



Lessons from black fathers



Warren Shadd, the nation's first African-American piano manufacturer, recalls how he tagged along behind his father, James Shadd, a piano tuner at the historic Howard Theatre.

By Barrington M. Salmon
TriceEdneyWire.com

Although many fathers grouse about the short shrift they get on

Father's Day, the power and importance of fathers in shaping the lives of their children and grandchildren cannot be understated or



Cinematographer Nigel Thompson recalls how his father's lessons — and example — guided him after his father, John Thompson, died when he was only 13.

ignored. With Sunday, June 16, set aside to honor fathers, we asked some men to reflect on the most impor-

tant lesson they learned from a father, father figure, mentor, teacher or other male with influence in

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This Father's Day

By Glenn Mollette
Guest Columnist

What can we as father's do with our remaining years? We can't turn back the clock. Any and all missed opportunities cannot be reclaimed.

Some fathers' live with regrets while others know they did the best they could.

I don't know of too many dads who deeply feel like they have been perfect. In our younger adult and middle age years we had a lot on our plates. We were trying to make it in our jobs and keep food in the house and a roof over our heads. Most of the time we were juggling long hours. Most of us tried to do the best we could.

The best you can do with your remaining years is to love your children and grandchildren and others. Call them on the phone and visit them every chance you have. Engage in personal conversations. Talk to them about their lives and what they are doing. Give advice but don't overdo it. Try to remember how well you listened to advice when you were 30 years old.

Help your family as you can but if you do it all the time you will cripple them. What are your children going to do when you are gone? They have to make it financially and emotionally. Birds must learn to fly on their own and so do our children. Most anyone can go through a lot of money in a year or two if they don't know how to budget and live thrifty.

Find opportunities to engage with family as you can. Sometimes a day trip in a car with the radio off provides a lot of casual opportunities to talk about old times and new times. Casually let your children in on things you have learned in your life. They might remember them later down the road. Ask them to tell you what they have learned and you will probably discover your child is going through some of the same stuff you did at his or her age.

As a father keep it balanced. How many years do you have left? I see old dads who spend every day with their

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For over 40 years, Dr. Leonard Scott's family business has been making people smile

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Some families pass down recipes or pocket watches but Dr. Leonard Scott — an Indianapolis-based dentist since 1973, has passed down a passion for teeth. Not only is he a leader in this field but his commitment to it has influenced two generations of his own family to follow in his footsteps.

"I wanted to be a dentist before being a musician," says the 70-year-old Dr. Scott who is also the founder of Tyscot Records, which launched the careers of a who's who in gospel music. "I was inspired by a high school biology teacher to go into medicine and my dad always wanted me to be a physician. However, I had a fear of blood, so I chose dentistry instead," he chuckles.

While Dr. Scott was a pre-dentistry major at Indiana State



Drs. Leonard Scott, Brook Scott, Lynna Scott-Diggs, Duane Bennett III

University, he started playing with a funk band, The Soul Messengers, which opened for

rock acts such as Steppenwolf and The Byrds. However, he eventually left secular music

behind, started to build his dental practice and helped his church choir record its first al-

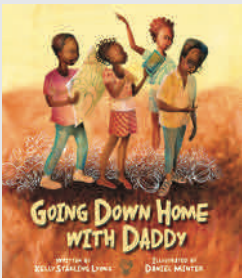
bum. "We couldn't find a company to put the album out, so in 1976 I started Tyscot Records

to release the project," he says.

In the early years, "We had a little house," Dr. Scott recalls. "The record label was on the top floor; the dental office was on the first floor and my family lived in the basement." All of his 7 children helped out in one of his businesses.

In spite of Tyscot's success over the years, Scott Dentistry has always been his main focus. His daughter, Dr. Lynna Scott-Diggs joined the practice in 2007. "I grew up in the practice, watching my father work and decided when I was very young that being a dentist was one of the things I really wanted to do with my life," she says. "Being exposed to the profession at such a young age was a huge factor in choosing my career and the reason I

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Hinds CC names new vice president for Utica Campus

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College has named a new vice president for the Utica Campus.

Sherry Franklin was named to the position following official action Wednesday by the college's Board of Trustees.

Franklin, of Brandon, has been with the college since November 2004 and has served in many roles at the college including Career and Technical Education director, Dean of Students and Career and Technical Education dean for the Rankin Campus. Since 2015, she has served as associate vice president of Career & Technical Education and district director of Career & Technical Education.

She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in business education from Jackson State University. Prior to her work at Hinds, she taught business and computer technology at the Jackson Career Development Center and then worked with the State Department of Education as program coordinator for business and computer technology.

In 2018, Franklin was named recipient of the 3E Award, Emphasis on Excellence and Education, which is the highest honor given by the college. Additional recognitions for her work include being named in 2007 as Tech Prep Exemplary Site Coordinator by the Mississippi Manufacturers' Association and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Workforce Development and Vocational Education. She serves as vice president of the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. She is also a graduate of Leadership Rankin and the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

"My connections to the Utica community are deeply rooted and personal," Franklin said. "My father ministered for 40-plus years



Franklin

at churches in Utica and Learned. My mother was a native of Edwards and a graduate of the former Utica Junior College.

"As vice president, I am committed to provide cultural, ethical and servant leadership. Working with the Utica leadership team, I plan to strategically target and capitalize on areas of opportunity for sustainable growth in enrollment by continuing to enhance residential housing for students, faculty and staff; by building capacity in community collaboration and by meeting the needs of workforce through industry training."

Since 2017, the vice presidency of the Utica Campus was held by Tyrone Jackson, who has accepted a position as president of Mississippi Delta Community College.

Local couple selected as Mr. And Mrs. Mississippi 2019

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Kathy Amos and husband Joe have been selected to represent the Magnolia State as Mr. & Mrs. Mississippi 2019. Kathy was officially crowned and Joe received the Golden Scepter as Mr. & Mrs. Mississippi March 23, 2019, in Orlando, FL. Kathy will now compete in the Mrs. Black America Pageant in October in Atlanta, GA.

Joe and Kathy are residents and community leaders of the city of Canton, MS.

Joe has served as senior pastor of Turning Point Fellowship Ministries Intl. Church for twenty-three years. He has also served as a volunteer for the Madison County Nursing Home for the past twenty-four years.

Kathy serves as executive pastor of Turning Point where she oversees community outreach events and programs and leadership development and training. Kathy is also the founder and president of Empowering Progressive Women's Association. The organization's mission is to empower women to transform their communities through compassion, education and honor.

Empowering Progressive Women's Association, doing business as EPWA, has honored 150 women over the past five years and has educated hundreds of women in the areas of personal, professional and leadership growth and development. Kathy is also an author as well as a certified coach, speaker and trainer with The John Maxwell Team. She is CEO/owner of Kathy Amos Coaching & Consulting, LLC.



Kathy and Joe Amos

Kathy is pastor and senior coach of SafeHouse Ministries where their mission is to share the love of God and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ one space at a time.

Joe and Kathy have pioneered their community for the past 10 years. They started out meeting at the Canton City Hall in a weekly prayer group praying for city transformation. A few years later they pitched a tent in the Canton Courtyard Square and held what we know today as "Blessing Canton Week," a week of revival and fellowship both day and night to bring forth city transformation. Many of the community leaders including the mayor, school superintendents (public and private), pastors and merchant leaders partnered with them in hopes that God would bless their city and transformation would take place.

They also had the privilege of hosting City Appreciation Luncheons twice a year at the Canton City Hall where they fed up to 100 or more of the City of Canton

employees including the mayor, aldermen and administration.

Kathy plans to use her platform of serving and honoring women as her community service project for the National Competition of the Mrs. Black America Pageant this October in Atlanta.

Kathy and the Board of Governors and the Executive Board of Empowering Progressive Women's Association has celebrated and honored pioneering and trail-blazing women who have and are still making a difference in their communities for the past four years at the upcoming 5th Annual Honorary Inaugural Ball, Saturday, August 24 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Jackson, 1001 E. County Line Rd., Jackson, MS. Tickets will be available as early as May 15, 2019 at www.epwanetwork.org. Proceeds from this event will go to the EPWA Scholastic Achievers Awards Program for deserving college, high school students and women who desire to advance in their education, career or personal growth and development.

Your support is greatly needed and appreciated to help Joe and Kathy maximize the opportunities given as state title holders to empower and spread hope to other communities, cities and states throughout their reign and hopefully as the next Mr. & Mrs. Black America 2019.

For more information on EPWA go to www.epwanetwork.org or the Mrs. & Mr. Black America Pageant at www.mrsblackamerica.com. You may email Joe and Kathy at klaminstries@gmail.com.

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Lessons

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their lives. The following are parts of their stories.

Dr. Dana Dennard, 66, university professor, psychologist, social justice activist, co-owner of Nefeteri’s Restaurant in Tallahassee, Fla.

“My father was absent and the most important thing I learned from that was to be present and be a father. I was raised with my grandparents. My grandfather was a model for me. The main lesson I learned was to be committed and handle it.”

Dennard, who grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida during the Jim Crow era, said Papa Joe wasn’t his biological grandfather.

“He married my grandmother and raised her seven children,” Dennard recalled. “He was the male figure in my life and continues to be the model. He was very soft-spoken and tinkered with things. He was a marksman in the military and took me out at age 8 to shoot a gun. He never laid a hand on any of us, but I never wanted to disappoint him.”

Dennard, who’s been married for more than 30 years to Dr. Sharon Dennard and is the father of three grown children, said Sgt. Joe Johnson’s impact has lasted his whole life and he recently wrote a dedication to his grandfather in a book.

“My mom had me in college and I didn’t move out of my grandparent’s house until I was eight,” he said. “The first Christmas without them tore me up. Sgt. Joe Johnson was the entire man. I never saw a flaw in my entire life – that’s who I came from.”

Nigel Thompson, 46, film director, visual and graphic artist, Trinidad and Tobago.

“I would say that the lessons I learned didn’t happen at one time,” said Thompson, a noted cinematographer in demand around the world. “I had him for 10 short years. He was the calmest person I’ve ever met in my entire life. Mom would shout and carry on and he’d be perfectly calm. He was the one who got me into the arts when I was a child.”

Thompson said his father, John Thompson, was a police officer and in his off time, he’d read poetry and was part of a theatre group.

“He was grooming me for a life in the arts and he didn’t even know it,” he said. “He taught me patience and how to solve things. I am that way, particularly

with work. The main question I have is ‘how can I fix it?’”

Thompson said his father’s death when he was 13, threw him into a tailspin but forced him to grow up quickly.

“When he died, as often happens, you’re not sure what to do or what to think,” Thompson said softly. “For a year after he died, I was in a haze. Mother forced me into doing adult things like ironing my clothes to go to school and ironing my siblings’ clothes too. I was responsible for everything after that. I had to get up at three in the morning to arrange transportation to school and take care of my siblings. I didn’t think about how tough it was. I really didn’t realize it until I was in my 20s.”

His father’s example of thinking through and solving problems had become a part of him. “I was thrown into the position of being responsible for everyone under me and to tell the truth, I handled it pretty well. I saw my mother get up and get things done and my father used to get up and get it done as well.”

Willie Hines, 56, sector head for Amphibious Integration in the Amphibious Warfare Branch, for the Chief of Naval Operations

“The other day, I cried from Benning Road to Eastern Market thinking about my father,” said Hines, a resident of Prince George’s County, Md. “It’s because Father’s Day is coming.”

Hines said he grew up in rural southern Louisiana in a town which had 8,000 people. He grew up in a shotgun house that had no running water or indoor plumbing.

“We didn’t have running water until I was 10 years old. It was definitely a motivator for me.” Hines said. “The first important lesson happened when I was 8 years old. I went with my father to the store. My father was 37 but he addressed a 26-year-old white boy in the store as sir and the white boy called my father by his first name. That took me immediately to a dark place.”

Hines said the young man tried to en-

gage him in conversation and reached out to shake his hand, but he refused to respond or reciprocate.

“When we left, my father was angry. When we pulled off, he said, ‘I say yes sir so that your ass can eat, so that your brothers and sisters can eat and so your mother can eat,’” he said. “He was upset with me. But when we got home, he explained to me what it was like for him living in southern Louisiana, overcoming challenges, fighting with white boys, being let go from jobs. He told me he wasn’t less than a man. He said he hoped I would understand. I took away from him what my journey would be like as a black man, a father, someone’s husband and that I would have dignity in whatever I did.”

Another lesson learned over the entirety of his namesake’s life was his work ethic. And it’s clear that he’s not made of the stock his father was, Hines said.

Hines said he remembers his father coming home from one job for 15 mins, eating then laying on the floor before going off to another job.

“Man, he had so many jobs...He worked at Empire and would go for a week at a time in Plaquemine. He caught fish and cleaned fish and fileted them. He was a gas station attendant. Worked for city government in the Water and Gas department and worked for Dow Chemical as a contractor supporter. I remember I went to work with him when I was 15 to make some money and I fell out in that hot sun. We were out in the sun shoveling s–t. I fell the hell out in that sun, he put me in the shade and went back and continued working.”

Hines said his late father only had a 5th-grade education but raised four boys in a tough, arbitrary world rife with racism, white privilege and entitlement.

“I grew up most of my life hating white people, but he taught me to be like water, to become fluid and taking the shape of whatever space/form that you’re put it in,” Hines said. “When

you’re young you don’t know what’s on the other side of the mountain...I’m glad I had the chance to talk to dad, share and thank him for the things he did and taught me.”

Warren Shadd, CEO of Shadd Pianos & Keyboard, USA, the first African-American piano manufacturer in the world, musician and child prodigy

“Man, there are just so many lessons. It may take a minute or two,” Warren Shadd mused. He said his father, James M. Shadd, used to tell him, “While you’re out here bullsh–ing, certain little boys are studying day and night to be your boss. He was such an aggressive businessman.”

The elder Shadd was the exclusive piano tuner to the historic Howard Theater – the first African American allowed to join the union – and as a child, Warren said he’d tag along.

“I saw Sarah Vaughn, Duke Ellington, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Smith, Joe Williams, Pearl Bailey, Count Basie, James Brown and other legendary performers,” Shadd recalled. “I was enamored with the pointed toe shoes and slick hair joints, the pageantry, strobe lights. There were great lessons I learned from my father from ages 4-11 such as understanding how to do stage performances, choreography. He also had me do things on the piano, fix things such as changing bridal straps and changing hammers on piano actions, especially on old uprights. Those things subsequently are how I know how to build and rebuild pianos.”

Shadd comes from a family of musicians. His father was a pianist and drummer and had a big band; his aunt was acclaimed Jazz songstress Shirley Horne; his grandmother Marie was a pianist in a ragtime band; and his grandfather Gilbert designed and built a collapsible drum set. He followed his father’s footsteps to become a second-generation piano tuner and technician, and he is a child prodigy and a third-generation musician.

His musical career was deeply influenced by his father who was a Jazz pianist and drummer in the Drum and Bugle Corps. Growing up, he said his aunt, Shirley Horne, and a gaggle of other musicians were always at the house.

