women's PAC that endorsed her in early November, despite her low polling numbers.

I was saddened to see Harris leave the race. I would love to have seen her debating 45. I bet he wouldn't have rattled her the way he pushed Hillary off her game. I'd like to have seen her with a smaller group of Democrats so that everything didn't seem so rushed, and people could answer questions more expansively.

Harris' withdrawal from the race is not her loss but the nation's. The way we are going, the next debate will be a white-only affair unless Tulsi Gabbard or Andrew Yang qualify.

In the last debate, Harris talked about the fact that black women are the backbone of the Democratic Party. You wouldn't know that from the representation on the debate stage, or in party leadership. Black women have been loyal to the Democratic Party, but the party has not been faithful to us.

Harris is still a winner. Like Chisholm and Mosley Braun, she refused to accept the status quo. Her withdrawal from this race is not the end; it is a new beginning for the tenacious Senator who will undoubtedly continue to fight "for the people."

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com



Trio named to Methodist Rehabilitation Center Board of Directors



Bowman



Chapman



Rambo

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson has added Dr. Jasmin Owens Chapman, Bob Rambo and Phillip W. Bowman to its board of directors.

Since 1998, Dr. Chapman has served as chief executive officer of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (JHCHC), with 27 locations, 300 employees and an annual budget over \$26 million.

The first female and first dentist to be CEO at JHCHC, Dr. Chapman has twice been recognized as an Outstanding CEO by the Mississippi Primary Healthcare Association. She serves on

the boards of the Governor’s Mississippi Healthcare Institute, Merit Health Central Hospital in Jackson and the Mississippi Primary Healthcare Association.

Dr. Chapman has a bachelor of science degree in biology from Jackson State University and was the first black female to earn a doctorate of dental surgery from the University of Iowa School of Dentistry. A Terry native, Dr. Chapman is married to retired Judge Clyde Chapman and has two children and two grandchildren.

Since 2013, Rambo has been lead pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson.

The West Point native attended Wood College and Mississippi State University before obtaining a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Memphis Theological Seminary.

Since 1980, he has led churches small and large from Mathis-ton to Wren, Meridian to Clarks-dale and Ripley to Starkville. He also has been district superintendent of the Starkville District of the Mississippi Conference.

For the past 20 years, Rambo has been an adjunct professor for The Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies in Jerusalem, Israel. He is married to Susie Baldwin Rambo of West Point, and they

have two sons and five grandchildren.

Jackson native Bowman has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi.

Since 1995, he has been the chief executive officer and owner of Specialty Metals Supply Inc.

He is married to Audra Armstrong Bowman, and they have three children – one at Southern Methodist University and two at Jackson Academy.

A member of Bellwether Church, Bowman enjoys spending time with family and duck hunting and farming in Clarks-dale.

Beware of a “toxic” Christmas

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Finding great holiday gifts for your children should be fun. Yet there are toxic chemicals in children’s toys that simply shouldn’t be on anyone’s list.

However, if you’re like most people, there are lots of children in your life that you would like to get something for as a gift. Of course, as there are typically so many of them, you have to be careful not to “break the bank.” That means you’re bound to looking for affordable options for some cute toys and gifts.

And, like most people, you’re bound to make a few runs to the “dollar stores.” Afterall, they certainly got the right price range, and there always some novel little trinkets to buy. But what you probably aren’t counting on is that the very gift you give to a child could be dangerously toxic and/or poisonous.

Many communities served by dollar stores are predominantly communities of color or low-income communities that are already disproportionately exposed to chemical hazards and health effects linked to chemical exposures.

We already know that many chronic diseases and health conditions are linked to chemical exposures, and are potentially deadly, especially for children. These links have been established for everything from ADHD; to brain cancer; to asthma; and to birth defects, just to name a few. In all diseases and conditions, black and brown communities in this country are hit the hardest; upwards of 2-3 times more likely to be struck by one of these problems. This means that they are more likely to die or suffer serious ill-effects if they do become ill after continuous exposure to these chemicals.

Think about how much of our family’s lives are filled with all the stuff you usually buy at a ‘dollar store’– all to save a few bucks: dolls, kid backpacks, pencil cases, toy cars, kids jewelry, rug pads, household cleansers; fragrances; soaps; and dozens of other household items. Young children are at a high risk as they often put these “gifts” into their mouths. Other toxins can come in contact with your skin or respiratory system, exposing you to danger.