Shadd said he is still in awe of his father’s prodigious work ethic.

“There were lots of lessons learned, such as seeing the discipline of my father,” he said. “He would go to his government work ‘til 5, come home, shower and shave and then he would go play with his band. He did this for 33 years. He would get only one or two hours sleep and then he’d be at it again. Given this, I couldn’t be a slacker.”

Gary Johnson, 61, worked in the intelligence community and served in the federal government, including in the White House as a staffer for the National Security Agency

“My father, Samuel Johnson, was the best man at my wedding. He told me so many things. But the thing that stood out was that all you really need in life is one good friend, and to be careful of all the others around you,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s Dad, a high school dropout, held several jobs, including working as a maintenance engineer at Metropolitan Police Department headquarters. The family car was a taxicab, he said.

“Another piece of advice he told me is that you do what you have to do in life and don’t cut corners. I have two boys and I quit my job to be a stay-at-home dad when they were 4 and 7 years old. I also started my own business, Black Men in America. I’m always trying to model appropriate behavior and teach young people.”

“I created ‘Daddy Academy’ because I had to teach these guys how to be men.”

As for family, his father taught him another crucial lesson: “The other thing was to not listen to your friends when you’re married and never embarrass your wife in public...Let me put it to you this way: In July I will have been married for 34 years - so I listened.”

Father’s Day

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children and grandchildren and maybe this is what you want. Personally, I don’t think it’s healthy for anybody.

Husbands and wives need to stay emotionally connected and this means taking time to go out of town by themselves. Whether it’s vacation, hobbies or simply maintaining an independent life. I’ve seen too many dads move in with a child and then soon the child was controlling dad’s checkbook and telling dad how to spend his money. The next move of course is “finding a home for dad,” which means assisted living or a nursing home.

Keep your independence. Keep driving. Do daily activities to keep strong. Eat healthy as possible. See good doctors and stay away from the bad ones.

Finally, be a good, happy, loving and independent father. That is probably the best gift you can give your children this father’s day.

Scott


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think it is so important to expose children from every background to as many STEM careers as possible.”

Scott’s daughter, Melanie was attending her dad’s alma mater when she met her husband Duane Bennett II who is now a dentist with two offices in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Now, the third generation of Scotts in dentistry has begun with Dr. Leonard Scott’s granddaughter, Brook Scott, who graduated from Indiana State a few weeks ago and was hooded by both her grandfather and aunt. “I decided when I was 13 that I wanted to be a dentist,” she says. “It started with me hanging around my grandad’s dental office. He has always been so good with his patients and they always left the office happy and satisfied... Now, I enjoy being able to remodel smiles and rebuild confidence.” She has joined the family practice which is aiming to expand nationally.

Meanwhile, Dr. Scott, who has over 20 million digital streams under his belt, has a new gospel radio single, “Holy Spirit” (from his 13th album, Jesus Love Legacy), on the market.


“Dad is making people smile with his music and with his dental practice,” says his son Bryant Scott, who runs Tyscot Records. “That’s a significant legacy to make people smile internally and externally.”



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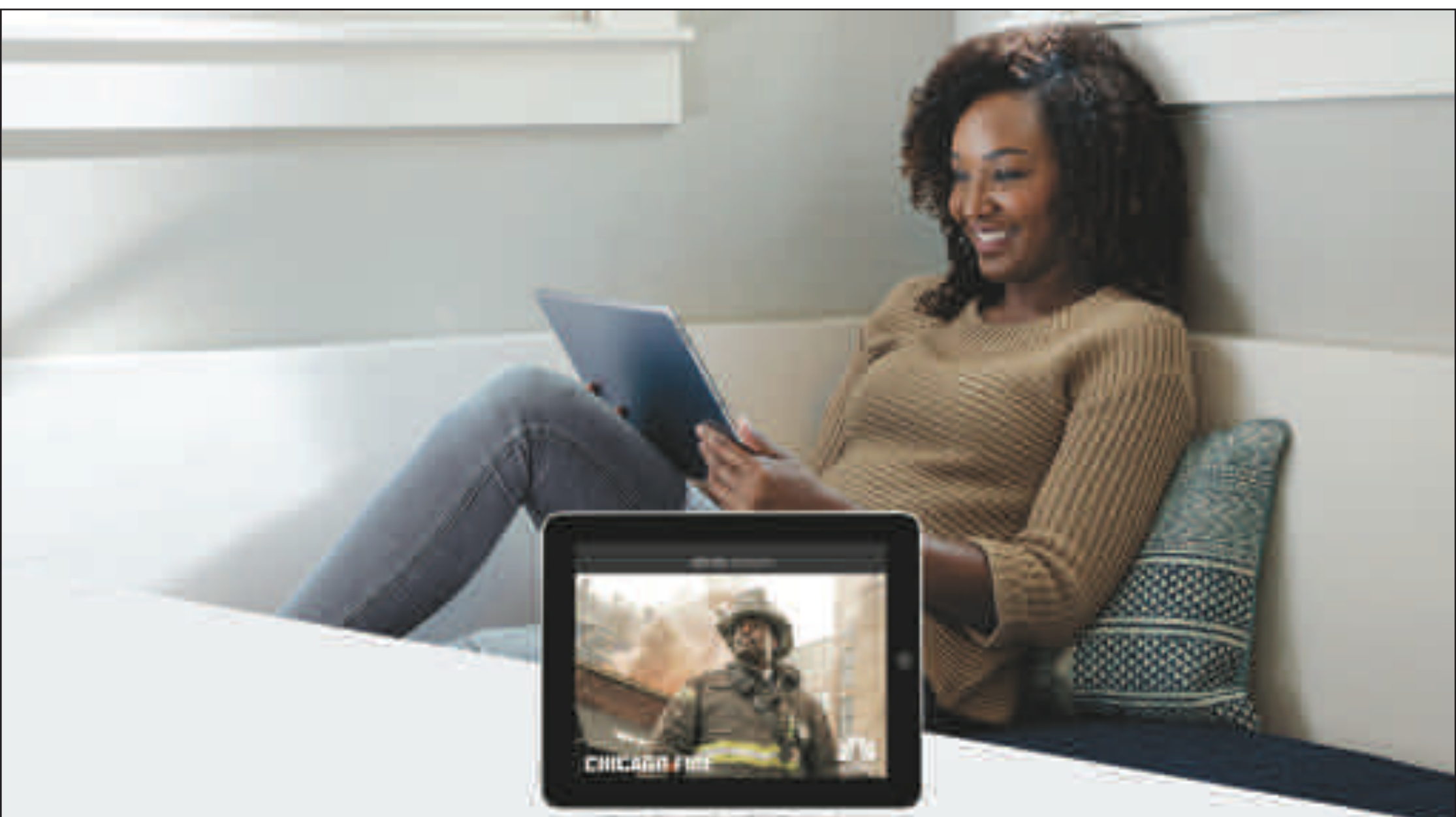


WE POWER LIFE™

History is Lunch: Hezekiah Watkins

May 29, 2019 • Mississippi Civil Rights Museum • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Annie Lee Burt celebrated her 100th Birthday June 8, 2019 with family and friends. The celebration was held at the Burns-Belfry Museum & Multicultural Center in Oxford, Mississippi.



Burt and her daughter Rosie Davis of Jackson, MS

Self-care matters.

Put some cash away so that if something unexpected happens, you still have the budget to treat yourself.

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HEAD START

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
- * Dental
- * Nutrition
- * Mental Health
- * Disability
- * Literacy
- * Leadership Development
- * Limited Transportation

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To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

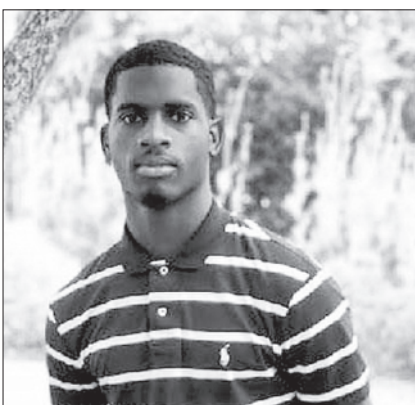
- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W-2, pay stub, SS, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - 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) 923-3840.
To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 963-5835.

**SPACE IS LIMITED!
APPLY EARLY!**



Senior athletes honored with Michael D. Johnson scholarship awards



Bush



Craddieth



Holt



Participating in the scholarship awards presentation are (from left) Lesian Davis, JPS lead counselor, Latasha Holt, mother of Jordan Holt; Jordan Holt, \$250 book scholarship winner; Michael Cormack, JPS chief of staff; Emmett Johnson, (MDJ Foundation president and father of the late Michael D. Johnson; Rodreelas Bush, father of Rodreekas Bush; Rodreekus Bush, \$1,500 scholarship winner; Gloria Johnson, mother of the late Michael D. Johnson; Tiffany Bush, mother of Rodreekas Bush; Hayley Craddieth, \$250 book scholarship winner; Martie Craddieth, father of Hayley Craddieth; and Clarence Irby of Entergy, a sponsor of the MDJ Memorial Foundation.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Winners of the Michael D. Johnson Foundation Memorial Scholarship were announced June 1 at the foundation’s annual 5K held in downtown Jackson.

Forest Hill basketball standout Rodreekas Bush won the grand scholarship of \$1,500. Hayley Craddieth of Murrah and Jordan Holt of Jim Hill each won \$250 book scholarships. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to graduating senior athletes from JPS

high schools. Candidates must have a 2.5 or higher GPA, demonstrate community involvement and complete an essay to be considered.

The scholarship memorializes Michael D. Johnson, a Murrah graduate who died after being struck by a drunk driver a short time after his high school graduation in 2005.

He excelled at both basketball and baseball but held a special love for baseball from a young age. He had accepted a scholarship to play baseball at Copiah-Lincoln Junior Col-

lege the following year.

To carry out his legacy, Johnson’s family established the Michael D. Johnson Foundation to raise funds for scholarships to be awarded specifically to JPS senior athletes.

The Michael Dr. Johnson 5K Walk/Run takes place each year at the beginning of June.

Participants meet in downtown Jackson for an 8 a.m. start. The day’s festivities include an awards presentation, a cookout and a kick-ball game.

JPS appoints new leadership of data and accountability and climate and wellness



Dace



Thomas

Mississippi Link Newswire

Debra Dace has been named executive director of Data and Accountability. Amanda Thomas has been named executive director of Climate and Wellness. Their appointments were approved by the JPS School Board at its June 4 meeting. The effective date of service is July 1 for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dace is a resourceful educator with expertise in leading teachers and administrators to create efforts that drive success within classrooms and in schools. She comes to JPS from the LeFlore County School District where she served as director of Teacher Quality/Accountability and administrator of the Juvenile Detention Center. In that capacity, she managed and organized school-based data for review and analysis and coordinated the review and monitoring process of the district’s staff to meet the Mississippi Department of Education’s process standards.

Before that, she was the first superintendent of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District. During her administration from 2014-2016, the graduation rate increased to 80%, the passing rate on the Third Grade Reading Assessment increased from 89% to 93% and the district was ranked No. 2 in the state for growth in kindergarten readiness. She implemented the Promise Neighborhood Grant to support teaching and learning and promoted pre-K throughout the school district through the Early Learning Collaborative Grant. As a result of the two highly successful initiatives, she was featured in the Enterprise-Tocsin’s annual publication, “Profile” and the Delta Health Alliance’s quarterly, “Delivering the Promise.”

Dace holds a bachelor of science degree in secondary mathematics from Delta State University. Her advanced degrees include a master of education, an education specialist and a doctor of philosophy in educational leadership from the University of Mississippi. She also has an extensive

background in training education leaders.

Thomas has proven her commitment to the students and parents of Jackson Public Schools through 21 years of service in the district. Her teaching career began at French Elementary. She later moved to Boyd and McWillie Elementary Schools where she taught Montessori, a program she helped to establish in JPS. After teaching for nine years, Thomas became the assistant principal of the Montessori program, serving both McWillie and Van Winkle Elementary Schools. Her leadership skills led her to the principal position at Woodville Heights Elementary, the assistant principal position at Sykes Elementary and to the position as the district’s lead interventionist.

Most recently, Thomas has served as the director of Multi-Tiered System of Supports. In that role, she has been an advocate for children with academic and behavior deficits and has ensured that students received intervention services. She has worked closely with school-level interventionists and positive behavior chairs and conducted numerous sessions on classroom management and behavior management for teachers.

Thomas received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She received master of education and education specialist degrees in leadership from Mississippi College.

Thomas will steward the newly envisioned Office of Climate and Wellness. As part of the district’s restructuring plan, Student Support Services will be repurposed to Climate and Wellness and its focus enlarged in the areas of climate, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports and social-emotional supports.

“I am excited about this new role, and I believe that every school in this district can improve their culture by changing the environment,” said Thomas.

Bond construction expected to begin this summer

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS Facilities Executive Director Don McCrackin provided an update on the progress being made on construction projects that are part of the 2019 Bond Program. According to McCrackin, construction is scheduled to begin in June on Phase I projects.

The projects in this first phase include completing deficiencies that remain in the district’s Corrective Action Plan submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education. The work will include restroom repairs, HVAC repairs, upgrades in libraries and labs, upgrades to building entryways and more.

JPS Bond Construction Program Overview

The JPS Bond Construction Program will be implemented in three phases:

Phase I – January 2019–July 2020
Phase II – January 2020–December 2020
Phase III – January 2021–December 2021

An estimated 110 projects will be completed in each phase with project costs expected to range between \$5,000 and \$3 million.

Phase I

This phase includes addressing all remaining schools that are listed with

deficiencies in the Corrective Action Plan submitted to MDE. The construction activities in this phase will bring these schools in compliance with MDE Standard 30. Due to the immediate need to address the Corrective Action Plan projects in addition to other needed bond projects, the completion date for construction for this group of schools may extend to July 2020.

* Represents schools where deficiencies will be addressed based on the Corrective Action Plan submitted to MDE.

High Schools

Callaway*
Forest Hill*
Jim Hill*
Lanier
Murrah
Provine*
Wingfield*

Middle Schools

Bailey APAC*
Hardy

Elementary Schools

Boyd*
Green
Wilkins*
Van Winkle*

Other Academic Facilities

Career Development Center
Capital City Alternative School
Performing Arts Space

JROTC

Phase I Design Teams

The JPS Bond Construction Design Teams hired for Phase I consists of the following:

Canizaro-Cawthon-Davis
Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Architects

Dale Bailey and Associates
Durrell Design Group, PLLC
Duvall Decker
Eley Guild Hardy Architects
JBHM Architecture
M3A Architecture, PLLC

JPS project managers and commissioned architects have visited all schools and other academic facilities and met with each building’s administration to review the programming needs (projects) as defined and listed in the bond referendum. Each firm is presently providing JPS project estimates and preparing plans and specifications for each project.

JPS has encouraged all architectural firms to produce as many small projects as possible that will allow the district to start the bond construction program between May and June 2019. Several project packets under \$50,000 have been devised to allow for small construction firms to provide quotes in an effort to enhance their opportunity to participate.

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Mississippi State to offer medical humanities certificate

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A new medical humanities certificate program at Mississippi State will better prepare university students for post-graduate success in healthcare occupations.

Designed to broaden analytical and theoretical understandings of health and medicine, the program will help meet the professional goals of pre-medical students and those pursuing careers in healthcare, public health or allied fields.

Offered through the College of Arts and Sciences and administered by the dean's office, the interdisciplinary program is open to all undergraduate students. The departments of History, Communication, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Psychology, Philosophy and Religion and Sociology will offer courses and contributed to the curricula proposal.

Certificate completion requires 15 credit hours (five courses) spanning the College of Arts and Sciences curriculum. History of medicine and medical ethics is required of all certificate-seeking students, with the additional three electives coming from the humanities and social sciences. A minimum grade of a "C" is required in each course.

The program is chaired by Courtney Thompson, assistant professor in MSU's Department of History.

Thompson said the medical humanities certificate aims "to strengthen students' understanding of the moral and ethical aspects of medical care," and was developed in response to a 2015 revision to the Medical College Admission Test, or MCAT, which emphasizes critical analysis and reasoning with a focus on humanities and social sciences content and increased attention on cultural studies and bioethics.

Other committee members include Barton Moffatt, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion; Molly Zuckerman, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures; as well as Rick Travis, dean; Nicole Rader, associate dean for academic affairs; and Tommy Anderson, interim assistant dean for academic affairs.

"Not only will this certificate enhance our pre-health students' applications to professional schools, but most importantly, studying the humanities helps students develop professionalism, empathy and communication skills needed by these future healthcare providers," said Mary Celeste Reese, director of MSU's Dr. A. Randle and Marilyn W. White Health Professions Resource Center and assistant clinical professor of biological sciences.

Travis said with the added emphasis on medical humanities, students who complete the certificate's criteria could see benefits and advantages when taking the MCAT or in graduate school interviews.

"The medical humanities certificate will help students pursuing healthcare careers to stand out from their peers," said Travis, adding that those who earn the certificate will be able to analyze contemporary health challenges with historical perspective through completion of the program, approved this spring by MSU's Committee on Courses and Curricula.

MSU's College of Arts and Sciences includes more than 5,300 students, 300 full-time faculty members, nine doctoral programs and 25 academic majors offered in 14 departments.

Complete details about the College of Arts and Sciences may be found at www.cas.ms-state.edu.

Visit MSU online at www.msstate.edu.

Other committee members

Dr. Jacqueline Walters to be inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mississippi Link Newswire

An Alcorn State University alumna who has found success in the medical field and entertainment will be acknowledged at an upcoming event that celebrates accomplished Historically Black College and University (HBCU) graduates.

Dr. Jacqueline Walters, also known as "Dr. Jackie," will be inducted into the National Black College Alumni Foundation's 2019 Hall of Fame Friday, Sept. 27 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta in Georgia.

The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to sustaining and growing HBCUs through alumni recognition, scholarships, training and technical assistance and programs to promote humanitarian involvement.

To be recognized for her success is an honor for Walters.



Walters

She credits her moral compass and hard work for the accolades she receives.

"Being inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame is not only special for me, but also deeply profound," said Walters. "It is

an honor to be recognized, but I truly hope that the life I live continues to be worthy of this recognition."

After years of earning a bachelor's degree from Alcorn, Walters still remembers and credits the university that provided her with a blueprint for finding professional affluence.

"Alcorn's history, preparation and belief in me created strength in times when my life seemed difficult. Remembering Alcorn has always made me realize not just the importance and the vital need for Alcorn, but for all HBCUs."

Walters has found fame in the medical field in Atlanta, Georgia. She has remained in private practice for 20 years and maintains a professional clientele that includes the Braxtons, rapper T.I., and Usher. She's also a cast member on Bravo's hit reality TV show, "Married to

Medicine."

Walters, who is a two-time breast cancer survivor, understands the effects of personal health challenges. As a dedicated teacher, she has assimilated a women's wellness program into her practice to help eradicate the increasing number of heart disease cases amongst women.

In 2013, Dr. Walters founded the 50 Shades of Pink Foundation, an organization that pays tribute to women and men diagnosed with breast cancer, nurturing their psychological and physical well-being.

The charity's mission is to treat the inner and outer beauty of breast cancer survivors. It hosts an annual fundraising luncheon in October that allows the foundation to further awareness through gifting, sponsorship of various health initiatives and family workshops.

The Mississippi Public Education PAC endorses 20 incumbents in primary election

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Public Education PAC (MSPEPAC), a nonpartisan political action committee that champions public education, has endorsed 20 candidates for the upcoming 2019 primary elections.

MSPEPAC was founded in 2016 by a group of passionate public school parents from around the state who advocate for high-quality public schools. PAC's mission is to help elect pro-public-education candidates to the Mississippi Legislature in order to strengthen, support and protect existing public schools in the state.

"The Mississippi Public Education PAC has been successful in seven special elections since we launched," said Leslie Fye, a founding MSPEPAC board member. "We are looking forward to having an impact in the 2019 election cycle. We need to elect public education champions in the Mississippi Legislature, leaders who are willing to make informed decisions to ensure our children have the resources and

support they need for success in school."

With less than six months until the Mississippi general election, the MSPEPAC has chosen to endorse the following incumbents because of their strong commitment to support public education and their belief that Mississippi's public schools should be adequately and equitably funded.

Mississippi House of Representatives

Otis Anthony – HD31 – portions of Bolivar, Humphreys, Sunflower and Washington counties

Earle Banks – HD67 – Hinds County

Cedric Burnett – HD9 – Tunica, Quitman, Tate and Coahoma Counties

John Faulkner – HD5 – Marshall, Benton, Lafayette and Tate Counties

Debra Gibbs – HD72 – Hinds and Madison counties

Karl Gibbs – HD36 – Clay and Monroe Counties

John Hines – HD50 – Bolivar, Issaquena and Washington Counties

Steve Holland – HD16 – Lee

County and a portion of Monroe County

Abe Hudson – HD29 – Bolivar and Sunflower Counties

Kent McCarty – HD101 – Lamar County

Carl Mickens – HD42 – Lowndes, Noxubee and Winston Counties

Tom Miles – HD75 – Rankin and Scott Counties

Tracey Rosebud – HD30 – Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Bolivar and Quitman Counties

Cheikh Taylor – HD38 – Oktibbeha, Clay and Lowndes Counties

Percy Watson – HD103 – Forrest County

Sonya Williams-Barnes – HD119 – Harrison County

Mississippi Senate

Deborah Dawkins – SD48 – West Harrison County

Hillman Frazier – SD27 – Hinds County

Robert Jackson – SD11 – Quitman, Coahoma, Panola and Tunica Counties

Derrick Simmons – SD12 – Bolivar, Washington and Coahoma Counties

"We are excited to endorse these 20 incumbents who

share our interest and dedication to public education," said Fye. "These candidates are passionate advocates for the nearly half a million children who attend public schools across the state."

The primary will take place Tuesday, August 6.

The Mississippi Public Education Political Action Committee was created as a grassroots effort to give parents a voice in the political process by promoting candidates, measures and policies that strengthen, support and protect public education in Mississippi.

The nonpartisan PAC recommends and supports candidates who are passionate about and friendly toward public education. The organization supports quality public education for all children in existing public schools, including our most gifted and most vulnerable, and seeks to promote adequate and equitable funding for Mississippi's public schools.

For more information or to donate online, visit www.MS-PublicEducationPAC.org.

Pass rate for 3rd grade reading test increases after first retest

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The statewide pass rate for the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment increased to 82.8% (28,968 students) after students had a chance to retest before the end of the school year. The initial pass rate was 74.5% (26,057 students).

The retest results show the large majority of 3rd graders are meeting the highest reading standard ever required under the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA).

An amendment to the law in 2016 raised reading-level expectations starting in the 2018-19 school year, requiring 3rd graders to score at level 3 or higher on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.

"The passing score was

raised to get closer to measuring proficiency. Once we raised expectations, students and teachers have proven, once again, they can meet higher academic standards," said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "We must not let up on our efforts to ensure that all students are equipped with strong reading skills by the end of 3rd grade so they can be successful throughout their education."

Of the 8,941 students who did not pass the initial test, 7,445 were retested and 2,911 passed the retest. Students have one more opportunity to retest before the start of the new school year. Districts will schedule the final retest between June 24 and July 12.

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) requires 3rd graders to pass a reading as-

essment to qualify for promotion to 4th grade, unless the student meets one of the good cause exemptions specified in the law. Exemptions apply to certain students with disabilities, students learning English or students who have been previously retained. Local school districts determine which of their students who did not pass qualify for one of the good cause exemptions for promotion to 4th grade. Students who did not retest may have met one of the good cause exemptions.

The LBPA requires schools to provide intensive reading intervention services to students retained in the 3rd grade and to students promoted to 4th grade with a good cause exemption.

In 3rd grade, students begin to make the transition from

learning to read to reading to learn. If they are unsuccessful, they will have difficulty understanding grade-level reading material and are at risk of falling further behind each year.

In previous years, the law required 3rd graders to score above the "lowest achievement level." The new passing score, level 3, indicates a student is approaching grade-level expectations. Level 4 means a student has mastered grade-level reading standards.

Final school- and district-passing rates for the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment and promotion and retention information will be published this fall in the Literacy-Based Promotion Act Annual Report after districts determine the final number of students who meet a good cause exemption.



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CSET builds Sustainable Irrigation System that could potentially transform agribusiness

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

JSU’s College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) has developed a cost-saving Sustainable Irrigation System (SIS) that could be used to determine just the right amount of water needed to saturate soil for gardening and agriculture.

The smart device, which includes sensors and an app, automatically activates a sprinkler system if stored rainwater is insufficient.

CSET developed SIS after a challenge from various organizations to build sustainable applications in local areas. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United Nations’ Sustainability Program are promoting better food, water and energy practices. These are to be achieved through the development of sustained resources, including renewable solar energy, with the goal of reducing reliance on conventional resources.

The importance of sustainable communities

As a result, Ramzi Kafoury, associate professor in the Department of Biology and director of Sustainability and Technology Systems in CSET, created and directed the project. He’s working collaboratively with several CSET students who were responsible for developing an app and Francis Tuluri, a JSU professor in civil and environmental engineering. Kafoury and Tuluri handled the circuitry and sensors.

“We have to create sustainable communities,” said Kafoury, drawing attention to the world’s current challenges — the nexus of food, energy and water resources. He shudders at the misuse of finite resources such as coal, sulfur and crude that drastically impacts human health. He cites the rise in asthma and respiratory illnesses as consequences, along with global warming.

“The World Health Organization predicts population growth to exceed 9.3 billion inhabitants by 2030,” Kafoury said. He winces at the thought of resources being depleted but is encouraged that the world’s government leaders, scientific communities and organizations are attempting to address these issues. He’s especially pleased that this global vision is shared and encouraged by administrators at JSU.

For their part, JSU developers of the SIS apparatus are using existing and innovative technologies to confront potential environmental problems. The system hasn’t been commercially deployed yet, but that is expected to change soon because “everything is in place,” Kafoury said. This device is scalable, too, meaning that it can be used for gardens and expanded to the agricultural industry.

Kafoury said the technology relies on circuits and sensors to gauge water content of the soil.

His colleague Tuluri said, “Micro-



Ramzi Kafoury, associate professor in JSU's Department of Biology and director of Sustainability and Technology Systems in CSET



Francis Tuluri, JSU professor in CSET's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering



Anthony Gomes, JSU graduate student in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology

controllers program the on/off function. When rainwater is available the controller will cut off the main supply through automation. This is the heart of the controller,” he said. If natural energy is not available, the controller will activate traditional energy. These functions are monitored by an app.

Furthermore, Tuluri said, the micro-system will interplay with solar panels, and it uses cost-effective micro-controllers along with a smartphone app.

Reliance on solar panels and rainwater collector

The basic components for SIS are solar panels and a rainwater collector (reservoir) — both of which are natural. These are combined with regular

electrical power and the standby water supply.

Tuluri said his desire is to see this affordable system used for gardens, large-scale systems and in developing countries, where water supply is particularly scant. This would cut the costs of food production and lead to a constant supply of water, as needed.

Anthony Gomes, a CSET graduate student studying computer science, wrote the coding for the device and handled the smartphone applications. Gomes said SIS simplifies gardening because it saves time, money and gauges soil temperature.

“You don’t have to worry about watering every single day. You don’t have to worry about water levels. It gets power from the sun.” He said the use of natural rainwater to irrigate the soil is also beneficial. For now, he, too, sees far greater use for such a system in Asia and Africa, where water supply is far less than that of the U.S. He agrees that population and economic growth, urbanization, current state of resources and climate change make SIS a viable solution.

“With SIS, we want to help people in their communities and transfer the technologies to communities. We want to give them smart solutions,” Gomes said. “So, the CSET team combined different things out there to come up with a better idea.”

JSU’s app helps control soil irrigation by letting users manage the on/off switch for sprinklers and the pump, he said.

So, what’s next for JSU and its new irrigation system?

Thinking outside the box

Kafoury said, “Currently, we’re working with JSU’s Office of Technology Transfer, Commercialization and Research Communications to market and add potential investors.” He, too, wants to transfer this technology to the community and maximize its potential by reducing significant reliance on oil and coal.

Gomes said he learned a lot about “this excellent solution that is inexpensive and sustainable for individuals and organizations willing to think outside the box.”

Tuluri said, “We have to make sure everything works. This mini-system can be scaled up to agriculture. If we scale up to this level, it could take another year or two.”

Looking further ahead, Kafoury said, “If we can reduce misuse of water by 30 percent and increase the use of renewable energy 30 percent to 40 percent in the near future, this would have a significant impact on sustaining our resources. This technology could significantly limit emissions in the atmosphere.”

Moreover, Kafoury said, entrepreneurship and other career opportunities abound if JSU transfers this knowledge and training to its students.

2019 First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon has \$75K goal; TSU President Glover will keynote



By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

JSU’s second annual First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon aims to raise \$75,000 to help “well-deserving, academically sound students.” The event, with keynote speaker and Tennessee State University President Glenda Baskin Glover, will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Jackson Convention Complex.

First Lady Deborah E. Bynum said, “We are committed to helping our students tackle the obstacles that they face, and financial obstacles are no different. It is my desire to use the majority of all funds raised to support our students.”

During the event, guests will hear from Glover, who has served as chief executive at TSU since January 2013. She is its first female president. Under her helm, Glover has increased student enrollment, alumni fundraising and research dollars. As well, she’s the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including being named the 2018 Thurgood Marshall College Fund HBCU President of the Year.

In 2013, Diverse Issues in Higher Education’s listed Glover as one of the “Top 25 Women in Higher Education.” A certified public accountant and attorney, she is one of only two African-American women to hold the Ph.D.-CPA-JD combination in the country. Also, she serves as International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Meanwhile, Bynum is urging all stakeholders to join the effort to help JSU reach its luncheon’s goal.