Specifically, this time of year, we, especially, have to think about the children. Toys sold in the US are regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), which enforces federal standards for children’s products. Generally, there are laws that regulate all products with sharp points or edges, parts small enough for a child to swallow, and lead in paint, according to Consumer Reports. Unfortunately, this does not mean that the government tests toys for safety before they go on the market.

I know you’re thinking that we have agencies, whose responsibility it is to see to it that as consumers, we are protected from being harmed by products we purchase. Sorry to disappoint...

Of all of the stuff we are exposed to in the products we buy, only about 200 chemicals out of 80,000 registered for commercial use have been fully screened for health and safety, and of these, only 5 have ever been banned.

Researchers found a full 81 percent of the products tested from “dollar stores” contained at least one hazardous chemical of concern. Nearly half (49 percent) of the products at these stores contained two or more toxic chemicals.

This information should make you think, not just about those holiday gifts, but also about the decorations, tinsel, Christmas lights; candles; ornaments; cooking utensils; just about everything.

Chemicals detected included phthalates; polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl); and toxic metals such as lead and chromium, bromine and antimony. What they are, and how they harm your health? The “old folks” use to say, that if it’s a word your grandmama couldn’t pronounce, neither should you. Have you ever wondered why the whole store smells like cheap plastic as soon as you walk in?

One of the biggest culprits is a more common, but no least harmful substance – lead: it is illegal for the paint on toys, and other products, to contain more than 0.06 percent concentration lead, and with good reason. When ingested in the human body, lead can cause nerve damage, learning and behavioral problems, reproductive damage and irreversible brain damage. It can also increase the risk of cancer. The CDC warns that “no safe blood level in children has been identified.” With recent revelations of the extensive lead contamination in our children’s schools and in some municipal water systems, wouldn’t it make sense to protect our children in ways that we have direct control over?

Also keep in mind that regardless of what is legal, and allowed, in the United States, toys made in China or other developing countries carry a higher risk of containing chemicals that are illegal than toys made in the US, Canada, or the European Union (EU), because dangerous chemicals are less well-regulated in these countries.

Make sure that the gift you give to a young child for the holidays brings them joy, without the “side effects.”



The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

Glenn Ellis is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com

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

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (“JAN”), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 3:00 p.m. central time on January 14, 2020 (the “Bid Deadline”), for construction and renovations in connection with the International Drive Rehabilitation 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 3:00 p.m. central time on January 14, 2020, Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Once registered, Suppliers can download bid specifications and upload bid documents.

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 3:15 p.m. central time on January 14, 2020 (the “Bid Opening”), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder’s company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: “International Drive Rehabilitation at JAN, JMAA Project No. 004-18C.” Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at 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
100 International Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 616
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager, Procurement

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on December 18, 2019 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

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

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA’s website). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 22% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DATE: December 4, 2019 /s/ Darion Warren, CFM

12-5-2019, 12-12-2019

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3114 Jim Hill High School Restroom Renovations
Bid 3115 Lanier High School Restroom Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) January 14, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Pre-Bid Conferences concerning the projects for will be held at each school location library. Jim Hill High School, 2185 Fortune Street, Jackson, MS, 39204 on December 19, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. and Lanier High School, 833 West Maple Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on December 19, 2019 at 2:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.durrelldesigngroupplans.com. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, Fax: 601-488-4717, Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com

12-5-2019, 12-12-2019

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, December 17, 2019. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost. A workshop on the Request for Proposals packet is scheduled for MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 beginning promptly at 2:00 pm. It will be held at the Municipal Art Gallery located at 839 North State Street Jackson, MS 39202. Those interested in submitting proposals should attend this Workshop.

For the Request for Proposals packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on December 17, 2019. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS.

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director
Department of Human and Cultural Services

11-28-2019, 12-5-2019, 12-12-2019

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

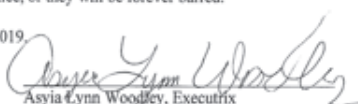
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY TERRY WOODLEY, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2019-222 O/3

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS


Letters of Administration having been granted on June 4, 2019, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executrix upon the Estate of Shirley Terry Woodley, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probaton and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, 2019,


Asyia Lynn Woodley, Executrix

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Asyia Lynn Woodley, Executrix for the Estate of Shirley Terry Woodley, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.