The following sponsorship levels are available:

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- Full page advertisement in the JSU Jacksonian Magazine (2019-2020 issue)
- Full page advertisement in the JSU Homecoming Football Guide and Game Book
- Advertising on JSU’s WJSU 88.5 FM
- Two (2) reserved tables for sixteen (16) to attend the First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon
- Six (6) tickets to attend the JSU Homecoming Football Game
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- Signage at the First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon
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- Half page advertisement in the JSU Jacksonian Magazine (2019-2020 issue)
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- Four (4) tickets to attend the JSU Homecoming Football Game
- Logo placement on the First Lady’s



Bynum



Glover

Scholarship Luncheon page

- Signage at the First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon
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- Advertisement in the event program
- One fourth page ad in the JSU Jacksonian Magazine (2019-2020 issue)
- Advertising on JSU’s WJSU 88.5 FM
- One (1) reserved table for eight (8) to attend the First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon
- Four (4) tickets to attend the JSU Homecoming Football Game
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- One fourth page ad in the JSU Jacksonian Magazine (2019-2020 issue)
- One (1) reserved table for eight (8) to attend the First Lady’s Scholarship Luncheon
- Two (2) tickets to attend the JSU Homecoming Football Game
- Advertising on JSU’s WJSU 88.5 FM
- Listing in print and electronic media and general market

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- Listing in print and electronic media and general market

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School of Social Work doctoral candidate Adams offered teaching fellowship at West Chester University



By LaToya Hentz-Moore
jsumsnews.com

Raymond Adams has been offered an inaugural position as the 2019 Frederick Douglass Teaching Fellow at West Chester University.

“I am elated to have this opportunity to expand upon my teaching pedagogy,” says Adams.

Adams will teach a one month course around the DSM V, which will begin preparing master-level social work students to recognize symptomology and conduct sound and valid assessments post-graduation properly.

“This fellowship will shape how I

understand and appreciate the various backgrounds of the students who will become the future change agents in social work practice, research and social welfare policy,” says Adams.

In an effort to continue the spirit of Douglass’ life of public service, the Frederick Douglass Teaching Scholars Summer Program is designed to provide graduate students teaching experiences and potential employment opportunities within university settings that are strongly committed to cultural diversity.

Currently, Adams is an assistant professor in the area of Social Work at Southern Arkansas University.



Adams

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project to co-sponsor free legal clinics across Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLVP) is co-hosting several free pro se legal clinics across central Mississippi to assist low-income residents with their uncontested family law matters. Grandparents, relatives or family friends taking care of children who are not their own are encouraged to attend one of the clinics below.

Clients will receive legal court documents prepared by licensed Mississippi attorneys and legal advice on specific matters.

The legal clinics are open to the public; however, interested participants must register online at <http://www.mvlp.net/pro-se-legal-clinic-schedule/> or contact MVLVP at 601 882-5001. A list of the clinics and the areas of focus are below:

Thursday, June 6
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Humphreys/Sunflower Counties Family Law Legal Clinic is open to Humphreys and Sunflower County residents only. Individuals will receive assistance on irreconcilable differences divorce, desertion divorce, name change and uncontested guardianship matters. The clinic will be held at the Humphreys County Courthouse (102 Castleman St # 2, Belzoni, MS 39038). This clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP.

Friday, June 7
9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Neshoba and Kemper Counties Family Law Clinic is open to residents of those counties only. Individuals will receive assistance on irreconcilable differences divorce, guardianship, name change, emancipation and simple will matters. The clinic will be held at the Neshoba County Courthouse (401 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, MS). The clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP and the Sixth Chancery District.

Thursday, June 13
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. – Leake County Family Law Clinic is open to Holmes, Leake, Madison and Yazoo counties. Individuals will receive assistance on irreconcilable differences divorce, emancipation and name change matters. The clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP, Madison County Bar Association, and Eleventh Chancery District.

Friday, June 21
9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Attala and Carroll Counties Family Law Clinic is open to residents of those counties only. Individuals will receive assistance on irreconcilable differences divorce, guardianship, name change, emancipation and simple will matters. The clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP and the Sixth Chancery District. The clinic will be held at the Attala County Chancery Building (230 W. Washington St., Kosciusko, MS).

Friday, June 28
9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Choctaw and Winston Counties Family Law Clinic is open to residents of those counties only. Individuals will receive assistance on irreconcilable differences divorce, guardianship, name change, emancipation and simple will matters. The clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP and the Sixth Chancery District. The clinic will be held at the Winston County Courthouse (115 South Court Ave., Louisville, MS).

Friday, July 26
9 a.m.-1 p.m. – Hinds County Guardianship Clinic is open to Hinds County residents only. Free legal advice will also be provided on the following matters: divorces, name change, visitation, custody, birth certificate correction and emancipation. Additional assistance will be given on misdemeanor and felony expungement matters. The clinic will be held at the Hinds County Chancery Court (316 South President Street, Jackson, MS). The clinic is co-sponsored by MVLVP, Hinds County Chancery Court, Mississippi Center for Legal Services, Mission First Legal Aid, and Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP.

MDWFP/MSU pond management workshops open in Itawamba and Attala Counties

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Fisheries Bureau and the Mississippi State University Extension Service will host pond management workshops in Itawamba and Attala Counties.

The workshops will be held at the Itawamba County Extension Office located at 605-A South Cummings Street in Fulton Tuesday, June 18 and the Attala County Extension Office located at 715 Fairground Road in Kosciusko Thursday, June 20. Both workshops begin at 6 p.m.

An hour-long presentation will include topics on pond design, fish stocking, harvest, vegetation control, liming and fertilization. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop is asked to register by calling the Itawamba County Extension Office at 662 862-3201 or the Attala County Extension Office at 662 289-1321.

“This workshop will allow biologists and private pond owners the opportunity to discuss management options to improve fish populations and habitat,” said MDWFP Fisheries Biologist Ryan Jones. “We talk with people each year who want to manage their ponds effectively and this is a great way for us to provide how-to information that can help pond owners achieve their goals.”

For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at 601 432-2212.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.


Moon Lake reopens

High water at Moon Lake in Coahoma County has receded to a safe level and as a result, officials have reopened the lake to recreational boating.

For more information visit www.mdwfp.com or call 601 432-2200. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson D-MS 2nd District

Congressman Thompson votes to honor nation’s values and pass American Dream and Promise Act



U.S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02) voted to pass H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, landmark legislation that provides permanent protections to our nation’s Dreamers, as well as to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders, allowing to contribute fully to Mississippi communities and our country while providing a pathway to citizenship.

The American Dream and Promise Act establishes a process for Dreamers meeting certain criteria to first obtain conditional lawful permanent resident (LPR) status for 10 years, and then, when they have met certain additional educational, military service or work requirements, to obtain full lawful permanent resident (LPR) status.

Once obtaining full LPR status, Dreamers can then apply for citizenship after an additional five years.

Similarly, the bill establishes a process for TPS and DED holders meeting certain criteria to also obtain lawful permanent resident status (and eventual citizenship). Without these permanent protections, the future of our Dreamers and TPS and DED holders – and their contributions to our economy – remain at risk.

This bill, simply, is designed to promote justice and fairness for our nation’s Dreamers, and for the TPS and DED holders who had fled ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters and other extraordinary conditions many years ago to come to this country.

Congressman Thompson announces \$781,000 to Mississippi Second Congressional District from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the United States Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Brownfield grants to communities in the Mississippi Second Congressional District to help local governments redevelop vacant and unused properties, transforming communities and local economies.

- South Delta Planning and Development District Inc., Rosedale, Moorhead, Rolling Fork and Isola, Miss. – \$481,000 Assessment Grant (\$391,000 for hazardous substances and \$91,000 for petroleum). Community-wide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct three Phase I environmental assessments on the former Allen’s Canning facility, Delta Elastics facility, and former Producer’s Feed Company facility priority sites, and six Phase II environmental site assessments on each priority site. Grant funds will also be used to prepare six cleanup plans on each priority site, prioritize sites and conduct community outreach activities.
- Yazoo, Miss. - \$300,000 Cleanup Grant (\$175,000 for hazardous substances and \$125,000 for petroleum). Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct six Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments on priority sites and prepare two cleanup plans. Community-wide petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct three Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments on priority sites and prepare one cleanup plan.

Grant funds will also be used to complete additional Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, establish a secondary brownfield inventory, conduct community outreach activities, and create a Brownfields revitalization plan for the downtown target area.

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Reparations must include the costs of predatory lending

New university studies track high costs of discriminatory housing

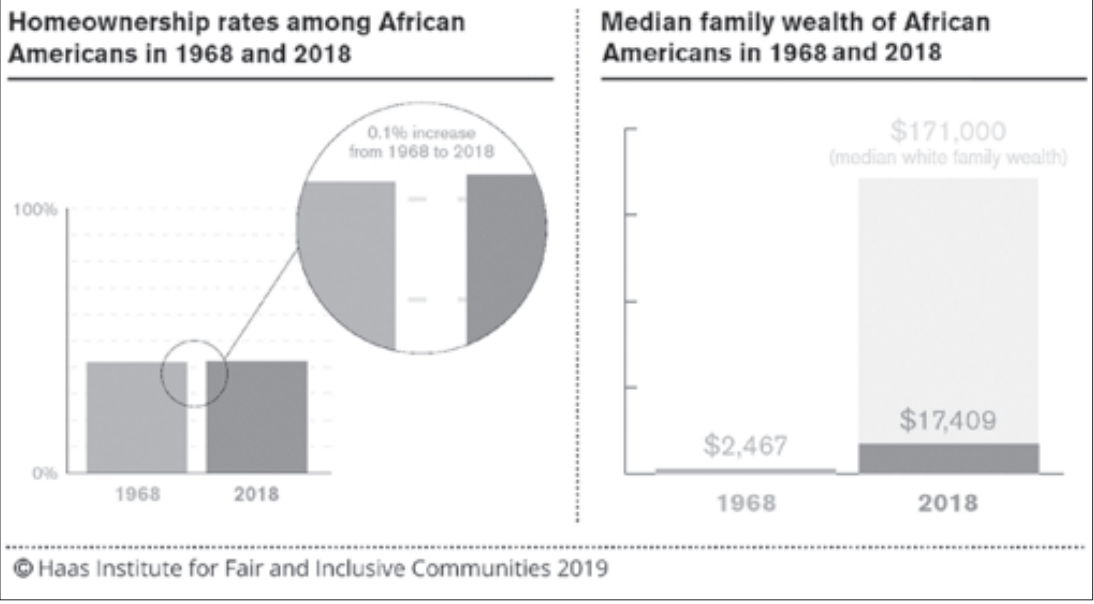
By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

In recent years, the spate of homicides linked to questionable uses of deadly weapons and/or force, have prompted many activist organizations to call for racial reparations. From Trayvon Martin’s death in Florida, to Michael Brown’s in Missouri, Eric Garner’s in New York and many other deaths – a chorus of calls for reparations has mounted, even attracting interest among presidential candidates.

While no amount of money could ever compensate for the loss of black lives to violent deaths, a growing body of research is delving into the underlying causes for high poverty, low academic performance and lost wealth. Public policy institutes as well as university-based research from the University of California at Berkeley and Duke University are connecting America’s racial wealth gap to remaining discriminatory policies and predatory lending.

This unfortunate combination has plagued Black America over multiple decades. And a large part of that financial exploitation is due to more than 70 years of documented discriminatory housing.

The Road Not Taken: Housing and Criminal Justice 50 Years After the Kerner Commission Report, returns to the findings of the now-famous report commissioned by President Lyndon Johnson. In the summer of 1967, over 150 race-related riots occurred. After reviewing the 1968



report’s recommendations and comparing them to how few were ever enacted, the Haas Institute tracks the consequences of recommendations that were either ignored, diluted, or in a few cases pursued. Published by Berkeley’s Haas Institute for Fair and Inclusive Communities, it weaves connections between education, housing, criminal justice – or the lack thereof.

“Although in some respects racial equality has improved in the intervening years,” states the report, “in other respects today’s black citizens remain sharply disadvantaged in the criminal justice system, as well as in neighborhood resources, employment, and education, in ways that seem barely distinguishable from those of 1968.”

In 1968, the Kerner Commission report found that in cities where riots occurred, nearly 40% of non-white residents lived in housing that was substandard, sometimes without

full plumbing. Further, because black families were not allowed to live wherever they could afford, financial exploitation occurred whether families were renting or buying a home.

As many banks and insurance companies redlined black neighborhoods, access to federally-insured mortgages were extremely limited. At the same time, few banks loaned mortgages to blacks either. This lack of access to credit created a ripe market for investors to sell or rent properties to black families, usually in need of multiple needed repairs. Even so, the costs of these homes came at highly inflated prices.

In nearly all instances, home sales purchased “on contract” came with high down payments and higher interest rates than those in the general market. The result for many of these families was an eventual inability to make both the repairs and the high monthly cost of the contract.

One late or missed payment led to evictions that again further drained dollars from consumers due to a lack of home equity. For the absentee owner, however, the property was free to sell again, as another round of predatory lending. As the exploitive costs continued, the only difference in a subsequent sale would be a home in even worse physical condition.

The Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago: New Findings on the Lasting Toll of Predatory Housing Contracts, also published this May, substantiates recent calls for reparations, as it focuses on predatory housing contracts in Illinois’ largest city. Published by Duke University’s Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, this report analyzed over 50,000 documents of contract home sales on the Windy City’s South and West Sides and found disturbing costs of discriminatory housing in one of the nation’s largest cities, as well as one of

the largest black population centers in the nation. Among its key findings:

- During the 1950s and 1960s, 75-95% of black families bought homes on contract;
- These families paid an average contract price that was 84% more than the homes were worth;
- Consumers purchasing these homes paid an additional \$587 each month above the home’s fair market value;

Lost Black Chicago wealth, due to this predatory lending ranged between \$3.2-\$4 billion.

“The curse of contract sales still reverberates through Chicago’s black neighborhoods and their urban counterparts nationwide,” states the Duke report, “and helps explain the vast wealth divide between blacks and whites.”

Now fast forward to the additional \$2.2 trillion of lost wealth associated with the spillover costs from the foreclosure crisis of 2007-2012. During these years, 12.5 million homes went into foreclosure.

Black consumers were often targeted for high-cost, unsustainable mortgages even when they qualified for cheaper ones. With mortgage characteristics like prepayment penalties and low teaser interest rates that later ballooned to frequent and eventually unaffordable adjustable interest rates, a second and even worse housing financial exploitation occurred.

A 2013 policy brief by the Center for Responsible Lending, found that consumers of color – mostly black and Latinx – lost half of that figure, \$1.1

trillion in home equity during the foreclosure crisis. These monies include households who managed to keep their homes but lost value due to nearby foreclosures. Households who lost their homes to foreclosures also suffered from plummeting credit scores that made future credit more costly. And families who managed to hold on to their homes lost equity and became upside down on their mortgages – owing more than the property is worth. Both types of experiences were widespread in neighborhoods of color.

In terms of lost household wealth, nationally foreclosures took \$23,150. But for families of color, the household loss was nearly double – \$40,297.

CRL’s policy brief also states, “We do not include in our estimate the total loss in home equity that has resulted from the crisis (estimated at \$7 trillion), the negative impact on local governments (in the form of lost tax revenue and increased costs of managing vacant and abandoned properties) or the non-financial spillover costs, such as increased crime, reduced school performance and neighborhood blight.”

As reparation proposals are discussed and debated, the sum of these financial tolls should rightly be a key part. While the Kerner Commission recommendations remain viable even in 2019, it will take an enormous display of public will for them to be embraced and put into action.

“The Kerner Report was the ‘road not taken’, but the road is still there,” noted John A. Powell, the Haas Institute’s director.

America’s natural gas and oil industry is hiring, building diversity

By Mike Sommers
President and CEO American Petroleum Institute

The economy is booming, but that doesn’t mean it’s all easy street for American families. Costs for household essentials continue to rise– with expenses for healthcare up 73% over 10 years, education costs increasing 58% and food bills rising 26%.

There’s one important exception: energy costs. Household energy expenses have dropped 10.5%, and Americans saved \$300 billion in 2016 compared to 2010. As recently as 2011, media reports were blaring headlines like “\$4 Gas Might be Here to Stay.” With the United States now leading the world in production of natural gas and oil, families are enjoying welcome savings on their utility bills and at the gas pump – savings that help them afford other priorities that keep getting pricier.

For a growing number of American workers, the U.S. natural gas and oil industry doesn’t just mean lower bills, it means fatter paychecks. A 2018 Bloomberg report called the industry “the best bet for U.S. workers” thanks to its “paycheck potency” – with salary levels that “topped all sectors, including utilities,



COMMENTARY

tech and health care” in recent rankings. Non-retail station jobs in the natural gas and oil industry pay an average annual wage of over \$100,000 – nearly \$50,000 more than the U.S. average. Studies show natural gas and oil industry workers earn more across all education levels, degree majors, gender and race/ethnicity groups and occupation types.

The diversity of career oppor-

tunities means there’s something for everyone – across a variety of fields and education levels. Geologists, engineers, rig workers, welders, electricians, communications professionals, truck drivers, environmental consultants, business analysts, computer technicians – you name it.

And opportunities are growing. The industry supports 10.3 million U.S. jobs across the economy — 2.7 additional jobs for each direct natural gas and oil

job.

With 40 percent or more of the industry’s worker base expected to retire by 2035, there’s never been a better time to join the energy workforce. Studies project we’ll see nearly 1.9 million job opportunities over that period in the oil and natural gas and petrochemical industries – with 707,000 jobs, or 38% of the total, projected to be filled by African-American and Hispanic workers.

We consider that number a

floor, not a ceiling. One of our top priorities as an industry is building a more diverse workforce, and ensuring these opportunities reach every community.

One of the biggest barriers our research has identified is lack of awareness about the opportunities in our industry. We’re partnering with a number of organizations to change that. Through coordinated efforts with groups like the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and others, we’re working to spread the word that the industry is hiring. And we’re building.

Constructing the pipelines and other infrastructure needed to keep pace with record energy production – and move affordable energy to homes and businesses – can support up to 1 million-plus jobs per year. That means construction workers, welders, pipe fitters.

We partner with the National Building Trades Unions to train workers for these good jobs.

The industry also needs workers with backgrounds in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. In

coordination with these organizations and many more, companies sponsor and participate in job fairs, hands-on educational labs, science fairs and teacher training.

As great as the opportunities are, it’s not all about the paycheck. America’s energy professionals are part of an industry that fuels the economy and powers daily life. It’s an industry of innovators – that not only leads the world in production of natural gas and oil but is developing the technologies that make our air cleaner. The United States leads the world in reduction of carbon emissions, thanks primarily to clean natural gas. Cleaner fuels and other breakthroughs have helped drive combined emissions of the primary air pollutants down 73 percent since 1970 – while energy use and vehicle miles have climbed.

Building a better future takes energy, and building the best workforce is essential to keep delivering energy benefits to U.S. families. Working with our partners in African-American and Hispanic communities, America’s natural gas and oil industry is focused on expanding opportunities and building the diversity that will make our workforce even stronger.

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap

P A R T 1

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



To be saved, first you need to recognize your condition. You are spiritually dead which leaves you blind and deaf spiritually. The devil does not want you to see the condition you are really in or where you are heading. Any person who truly sees what the devil has planned for him or her wants out of that mess. Sometimes people do not realize that their deeds will mark them and cause the mark of sin to follow them to their graves. Some people have committed murder, and though they might have been forgiven, they would have given anything to have changed their circumstances. Others have sown all kinds of corrupt seed while they were

living in sin; and although they repented, those seeds sprouted and came up. The scars followed them to their graves. However, many people have repented and gotten right with God and wished they could have changed the circumstances that living in sin had created. Regrettably, they had to reap the things they had sown even after they had gotten right with God. We read in the Holy Bible from the Old Testament, Hosea 10:12-13 these words: “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty

men.” Hosea repeatedly uses illustrations about fields and crops. Here he envisions a plowed field, earth that is ready to receive seeds. It is no longer stony and hard; it has been carefully prepared, and it is available. Is your life ready for God to work in it? You can break up the unplowed ground of your heart by acknowledging your sins and receiving God’s forgiveness and guidance. You see, if I was to sow a field in oats and then change my mind and say, “I really do not want oats,” I could not do anything about it because I had already sown oats. The same principle is true when a person sows seeds in sin but afterward repents. Galatians 6:7 tells us, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also

reap.” Friend, if you sow to the flesh, of the flesh you are going to reap. Even after you get saved, you will reap that which you have sown. It would certainly be a surprise if you planted corn and pumpkins came up. It’s a natural law to reap what we sow. It’s true in other areas too. If you gossip about your friends, you will lose their friendship. Every action has results. If you plant to please your own desires, you’ll reap a crop of sorrow and evil. If you plant to please God, you’ll reap joy and everlasting life. Next week, Part II, “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” 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.

P R E S E R V E D

A daddy’s words of wisdom

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



This year in honor of Father’s Day, I’d like to honor one of my spiritual fathers who poured Godly wisdom into my life when I was a member of Christian Chapel CME church in Dallas, Texas. It’s been seven years since the death of pastor Rev. Jerome McNeil Jr. and looking back, it’s become even more obvious how powerful and prophetic his biblical teachings were.

In honor of his memory, in this week’s column I’d like to share the transformative words from his many sermons over the years.

Who are you walking with? If God calls you, he will enable you and equip you. We have to learn to be risk takers and strategically yield to the will of God. Don’t let what is happening around you distract you from what is happening in you. The miracle isn’t walking on water but who you are walking with.

Friends and associations Pleasing everybody but God is dangerous. We should watch who we hang with and who we listen to. Since our associations can be a destructive force in our lives, we must be mindful of our influences. Some people bring out the best in us. We should strive to be with people who give us accountability.

Remember what he told you In books, after every blank page, comes a new chapter. In our lives, God will allow circumstances to change so that we have a renewed hope in his promises.

Just when

We all have been in “just when” situations. These are the situations where it appears that no options are available and you feel almost ready to give up. It is during these times that God gives us the opportunity to experience His power, majesty and command over the “just when” situation. He wants us to know that even when we have reached our human limit, He has extraordinary plans that can turn “just when” into “right now.”

Making the best of your situation

God puts us in dark situations so we can learn how to be desperate enough to talk to him in prayer. Prayers only change when we get desperate enough.

What’s the hold up?

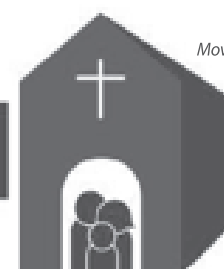
God allows certain situations to occur so we can become more dependent on him. Even when God seems silent, we have to trust that he is still working on our behalf. He’s working on us and not just for us. When God delays answering our prayers, he is not only helping us develop patience, he is also helping us to learn how to trust Him.

You just didn’t see it

What you see isn’t always what you get. If you can use faith to go beyond what you can see, God has the answer for you. Just because you are against the wall doesn’t mean the wall can’t move.

Happy Father’s Day to all the natural, adoptive and spiritual fathers who selflessly take time to model God the Father’s love for us.

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




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We're better than that

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



I can't remember a time in my adult life when I wasn't working on justice issues on behalf of people in my community. I've worked for the benefit of women who shared my views and some who don't, but it's rare that I'm embarrassed about something women are doing. Lately, I've taken the time to view a lot of videos on various rappers, and tried to give them the benefit of the doubt. I understand the argument about what they do is the life they live. Some say it's their reality. Well, "My life ain't been no crystal stair" as the saying goes. I've had my ups and my downs, but I've always wanted to do better and I've tried to help others do the same.

We're better than a lot of what I see. I've sat for hours viewing videos that made me sick, but I had a purpose. I didn't just want to say, "Rapping is the style and some young people who do the really hate-filled and vulgar stuff don't know any better or aren't capable of doing something reputable to make a living.

Then I began viewing videos that explain how people of other races lure young people into contributing to their own oppression because they're so caught up in being a star. They're lured into horrible things, given money, flashy cars and everything they could ever hope for except decency. They're introduced to drugs and crime and spending on things they'll never need—but it becomes a part of their lifestyle.

Then one day they think they're a star, and get "uppity" enough to ask for their own money instead of having things issued out to them. They then find that other people have gotten rich on them while the rapper, with few exceptions, is actually in debt.

I see beautiful and smart-appearing young women resorting to a low life of which their parents never taught them. I identify with them simply because they are black and women. I cringe and become drained when I see a group like the one called "City Girls" dancing and prancing and shamelessly using vulgarities in front of white men who appear to be shocked by the sight of what the women are doing. I keep saying to myself, "We're better than that." I ask myself if this is why our ancestors often died to gain opportunities for all of us, including our sisters to be able to be free to do anything they want to do.

Some argue with me saying they're exercising their freedom of speech or freedom of expression. I think you will agree those are not freedoms that advance any of our righteous causes.

Please go to your computer and look up City Girls Act Up. Look up Cardi B, Nikki Minaj (and I am not yet asking you to look up some of the men who encourage drug use, murder, rape, etc.) Just look up the young women rappers I've named and ask yourself if this is what the Essence Festival should be promoting as the essence of a black woman.

This year, City Girls are invited to the Essence Festival along with First Lady Michelle Obama. On the one hand, they've invited a woman of substance, along with a group with no class. Essence Festival leaders need to hear from you about their choices of who represents black women.

Lately, J.T., a member of City Girls, has been forced to experience "success" of her group behind federal prison bars for a case of fraud. Her lawyer is actually trying to get her out on good behavior. Look at the City Girls video and see if you can find the good behavior.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women and host of WPFW-FM 89.3's "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

Injustice revealed and dramatized

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Many know them as the Central Park Five, but filmmaker Ava DuVernay forces us to see the five wrongfully convicted men as individuals. Their names are names we must remember, as individual, courageous, principled black and brown men. They are Korey Wise, Raymond Santana, Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, and Kevin Richardson.

DuVernay's new Netflix mini-series, "When They See Us," ask what "they" see when they see young men of color. They see criminals. They see violence. They don't see their precious youth, a youth that was snatched away by a racist criminal injustice system that railroaded them.

The 1989 rape of Trisha Meili horrified New York City. But there was no evidence that the five accused young men were the perpetrators. Indeed, much later, another man confessed to her rape. Meanwhile, Raymond, Yusef, Antron and Kevin were sentenced to five to seven years. Each served at least five. Korey Wise was 16, so he was tried and convicted as an adult. He served 12 years and was brutalized and beaten throughout his incarceration. In jail, a rapist is just one step up from a child molester, and the racial dynamics of prison life were such that Korey was a target for abuse.

"When They See Us" is harrowing

and humanizing. It digs into the marrow of the bones of the accused men and their families. It reminds us that the cost of unjust incarcerations is felt not only by the incarcerated but also by their families. We see the ways families dealt with the unlawful imprisonment of their loved ones. Some hover and hug, some distance themselves, and all of the lives are complicated by the economic challenges that lower-income families face. Who can pay for a decent lawyer? For visits that may be hundreds of hours, and too many dollars, away from a home base? Who writes? Who can't write? How do incarcerated people maintain dignity and equilibrium?

"When They See Us" is important, not because it tells the story of five young men – Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin and Korey – who were scapegoated, but because it reminds us that this case is but the tip of the iceberg. Thanks to the Innocence Project and other dedicated people, these men were exonerated, their convictions vacated, and a financial settlement awarded to them, providing them with about a million dollars for every year incarcerated.

How many young men of color, though, are unjustly arrested, tried, and convicted. How many have been so railroaded that after of hours of interrogation (as with Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin and Korey) they choose to confess to crimes they did not commit because they are frightened. Their vacated sentences and their financial settlement is some

form of vindication, but as they all have said, nothing can bring those years back. Some are angry, some are depressed, and some have offered themselves as speakers to talk about the flaws in the criminal just-us system. Korey Wise, who got the most substantial financial settlement because of the longest time he spent in jail, generously donated \$190,000 to the Colorado Innocence Project.

The ugly underbelly of this story is the white women who insist that these young men must have been guilty of something. Linda Fairstein, the prosecutor in the case, is depicted as benign of the rules and withholding evidence. Why? Because she could. She is the epitome of Becky, of Miss Ann, of a white woman who was prepared to ruin young lives, even though there was no evidence to tie Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin and Korey to the rape of Trisha Meili.

Fairstein has been spanked in the court of public opinion, being so vilified that she has stepped down from the board of her alma mater, Vassar College. But she is adamant in her insistence that she did nothing wrong. Even though she lied. Even though there was a weak train of evidence, with no DNA. Even though. But she is a privileged white woman who took her ticket to ride into author stardom. The Mystery Writers of America chose to rescind her award. Good for them.

And then there is the victim, Trisha Meili. No one should have experienced the brutality that she did. She

is entitled to grace, understanding, and compassion. She is not entitled to accuse young men whose DNA was not on her, whose alleged attack on her was not verified. Even as we applaud her survival, we abhor the ways she supports the corrupt Fairstein and the police officers who coerced false confessions from the accused young men.

I remember 1989. I remember the inflammatory press describing young black and brown men as animals off "wilding." I remember writing and talking about the inhumanity of their descriptions and about the lies the press inflamed. And I remember one Donald Trump who was so outraged that he spent \$85,000 to take out full-page ads asking that five young men get the death penalty for a crime they did not commit. He has yet to apologize. He doesn't do that. He is the one who needs to be incarcerated.

I am grateful to DuVernay for her sensitive production of this story, as well as to Ken Burns for an earlier documentary. I am mindful that these accused men are the tip of the iceberg. The coercion that they experienced happens every day. And I am thankful that the Innocence Project supports the wrongfully incarcerated. But at the bottom line, y'all, I'm mad as hell. What can we do about it?