NOTARY

Damon Stevenson
Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC
1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (769) 251-0207, Facsimile: (601) 608-7872

12-5-2019, 12-12-2019, 12-19-2019

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
EDDIE CHARLES NELSON,
DECEASED

CAUSE #:19-1371-M

BY: Stephanie Nelson

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF EDDIE CHARLES NELSON, DECEASED

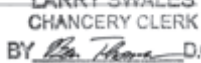
You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Stephanie Nelson, Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of the Eddie Charles Nelson.


You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 8:30 o'clock a.m., on the 14th day of January, 2020, in the Chancery Courtroom of Rankin County, Mississippi, before Honorable John C. McLaurin and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 22nd day of November, 2019.

CHANCERY CLERK OF RANKIN COUNTY
Mississippi

LARRY SWALES
CHANCERY CLERK
BY  D.C.



12-5-2019, 12-12-2019, 12-19-2019

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.

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

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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 Tom Hanks

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
																	L				E				



$\text{UF} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{DLQ}} \quad \overset{\text{'}}{\text{HT}} \quad \text{FQSSD} \quad \text{UF} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{ENTHT}} \quad \overset{\text{'}}{\text{G}}$
 $\overset{\text{O}}{\text{GLZT}} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{ENUSX}} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{ENME}} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{ZMJTG}} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{DLQ}}$
 $\overset{\text{T}}{\text{IMQXN}} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{ENTS}} \quad \overset{\text{T}}{\text{TRTHD}} \quad \text{PMD} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{G}} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{XLUSX}}$
 $\overset{\text{T}}{\text{EL}} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{KT}} \quad \overset{\text{O}}{\text{LJMD}}$

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Cryptogram Solution

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

IF YOU'RE FUNNY, IF THERE'S
UF DLQ HT FQSSD UF ENTH G
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU
GLZTENUSX ENME ZMJTG DLQ
LAUGH, THEN EVERY DAY'S GOING
T MQXN ENTS TRVTH PMD G XLUSX
TO BE OKAY
EL KT LJMD

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Sudoku Solution

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

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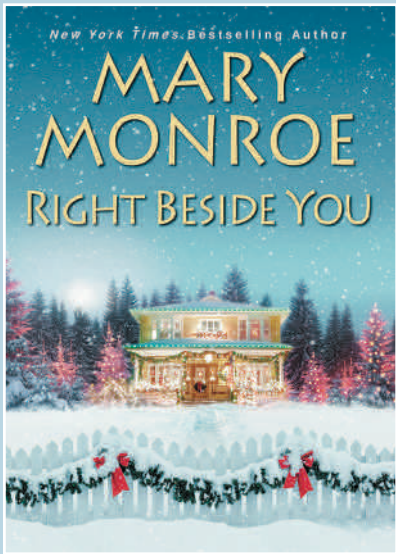
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PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY





BOOK REVIEW:

RIGHT BESIDE YOU

BY MARY MONROE

C.2019, DAFINA BOOKS

\$20.00 / \$27.00 CANADA • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You’re going to just be quiet now.

You have things to say, but you’re not going to say them. Nope, not opening your mouth. Not a peep. Not a word. It’s not your time to talk, and even if it was, you’ll keep your thoughts to yourself. Although, as in the new novel “Right Beside You” by Mary Monroe, staying quiet might mean staying alone.

Thirty-seven-year-old Felicia Hawkins almost never saw anybody she worked with when

she stuck around her neighborhood, so she was particularly embarrassed when she ran into her co-worker, Richard, at the market with his maybe-girlfriend, Regina, who was dressed to the nines. It was a Friday night, Felicia was in sweats and a do-rag. She could never compare to Regina, who was the prettiest woman around.

Felicia’d always gotten along with Richard. They sat on the city bus and chatted on their way to work in downtown Cleveland every morning, and

all the way home at night. He was tall and handsome, a widower with two teenage daughters and she liked him... but seeing Richard that Friday, Felicia suddenly realized that she loved him.