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

Leah Chase: "We changed the course of the world over a bowl of gumbo"

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"I was taught that your job was to make this earth better. I hope my children will carry on. I hope I've taught them enough to keep trying to grow, keep trying to make people understand how to enjoy life. Look at all the beautiful things around you, look at the progress. You gotta enjoy that, you gotta appreciate that, and I do." – Leah Chase

With the passing this week of New Orleans' Queen of Creole cuisine, Leah Chase, a part of New Orleans has died.

It was at her table where the Freedom Riders gathered to break bread after their dangerous journey into the segregated south. It was there where the NAACP planned strategy. She

hosted musicians, artists, actors and presidents. In typical fashion, she scolded President Obama for adding hot sauce to her already-perfectly-seasoned gumbo.

My earliest memories of Mrs. Chase were Friday night outings with my grandparents to her landmark restaurant, Dooky Chase. In the days of Jim Crow, most of the upscale restaurants refused to serve black patrons, so Dooky Chase quickly became a cultural, social and political center for black life in New Orleans.

When the National Urban League held our conference in New Orleans in 2012, I was proud to hold our Board of Trustees meeting there.

No visit home to New Orleans has ever been complete without a meal at Dooky Chase and a visit to the kitchen to catch up with its tireless proprietress.

The woman whose portrait is enshrined in the National Portrait Gal-

lery, and whose life inspired a beloved Disney character was born in Madisonville, Louisiana, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. One of 11 children, she was 6 years old when the Great Depression struck, and she recalled wearing clothes made from grain sacks and subsisting on food from their own garden.

She arrived in New Orleans to attend Catholic high school, and went on to work at a French Quarter restaurant for \$1 a day.

Just after World War II ended, she married jazz musician Edgar "Dooky" Chase, whose parents owned a po' boy stand in Tremé. Over the years she would transform the business into one of the most significant and celebrated restaurants in the entire country.

A generation of children were introduced to Chase in the character of Tiana, Disney's first African-American princess, in 2009's The Princess and the Frog.

When he first visited Dooky Chase, the film's co-director John Musker, was surprised to see a photo of General George Patton on the wall among Chase's famed collection of African-American art.

"She goes, 'That was a man that I admired,'" Musker recalled. "It was just a great thing to see this warm and nurturing thing, but she has this flinty side, too, where she can be both. That's what we tried to get with Tiana, that she's very warm and vulnerable but she has a passion, spine and a backbone and she's really trying to get something done and doesn't give in easily to things."

Mrs. Chase always said, "In my dining room, we changed the course of America over a bowl of gumbo and some fried chicken." It was an honor beyond words to count her among my friends, and to carry forth her legacy.

Number 45, AKA Donald Trump, is not an aberration

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



The American news media is deceiving the world when it consistently describes Number 45 as an aberration in the history of the United States presidency. Equally deceiving is its describing and romanticizing the American voting public as some kind of godly people who are devoted to liberty and justice for all citizens of this country.

Rather than being an aberration, Number 45 is a direct descendant of the presidents, including Saint George

Washington and Saint Thomas Jefferson, who bought, sold, owned and exploited African men, women and children. He's also a direct descendant of those presidents who did absolutely nothing from the Reconstruction Era through the 1960's as leaders in the former Confederate States of America economically and politically oppressed black people, including those who fought in the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars respectively.

Number 45 is also a direct descendant of those presidents who sat by passively as thousands of black folks were lynched and otherwise murdered

by white supremacists/racists mostly in the former Confederate States of America. Their victims included black combat veterans. Therefore, Number 45, a draft dodger, is by no definition an aberration.

As for the American voting public, through the years the overwhelming majority of them looked on, often with relish, as atrocities were committed against black people. They voted for politicians who did little, if anything, to stop or punish the white supremacist/racist terrorists.

It was overwhelmingly white American men and women who put Number 45 into the White House. Not one

of them can say that he or she was deceived by him. He made it very clear in the Republican primary campaigns and in the general election campaign who and what he was and is. In fact, that's one positive thing that can be said about him.

Number 45 is the personification of most white males in this country and, unfortunately, a sizable number of black men for whom I have coined the name "Blawhis" i-e black-whites.

When, if ever, is the American media going to tell it like it is? Number 45 is not an aberration, and the white American voting public is not composed of bamboozled innocents.

Mississippi Optometric Association to provide eye exams at no cost for students assessment

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For the fifth year, the Mississippi Optometric Association (MOA) and the Mississippi Vision Foundation (MVF) will provide eye exams at no-cost to third graders who did not pass the state reading assessment test and do not have insurance. The exams are offered through July 31.

This year, with higher standards implemented by the Mississippi Department of Education, one in four of the state's third graders did not pass the literacy promotion test. Studies show that children who struggle to read are more likely to leave school without graduating; ultimately contributing to the poverty rates in our state.

"We know that vision is a greater predictor of academic success than socioeconomic status. And as citizens of Mississippi we have a vested interest in making sure all of our students have the tools and the opportunity to succeed at their highest abilities," said Dr. Amy Crigler, MOA president. "Vision is a better predictor of academic success than socioeconomic status. We are committed



to identifying those students who have vision problems."

Statistics show that 25 percent of all school age children have vision problems and more than 80 percent do not get the help they need. Results of the MOA and MVF Third Grade Eye Exam program (aimed at students who did not pass the third grade reading assessment) reveal that 88 percent of the students who took advantage of the eye exams were found to be in need of some form of visual intervention.

State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright said, "We greatly appreciate the association's concern for our students' health and academic progress, and this annual opportunity for eye exams is a wonderful example of community partnerships that will benefit students."

For students who are covered through private insurance, applicable co-pays may apply due to laws that require the

doctor to collect this amount. All children, regardless of their family's ability to pay, will be seen by ODs participating in the program. The MVF, working with industry partners, will cover the costs for any student who needs an exam and is not covered through insurance.

Additionally, industry partners are working with Mississippi ODs to provide glasses to any student whose eye exam reveals the need for corrective lenses.

When making the appointment, parents should tell the receptionist they are scheduling the third grade eye appointment. They should bring the letter notifying them that their child did not pass the assessment test with them to the appointment.

To locate a participating optometrist, parents of eligible third graders should go to www.msvisionfoundation.org or call 601 572-0845.

Forrest General Hospital's Inpatient Rehabilitation Center hosts open house of newly renovated area

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Forrest General Rehabilitation Center (FGRC) hosted an open house of its newly renovated area of the hospital. FGRC is a highly-specialized acute rehabilitation center that functions as a stand-alone rehabilitation facility with all of the added benefits of being inside the hospital. Patients have easy access to labs, physicians and emergency care.

The renovated center features a new, dedicated entrance, which patients and visitors can access from the fourth floor parking garage for added convenience. There are now all private rooms and new therapy equipment including a new Zero G® Gait and Balance System.

The Zero G is a robotic system that uses an overhead track to support the patient. It allows patients to practice a wide range of activities without the risk of falling.

"FGRC first opened in 1987 within Forrest General Hospital, and we have been providing excellent care for 32 years. With every new beginning,



Beth Hensarling,OTR, rehab therapy manager, and Rebecca Fleming, RPT, demonstrate the Zero G.

however, there is excitement! Being able to relocate while still remaining within Forrest General Hospital, having all private rooms as well as upgrades to the facility and equipment is very exciting for staff. We look forward to sharing this newly renovated facility with its new opportunities

to serve our patients and families even more effectively," said Donna Wheelless, RPT, director of Rehabilitation and Wellness Services.

For more information about inpatient rehabilitation at Forrest General's Rehabilitation Center, visit forrestgeneral.com/rehab.

Gout, summer and cookouts

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Summer is filled with fun outdoor activities, increased exercise, cook-outs, and travel making it the favorite season for many, but if you have a history of gout, or are at risk for gout (history of a high uric acid, family history of gout or prior uric acid kidney stones), you may want to pay particular attention to this column.

Anyone who has, or has someone in their life who has gout, knows it is a painful form of arthritis that can seemingly slips into your life like a thief in the night.

Gout is an inflammatory disease that occurs when excess uric acid (a bodily waste product) circulating in the bloodstream is deposited as sodium urate crystals in certain joints. The pain is likely to be most severe within the first four to 12 hours after it begins. After the most severe pain subsides, some joint discomfort may last from a few days to a few weeks.

Gout happens either when the body produces too much uric acid or when the body does not eliminate enough uric acid through urination or bowel movements. Gout often starts with excruciating pain and swelling in the big toe – and can often follow any type of trauma such as an illness or injury. Uric acid is a normal body waste product. It forms when chemicals called purines break down.

Normally, uric acid dissolves in your blood and passes through your kidneys into your urine. But sometimes either your body produces too much uric acid, or your kidneys excrete too little uric acid. When this happens, uric acid can build up, forming sharp, needlelike urate crystals in a joint or surrounding tissue that cause pain, inflammation and swelling.

After that, future attacks may "flare up" off and on in other joints – primarily those of the foot and knee – before becoming chronic. Once it becomes chronic, gout can affect many

joints, including those of the hands. It usually does take a few years for this to happen.

In the chronic stage, gout can look a lot like Rheumatoid Arthritis, causing pain and inflammation in multiple joints. "Pseudogout," a condition in which calcium – not uric acid – forms crystals that deposit in the joints, can cause pain and swelling almost identical to gout. This is why it is important to be properly diagnosed by your doctor.

Treating gout requires a two-pronged approach that combines medications and lifestyle changes. Your doctor may prescribe Corticosteroid medications, such as the drug Prednisone, to control gout inflammation and pain. Medications like Allopurinol (the most commonly prescribed drug, that lower uric acid are intended to prevent gout attacks and keep the condition from becoming chronic.

The real "culprit" in gout is something called purines. Purine compounds, whether produced in the body or from eating high-purine foods, can raise uric acid levels. Excess uric acid can produce uric acid crystals, which then build up in soft tissues and joints, causing the painful symptoms of gout. Purines are also found in certain foods, such as steak, organ meats and seafood. Other foods also promote higher levels of uric acid, such as alcoholic beverages, especially beer and drinks sweetened with fruit sugar (fructose).

As the "disease of kings," or "a rich man's disease," you may be able to associate your advanced risk to a more indulgent lifestyle. If you're spending time in backyards and parks barbecuing with your friends and family members, there's a good chance you're (like most everyone else) also putting healthy-eating on the back burner; no pun intended.

Now, you may be asking yourself, "How am I going to have a picnic without Bar-B-Que beef, hot dogs, or a few beers?" I feel your pain, but don't worry you can still enjoy a great summer meal with friends and family, while fol-

lowing a safe, low-purine food that isn't likely to trigger a gout attack.

If you've had a history of gout attacks, avoiding purine-rich foods can help you prevent the next one. However, that's sometimes easier said than done when it comes to cookout food. How about a few tips for an enjoyable time at a picnic with gout?

The "usual suspects" that you should avoid (or greatly limit) high-purine meats include bacon, beef, pork and lamb. High-purine seafood includes anchovies, sardines, scallops, mackerel, trout, haddock, tuna, and herring. Even though everyone loves to have a good time at a cookout, beer is a significant gout trigger and should be avoided.

All it takes is just a little pre-planning, focus on food choices, and determination and before you know it, you'll be having great summer fun with your friends and family.

With appropriate treatment gout can be controlled and future attacks prevented. The biggest obstacles in controlling gout are improper diagnosis and noncompliance. The non-compliance part is totally up to you. Do the right thing, and eat smart at the cookout.

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

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

Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

June Is Men's Health Month

Men's Health Network

In 1920, female life expectancy in the United States was one year longer than male. Half a century later, that gender gap had grown to 7.6 years. Over the next few decades, the difference shrank to 4.8 years. But, over just the past two years, while women's life expectancy has remained steady, men's declined, and the gender gap has crept back up to 5 years[i].

Despite numerous advances in medical science, men continue to die at younger ages and in greater numbers than women of nine of the top 10 causes of death.

Within the broader men's health crisis, there is one area where differences between male and female mortality and morbidity are especially stark: mental health, the most visible manifestation of which is suicide.

Across all ages and ethnicities, American men commit suicide at far higher rates than women. According to the most recent CDC data, between the ages of 15 and 64, roughly 3.5x more men than women commit suicide. From 65 to 74, male suicides outnumber females by more than 4:1. For those over 74, the difference is a startling 9.3:1[ii]. Overall, for males, suicide is the 7th leading cause of death. For females, it's number 14[iii].

One sub-population that's profoundly affected by the epidemic of male suicides is the military. Historically, service-members were less likely than their civilian counterparts to take their own lives. But since 2001, more active duty service-members (including Reserve/Guard) have killed themselves than have died in combat. And those numbers are dwarfed by the number of veterans who complete suicide.

According to the Military Times, veterans account for a total of 14% of all adult suicides in the US, even though only 8% of the population has ever served[iv].

The alarming disparity in

suicides is undoubtedly driven by equally alarming disparities in the underlying mental-health conditions that lead to suicide itself, including depression and anxiety[v], psychosis, and substance abuse. In fact, nowhere is the connection between suicide and an underlying mental health condition more obvious than with substance abuse.

Between 2015 and 2016, male life expectancy decreased by .2 years[vi], a rather dramatic decline over such a short period of time. That decline was driven, to a large extent, by an even-more-dramatic 9% increase in the male suicide rate, which, in turn, was related to a parallel increase in substance abuse – in particular opiate use – among men.

Such a change in the suicide rate over the course of a single year could easily be classified as the bellwether of a looming public health catastrophe. Actually, two catastrophes. The second is the dramatic increase in opiate overdose deaths.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, between 2015 and 2016, those deaths increased 20.4% among women and 31.5% for men[vii]—primarily middle-aged men, who would otherwise be expected to be among the most productive members of their communities and our society as a whole.

Medical providers, members of the public health community, community organizations, politicians, and the media have collectively been unable (or unwilling) to acknowledge the massive scope of the mental health issues that affect men. As a result, tens of thousands of American men and boys are dying and suffering from what many experts believe are preventable or treatable behavioral and mental health issues.

The effects of this collective mismanagement of mental health issues in men and boys extend into nearly every aspect of American society and have broad implications for the ways we provide (or don't provide) preventive mental health

services to our fathers, sons, brothers, partners and friends. (The Affordable Care Act, for example, provides girls and women with annual, free, well-woman visits, which include mental-health screenings. No such coverage exists for boys and men.)

At the very least, the lack of adequate mental health care negatively impacts men's and boys' academic endeavors and achievements, their productivity in the workplace, the overall quality of their family life, their ability to care for their children and spouse or partner, and their level of community engagement and the contributions they make to the social capital of their communities and our nation.

So what can we do about the male mental-health crisis? First, most experts agree that in order to help boys and men manage the behavioral health and mental health issues, particularly those that are inextricably linked to violence, we need male-focused tools, programs, social support systems and clinical care, not only in primary care providers' offices, but also in our schools, work environments, social support networks, and community organizations, both on the hyper-local and national levels.

Second, rather than criticize "toxic masculinity," we need to celebrate fathers and other male role models. From a very young age, boys grow up hearing that "big boys don't cry," "play through it," and "man up." Those powerful messages keep boys and men from recognizing that they need help and from reaching out to get that help – especially with regard to mental health issues.

Fathers and other adult male role models can help boys and young men understand that expressing emotions and asking for help are signs of strength, not weakness, and that caring and nurturing are far better ways of showing you're a man than committing senseless acts of violence.



LEGAL

NOTICE OF INTENT
TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
FOR THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY
THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority “JMAA” requests Sealed Bids for the purchase of items identified for disposal.

JMAA will receive Bids for the property at JMAA’s administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208 until 2:00 p.m. central time on Monday, June 24, 2019 (the “Deadline”). The outside of the envelope must be marked “Bid for the Purchase of JMAA Personal Property”.

A site visit is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. central time at the address indicated above. Any parties interested in viewing the Items/Lots for sale are welcome to attend. No additional times will be allotted to view the Items for sale. All sales are “final” and “as is”. Each Respondent must submit a separate amount and description for each “Lot” they are bidding on.

Lot 1: “Computer Equipment and Other Furniture & Equipment Lot” consists of one hundred and fifty (150) pieces of computer equipment such as CPU’s, monitors, iPads, eight (8) pieces of furniture such as chairs, cabinets, book shelf, and sofa table, nine (9) televisions, , one (1) Stihl Hand-held blower, thirty-six (36) other pieces of equipment.

Lot 2: “Telephone/Cellphone Lot” consists of one hundred thirty-four (134) telephones and cellphones, etc.

Lot 3: “Printer Lot” consists of twenty-nine (29) printers and two (2) typewriters

Lots WILL NOT be split for any reason.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of Bid Tab sheet for the property by going to JMAA’s website at www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/.

JMAA will not consider any Bids received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Any questions regarding the sale of these Items are to be directed to Mr. Ricco Owens, Accountant, contact information is as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Ricco Owens, Accountant
Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 297
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rowens@jmaa.com

6/6/2019 6/13/2091 6/20/2019

LEGAL

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 07/09/2019 , for:

RE: GS# 422-158 Campus Road Improvements (RE-BID)
Ellisville State School
RFx #: 3160002947

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

Professional: Chas N. Clark, Associates, LTD
Address: 714 Hillcrest Drive
Laurel, Mississippi 39440
Phone: 601-649-5900
Email: lweeks@clarkengineers.com

A deposit of \$150.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

6/6/2019, 6/13/2019

LEGAL

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 07/16/2019 , for:

RE: GS# 507-051 Nurses’ Station Renovation
Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board
RFx #: 3160002949

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

Professional: Robert Lewis/Architect
Address: Post Office Box 1154
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1154

Phone: 601-925-8180
Email: rlewis@rlarc.com

A deposit of \$200.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

6/13/2019, 6/20/2019

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH
5TH FLOOR & WEST CONCOURSE ROOF REPLACEMENT
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(JMAA PROJECT NO. 005-18C)

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 July 12, 2019 (the “Bid Deadline”), for construction and renovations in connection with the 5th Floor and West Concourse Roof 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 July 12, 2019, Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 3:15 p.m. central time on July 12, 2019 (the “Bid Opening”), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder’s company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: “5th Floor & West Concourse Roof Replacement at JAN, JMAA Project No. 005-18C.” 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 \$50.00 plus \$15.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$20.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 pm. central time on June 20, 2019 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

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

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DATE: June 4, 2019 /s/ Perry J. Miller, A.A. E., I.A.P.

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale. 2016 Ford MUS 1FATP8UH0G5275202 Registered to Walton, James C Santander Consumer USA, Financial, Lien Holder Date of Sale: June 28, 2019 Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213 Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

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., Friday, June 21, 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, JUNE 17, 2019 beginning promptly at 2:00pm. 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 JUNE 21, 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

5/30/2019, 6/6/2019, 6/13/2019, 6/20/2019

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bidding
Bid 3098 Van Winkle Elementary School Exterior Improvements

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) July 15, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Van Winkle Elementary School Exterior Improvements will be held at Van Winkle Elementary School, 1655 Whiting Road, Jackson, MS on June 21, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference 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.dalebaileyplans.com. A \$100.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/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 Ginger Murphree at Dale Partners, Associates, Phone: 601-352-5411 or Email: GingerMurphree@dalepartners.com.

6/13/2019, 6/20/2019

Office
Space
for Rent

Garrett
Enterprises
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199

PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

HUGE 2-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
Huge Contractors Equipment & Truck Auction
**Wednesday, May 22nd &
Thur., May 23rd, 2019 • 9am**
1042 Holland Ave • Philadelphia, Mississippi

Day 1: Selling Dump Trucks, Truck Tractors, Specialty Trucks, Trailers, Farm Tractors, Pickups, Vehicles, Attachments, Misc. & More

Day 2: Selling Dozers, Excavators, Motor Graders, Off Road Trucks, Rubber-tired Loaders, Loader Backhoes, Skid Steers, Compaction Eq., Forklifts, Logging, Service Trucks, Fuel/Lube Trucks & More

Deanco Auction 601-656-9768 www.deancoauction.com
1042 Holland Ave (PO Box 1249) • Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 Auctioneer: Donnie W Dean, #733, MSGL #835
10% Buyers Premium on the first \$4500 of each lot and then a 1% buyers premium and the remaining balance of each lot.

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DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pocket! Call 601-203-3826

A PLACE FOR MOM has helped over a million families find senior living. Our trusted, local advisors help find solutions to your unique needs at no cost to you. Call 1-601-812-5678.

June 9, 2019 • Greater St. James Church • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





Givens PHOTOS COURTESY OF OWN PHOTOGRAPHER GUY D'ALEMA

Robin Givens bares her soul and states her purpose

By Allison Kugel

Actress Robin Givens has played many roles in her life; retiring wallflower not being among them. She burst onto the scene as the beautiful and brainy Darlene on *Head of the Class*, a sitcom that aired on ABC from 1986 to 1991.

Those same years brought a media explosion as good girl Givens fell in love with, married and then divorced, boxing's former world heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson. The tumultuous pairing was brief and quickly devolved into a he said/she said of accusations about abuse and domestic violence, allegations which Tyson himself later publicly conceded to.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Givens picked up the pieces with a string of film roles including *A Rage in Harlem* with the late Gregory Hines, *Forrest Whitaker* and *Danny Glover*; *Boomerang* opposite Halle Berry and Givens' former flame turned colleague, Eddie Murphy; *Blankman* opposite Damon Wayans and *Head of State* with Chris Rock.

Steady work came her way, while sealing her reputation as the beautiful but dangerous femme fatale. The line between Givens' public image and her film work continued to blur. During this time period, she became a mom to two boys and retreated from the spotlight, save for the release of her 2007 memoir, *Grace Will Lead Me Home*, in which she opened up about the issue of domestic violence, which she admits in the book had plagued her family for generations.

This was the birth of Givens, women's advocate and outspoken crusader against domestic violence. Her speaking engagements culminated with one of her numerous appearances on the Oprah show in which she outlined her intimate journey with the issue.

It is important to note that, according to The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) more than 10 million women and men (at a rate of 20 people per minute) in the U.S. are subjected to domestic violence, making this an issue that does transcend gender (though women are more likely to sustain substantial physical injury at the hands of an intimate partner, at a rate of 1 in 7 women to 1 in 25 men) as well as socio-economic status.

In the 2010s, Givens refocused on acting with roles on long running daytime soap *The Bold and the Beautiful*, YouTube Red series *Step Up: High Water* (based on the film franchise), the CW's *Riverdale* and ABC's *The Fix*. On June 18, Givens will shine as female lead, Stephanie Carlisle, in OWN's newest drama series, *Ambitions*.

Throughout our conversation, Givens held nothing back and no question was off the table as she offered thoughtful, sometimes emotionally charged, humorous and reflective insights on her journey through womanhood and Hollywood.

Allison Kugel: You took years away from the spotlight to focus on being a mom to your two sons. Now you're back with two television shows, the CW's *Riverdale* and the new OWN series, *Ambitions*. I remember speaking with Elisabeth Shue years ago (*The Karate Kid*, *Adventures in Babysitting*, *The Saint*) and she said she went away to just be a mom to her three kids, and when she came back, she felt like the parade passed her by. How did you come back with the thunder?

Robin Givens: I don't know Elisabeth and I don't know her

story so well, but for me it wasn't only taking a break to raise my kids. It was also a break for myself. It's true that you feel like you are going to maintain your place in line; like everything is going to stop and wait for you. I had to realize that it's a process again. You have to enjoy the process and begin again, and I really fell in love with acting again. When I first started acting, it wasn't really like that. Now I can go in a room and act and do my thing and enjoy the process for what it is. Water seeks its own level. If you're good, you're good, and it all kind of begins again.

AK: Your new show, *Ambitions* is premiering June 18 on the OWN Network. It seems like Oprah has always championed your career. You worked with her as an actress, and you were also on the Oprah show quite a bit over the years.

RG: I feel like at one point we were just friends. We did do [the mini-series] *The Women of Brewster Place* (1989) together, which was a huge role for me. She and I developed a genuine friendship, just as women. I don't think it had anything to do with my career, per se. I do think that there is something to it coming full circle and being here with her now, doing this show on her network.

AK: Do these vixen roles find you, or do you seek them out? How do you always wind up playing that women? I don't know how else to put it (laughs).

RG: You're right. There was a time when I was having these roles come to me and I remember saying to my agent, "I don't want to do that women. I just did that woman." I ended up turning something down because of it. I'm nothing like these women that I play, which is unusual and interesting for me. I always jokingly say, "I want to grow up and be them." Where I am now in my life, emotionally, it's like, "Okay, you want me to do that? Then I'm going to do it to death," and then wait for the opportunity where I can do something completely different.

AK: Before I do an interview, I'll ask people if they have any burning questions for the person I'm about to interview, and sometimes I'll take people's questions into consideration. I found out that a lot of men out there think you are that woman. Do you know that?

RG: I think women think that too. I don't think it's only men. Whenever I'm in hair and make-up, they're always like, "My God, you are nothing like that person." Me, Robin, I have a whole different rhythm.

AK: Your energy is completely different from your media image. But your name is still synonymous with Mike Tyson, the divorce heard 'round the world and those infamous interviews.

RG: I have a better understanding of it now than I would have if you talked to me about it fifteen years ago, or even ten years ago. As a grown-up, I just understand it better. I also didn't give people anything else to talk about for a while, and so my image got stuck there. I ran into Jay-Z at a party years ago, when I was doing *Chicago* on Broadway, and even he was fixated on it, because it was just so big.

AK: People love to talk about your past relationships, not just with Tyson, but with Brad Pitt and Eddie Murphy. Do you play on that image for a role like your character, Stephanie Carlisle, on *Ambitions*?



RG: You're making my life sound way more exciting than it is, but no I don't. I know we are in this world where we want things to be tantalizing, but I am a big believer in truths. The one thing I agree with when it comes to our current state of politics is that there has been plenty of fake news. I feel like I was the original fake news. I would be a crazy person if, given what I went through in my past, I didn't believe in the truth. I would never approach working on a character with any sense of that... thing, or that time period that wasn't even true. I lived through a time of absolute bullshit at a very young age. I now have a son who is twenty-five, who I see as a baby. I was younger than that when all that craziness was happening. Certainly, I hope it made me the person that I am, but I don't think I would have been able to say that before.

AK: And you probably didn't have the tools at that time to get the facts out there the way you wanted to.

RG: I was speaking with Wendy Williams recently and she said to me, "Thank God social media wasn't going on at that time in your life." And I said, "You know, actually it would have been easier." Now, you can literally get on Twitter and say "Hey, that's not true."

AK: I was a bit taken aback when in speaking with some people before our interview, the general consensus was, "She did Mike Tyson dirty years ago."

RG: The only thing I did dirty was that I said, "I don't want to be in a relationship where you tell me you are going to kill me." I didn't take one cent from my ex-husband. I left my panties there; I left my favorite teddy bear there. I left everything I had in that house. The rest is fake news. I said, "I want out of this relationship because I think you are going to do what you said, which is kill me." When I see what happened to Nicole [Brown] Simpson and other women that I talk to, that is a very real thing. I am here, walking, living and breathing.

AK: And it was thirty years ago people. You've had so much going on since then. You have your two boys, a thriving acting career, your advocacy work for women. I'm proud of you.

RG: Thank you. It is a really interesting conversation to have, because my ex-husband used to say to me, "I'm a hero to the guys. Women love me and guys love me. I'm a star to the stars." It's hard to go up against all of that. I left with my life, and I left so sorry that I put my family in such a horrific situation. The reality is, the guy I lived with was the same guy that bit [Evander] Holyfield's ear in the ring. That's the guy I was dealing with on a daily basis; the same guy that went to jail for rape (Givens is speaking of Tyson's 1992 rape convictions).



I was dealing with that guy the best way I could at twenty-two years old.

AK: I interviewed Mike, I think about seven years ago, and I liked him during our interview. Of course, it was so many years later. I don't want to take away from his ability to change and grow as a person. But what you experienced is valid and real, and your feelings about it are valid and very real. Your voice also continues to be valuable regarding domestic violence.

RG: I've done a lot of work with women, and it's not only happening with celebrities, obviously. It's the guy at the golf club in Connecticut that everybody loves. It's the mayor of a small town who's sweet and charming in public. I don't want to make this [issue] all about me. With everything that is going on with the #MeToo movement, we're kind of forcing a lot of men to get that certain things are unacceptable. Certain things now, thirty years later, must be unacceptable. We have to do better now.

AK: You began speaking up about violence against women years before the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements took root.

RG: I didn't plan on speaking on behalf of women, but it really did become a part of my healing. My ex-husband had been on Oprah and he had talked about hitting me in a cavalier way, like, "Oh, yeah I hit her," and everybody [in the audience] laughed. I was somewhere doing a speaking engagement, and someone said to me, "Robin, you can't take this." I realized it was far bigger than me and I was told I had to do something, if not for me, then for all other women. One of the things I always say is, "My story is your story, and your story is my story."

AK: That was when you had that sit-down with Oprah to air your grievances about Tyson's appearance on her show...

RG: I sat down with Oprah to discuss her interview with my ex-husband, which was the last thing I wanted to do. She apologized to me. After the show, she came into my dressing room and she said "Robin, as it was happening I knew it was wrong, but I didn't know what to do." I think that sums up a lot. Not to put the weight of the world on Oprah. Certainly, she is an amazing, amazing woman. But if Oprah Winfrey doesn't know what to do in these situations, the discomfort of it, then a lot of us don't know how to respond to that. It's much easier to put people in a box and say, "She must have wanted his money," than to believe that somebody could punch a 105-pound woman. We saw it happen with (ex-NFL player) Ray Rice. Now you can't pretend it away or give an excuse for it. Now we have a responsibility to not let certain things slide. We're better than that and we've come too far.