There was no way she was going to tell him so.

Richard Grimes could have taken his car to work every morning but he didn’t, because he looked forward to seeing Felicia twice a day. She was beautiful, inside and out, and he couldn’t figure out why some other Brother hadn’t

made her his wife. He knew full well that Regina was trying to get back with him – they’d dated in high school – but she wasn’t the kind of woman he wanted to help raise his girls.

Someone like Felicia, though? Yes, that was what Richard really wanted. Seeing Felicia all dressed down like that on a Friday night, he had so many feelings for her but he’d never tell her so. Still, as the Christmas holidays neared and thoughts of it warmed hearts, Richard could only think of Felicia, and he wondered what

she was doing for the holidays.

What Felicia was doing was thinking it was time to move to Atlanta and try to forget Richard. But then a Santa’s helper came up with a better plan...

As novels go, “Right Beside You” is nothing thunderous.

It’s not exciting or agitating. It won’t make your heart pound. It’s just a slow, gentle romance, a little like a made-for-TV movie with light drama, lighter humor, and love scenes that never go beyond a chaste kiss or two.

In short, it’s the perfect holi-

day novel, although readers may note that the holiday itself is far in the background and is almost irrelevant to the tale. Still, this story is predictable, yet comforting and comfortable and it contains the kinds of situations that make Scrooges scoff; author Mary Monroe makes it work in the most charming of ways.

If you’ve been waiting for one of these holiday genre novels to arrive, then, wait no more. Put this book “Right Beside You” for a perfect, quiet Christmas evening.

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Hinds County students in New Stage’s “A Christmas Carol” production

Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre is excited to have nine students and one teacher from Hinds County in our production of A Christmas Carol.

A Christmas Carol will run from December 1 through December 21 at New Stage Theatre.

In this new adaptation, Ebenezer Scrooge is a wealthy man, rich in money and poor in spirit. He’s locked his solitary heart into a cashbox and forgotten where he’s put the key.

A swirling, dancing chorus of ghosts weave through this uplifting holiday story of redemption, magic and hope as Scrooge is visited by spirits of his past, present and future.

Dickens’ classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in holiday story of redemption, magic and hope.



Cast members include (L to R) Kymbrianna Griggs – tenth grade, Power APAC and Murrah High School; Kendra Quarterman – sixth grade; Power APAC and Bailey Middle School; Malaika Quarterman – lead arts teacher and chair of the Theatre Department at Power APAC; Rivka Quarterman – fourth grade; Power APAC



The Quartermans, Jeffrey Cornelius – tenth grade, Power APAC and Murrah High School; Treasure White – ninth grade, Power APAC and Murrah High School; Timothy James Magee Jr. – tenth grade, Power APAC and Murrah High School



Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year.



Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)

To Qualify:

- * Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- * Family must reside in Hinds County
- * Must be a low-income family (based on the federal poverty level)
- ** Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income.
- ** Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

- * Preschool Education
- * Medical
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- * Mental Health
- * Disability
- * Literacy
- * Leadership Development
- * Limited Transportation

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To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W-2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-5935.

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Women for Progress Lunch and Learn

Capital Club • Jackson, MS • December 3, 2019

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

District highlights from Community Bank on MS credit in the classroom program

Representatives of Community Bank met with the Terry High School Softball team, Byram Middle School and Raymond High School to share information about the importance of savings, budgeting, credit building and avoiding excessive student loan debt. Community Bank also made a donation to the softball team.



Pictured L-R: Coach Brian Weeks, Jeffrey Zermeno-Aviles, CBOM Hynethia Richard, Zuri Vargas, Jayriunna Watts, CBOM Whitney Krebs, Raylan Granderson, Chandley Clark, Jordan Funchess, Jaudorah Ball, Torri Jones, Kalise Posey, Camberly Tone, Codie Brace, Erykah Cain, Amaia Lewis, CBOM Elaine Toney, Bank Representative; Kaleigh Matthews, Kanya Howard, Erin Slaughter and Shamaya Norwood



District Fine Arts performances highlights



RHS Magical Choir performs holiday cheers for Rotary Club of South Hinds



Board members and administrators attend Town of Edwards ribbon cutting ceremony



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