AK: What are the biggest misconceptions about you and famous men, in general?

RG: I met Eddie Murphy when I was in my sophomore year at Sarah Lawrence College. He had just gotten *Saturday Night Live*. He wasn't the "Eddie Murphy" that the world now knows, at that time. He was an actor that was happy to get a job. It was the same thing with Brad Pitt. When I dated Brad, Brad couldn't get a job. I was paying for all our meals and he was a struggling actor. We talked a lot about acting because we were in acting class together, and we loved acting together. When we dated, he literally couldn't pay for dinner. At the time, I had already gotten the role on *Head of the Class*. It was a different dynamic, where I was the big deal to [Brad]. You know what I mean? I lived it all at a young age, thank God, and I get to have a good perspective on reality and how it can be changed.

AK: There was a pivotal moment in your life, when I believe you were studying at Harvard with the intention to become a doctor, before you decided to pivot and pursue acting. In retrospect, was this the right path?

RG: I was at Harvard Graduate School and I knew I was going to be a doctor, or so I thought at the time. By the time I got to Harvard I was really wanting to pursue acting. If you asked me ten years ago, I would have said I should have become a doctor. As a mom, I just came from visiting my son and saying to him, "Get a law degree." My mom was raised in the south at a time when, as a woman, she couldn't go in the front door of a movie theatre. She could buy clothes at Woolworth, but she couldn't try them on, and she couldn't sit at the counter and eat. I think I grew up with the sense of, what she believed, which is that education is a great equalizing factor in America. I have a parent who, literally, just stopped leaving me medical school applications any time she'd come to visit. Up until recently, I knew there was an application to some medical school lurking somewhere in the house (laughs).

AK: Do you pray? If so, who or what do you pray to?

RG: I have a great relationship with God. For me, that has been a very important relationship. He's the only father I've ever known. I would often sit down with God and say, "I don't want to have to go through this." But it's all gotten me to where I am, both as a person and as a mom with these two kids. I grew up Catholic with a sense of the ritual of Catholicism. Certainly, I have some questions about all of that now, and some misgivings. But it is something I still do [observe]. And I always say that my ex-husband [Tyson] taught me, and gave me, a true relationship with God.

AK: What do you think you are here on this earth as Robin



Givens to learn, and what do you think you are here to teach?

RG: I'm the first of two children and I have a type-A personality. I always say I'm a recovering perfectionist. That's something I've had to learn, and there is a kind of humor in the quest for perfection. It's not very interesting, and you can never really achieve it. That's something that life has taught me. The difficulty that I have gone through has really taught me a sense of compassion. Most people in my life know that I am a compassionate, loving person. I've also had to learn to relax a little bit, because my brain does start overworking.

AK: And what are you here to teach?

RG: I would say the same thing; sharing a sense of compassion. Life is short and time truly is our greatest commodity. It's the one thing you never get back. I lost a sister, unexpectedly, almost five years ago and I would do anything to have more of those moments. I try to tell my children that there is not that much to get here [on earth]. You want to have enough to spend time with the people you love. You want to have dinner with the people you love. If you feel like going to Paris, you want to go to Paris with people you love. It's all about the moments, and not the car you drive. Happiness and joy lie in simplicity, so try to keep it simple.

AK: I would agree. Let's dive into your character, Stephanie Carlisle, on *Ambitions*.

RG: She doesn't use any of the things I just talked about (laughs). What interests me about my job is the challenge to bring a character like Stephanie Carlisle to life. To get the role of Stephanie, I borrowed a dress from *The Fix* (ABC) for the audition. Once I read the script, I felt I could do this role better than anyone. I just needed to carry that energy into the room with me and believe it. Once I started to dissect her, I knew that I wanted her to be more than what was on the page. I wanted to give her shades and dimensions, a heart and make her real. She was written as an ice queen, but there is more to her. My interpretation is that she is a woman that has her own set of rules. She also has this sensibility that she is never going to live up to her father, and that's where her wanting comes from.

AK: Why should audiences tune in to watch *Ambitions*?

RG: I could describe it as a guilty pleasure, but someone once said, "There is no guilt in pleasure." It's going to be that kind of fun show where women gather around to watch with some wine and popcorn. I think men will love it as much as women.

Ambitions premieres on Tuesday, June 18 @ 10/9c on OWN. Follow Robin Givens on Twitter @therocknrobn and Instagram @robingivens.

189 Jaguars graduate – HCCSD’s inaugural class

Mississippi Link Newswire

Look out world; here they come. Under beautiful, sunny skies over Holmes Community College’s Ras Branch Football Stadium in Goodman, Miss., 189 junior and seniors of Holmes County Central High School proudly walked across the stage Saturday, May 25, to receive the first high school diplomas issued by the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools of the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD).

The bright, goal-oriented 2019 inaugural class of Jaguar scholars blazed the trail for future success adorned in their red cap and gowns. The first graduating class of the Jaguar Nation collectively earned and received nearly half a million dollars in scholarships and awards.

Fifty-five students indicated they will attend a 4-year university in the fall, while 71 students plan to enroll in a 2-year college program. Thirteen students are heading to a technical school and 6 enlisted in a branch of the military.

“I’m just in awe of the intellectual capacity of many of our scholars who will one day compete on the global stage,” said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, Ed.D. “While we still have much work to be done regarding our graduation and drop-out rates, I am so very proud of our scholars in the Holmes County Consolidated School District who are determined to graduate on time.”



Front row L-R: Rayford Horton, Elder William Dean, Jr., April Jones, Anthony Anderson. Back row: James Allen, Gregory Washington, Carol Stone, Mellody Keith



James L. Henderson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

“Yes, we have smart and capable children in Holmes County. This historic class boasts a valedictorian and three salutatorians – outstanding,” Henderson said.

The class leaders are valedictorian

Rabria Moore and co-salutatorians Kiersten Ellis, Samatha Deering and Shakenya Hester. Hester also holds the title of Miss HCCHS.

Graduates will be attending colleges and universities



Javonte Jefferson greets Superintendent Henderson and BOE President Anthony Anderson

throughout the state as well as out of state. Several of them are now privates in various branches of the U.S. military with lucrative scholarships, awards and incentives.

Parents and well-wishers



Valedictorian Rabria Moore and co-salutatorians Kiersten Ellis, Samatha Deering, Shakenya Hester



Tawana Jefferson receives her diploma

braved the humid temperatures and packed the stadium as they cheered their graduates when their names were called. “Although it was hot, the ceremony was very nice, and I truly enjoyed it,” said Patricia Porter,

the grandmother of graduate Ry’Anna Meeks.

For more information and/or media coverage, email Chief of Staff Deborah Antoine at dan-toine@holmesccsd.org or call 662 633-2454.



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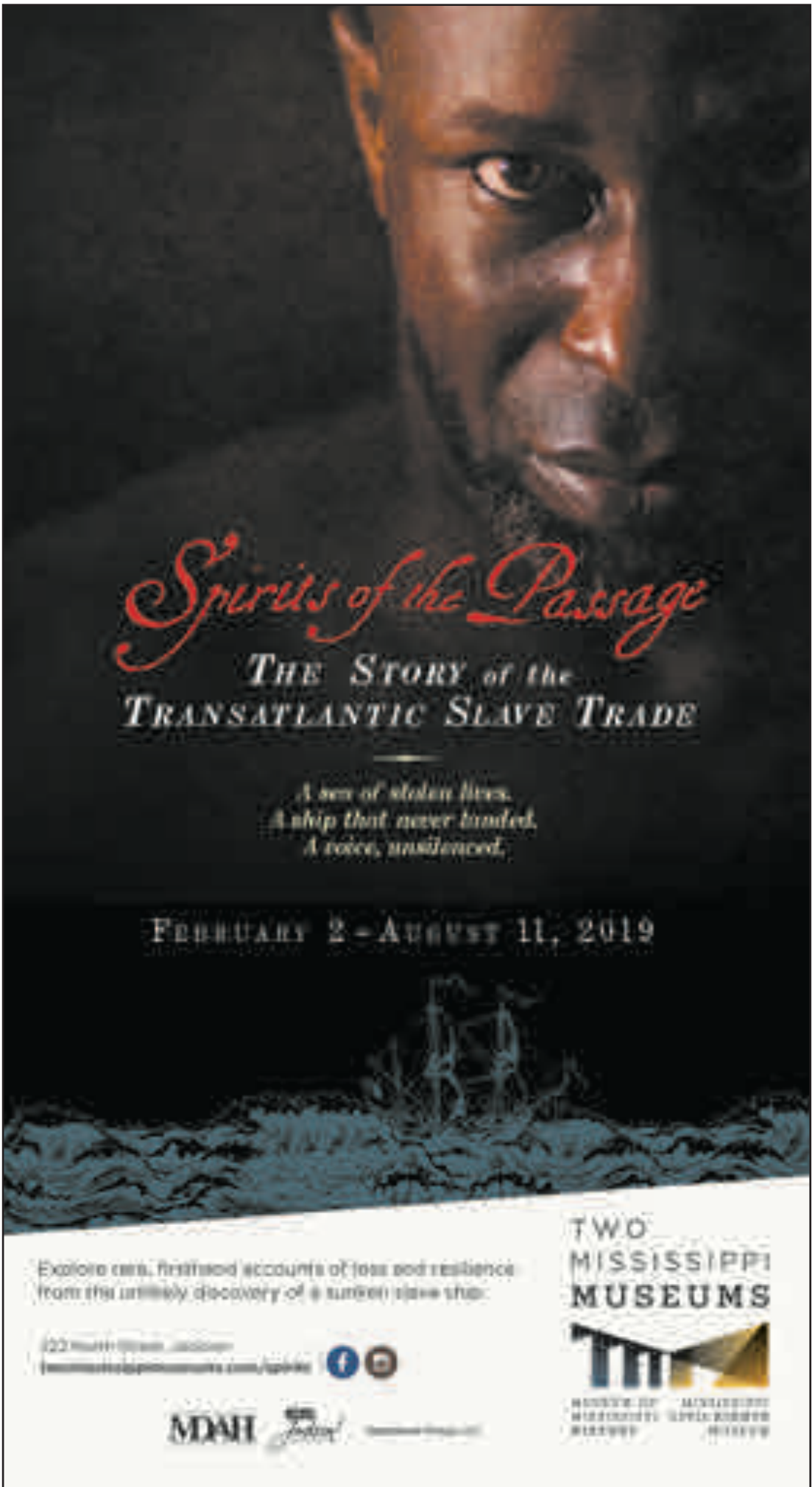
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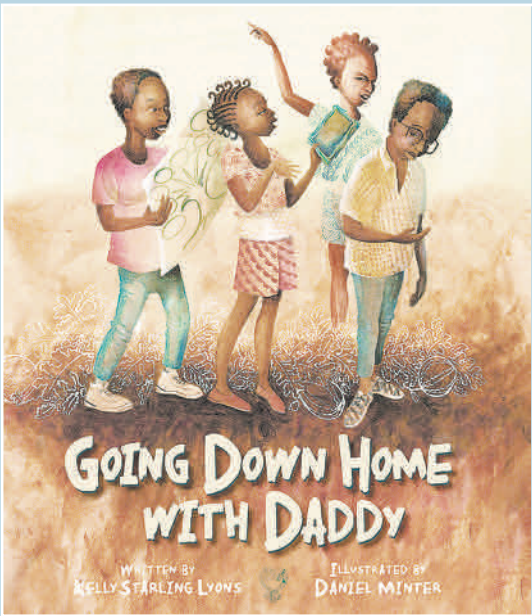
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BOOK REVIEW: “GOING DOWN HOME WITH DADDY”

BY KELLY STARLING LYONS,
ILLUSTRATED BY DAN MINTER
C.2019, PEACHTREE BOOKS
\$16.95 / \$22.95 CANADA • 32 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Getting together with your family this summer is going to be fun!

You’ll see your cousins and grandparents, friends and kin, and your aunts and uncles will be there, too. You’ll eat foods you love, play games to win, and you’ll hear stories that your family likes to tell. But what will you bring to the family picnic?

In “Going Down Home with Daddy” by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Daniel Mint-

er, that’s a question one boy struggles with.

As Sis slept in the back of the car next to him, Lil Alan worried and worried.

They were on their way to Granny’s house on the family farm, going to Daddy’s side of the annual family get-together, and everybody’d have something to share for this year’s celebration. Sis would sing a song for Granny. One of Lil Alan’s cousins had made a scrapbook. Another boy was reading a story aloud.

Everyone had something, but

Lil Alan’s hands were empty.

Still, he had time to think.

When they got there, all the adults were laughing and slapping backs and giving out hugs; the women had been cooking for days and everything smelled delicious for the feast. Daddy fired up the tractor and took Lil Alan and his cousins out for a ride on the farm that had been in the family for a long, long time. Daddy’s Pa had been proud of the land and its crops, and so was Daddy, and Lil Alan, too.

When Sunday morning rolled around, Lil Alan’s hands were

still empty and so was his heart. At church, he heard more family stories as everyone worshipped together, but he was sad that he still hadn’t come up with something to share.

Back at Granny’s house, he thought about what he was going to offer at the celebration as he looked at a wall full of old pictures of grandparents and great-grandparents. He thought of his family’s land and the people who cared for it. He remembered stories of folks before them.

And then he knew. Lil Alan

did have something to share.

It was right in front of him all along...

Much like a lazy summer afternoon, “Going Down Home with Daddy” unwinds at a leisurely pace, covering a mere weekend but starting with a restless car ride.

Since your child may be looking forward to this summer’s family reunion, that may seem like an odd place to begin but this book isn’t just about a reunion: author Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrator Daniel Minter wrap the event around a

warm family tale that feels like being snuggled in a soft blanket.

Even the youngest kids will understand Lil Alan’s struggle for meaning, the comfort of knowing that you’re loved, the goodness of being surrounded by family, and the strength of knowing where you came from.

Whether your family is next door or half a world away, this book is great for the 4-to-7-year-old who loves them. Isn’t it time, then, to put that kid and “Going Down Home with Daddy” together?

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD holds annual active shooter exercise at Gary Road Intermediate School

The Hinds County School District along with Byram Police Department and several other local emergency responders held its annual active shooter training exercise June 6, 2019 at Gary Road Intermediate School.

During the drill, emergency and school personnel simulated an active shooter situation in which shots were fired, several students were shot and injured,

and the shooter was eventually neutralized by law enforcement officers. Student actors played victims and practiced exiting the school safely. School personnel were seen walking out of the school with their hands in the air as they were escorted out by law enforcement officials and AMR crews tended the injured and transported them from the scene.

District spokesman John Neal said these drills are

designed to provide training for the school district as well as training for local law enforcement agencies, Hinds Emergency Management, AMR and the local Fire Department. Neal also stated that the district is very appreciative of all of its emergency responders, volunteers, parents, students, faculty and administrators for their support and input to make this exercise a success.... teamwork makes a difference.

Highlights from Exercise

