

# The historic Chicago Defender among black media icons scaling back, others possibly closing

TriceEdneyWire.com

It has been a rough few days for the black media.

First, *Ebony* magazine and its sister publication, *JET* magazine, may be closing their doors for good.

And then the publisher of the storied *Chicago Defender* newspaper announced last week that it will no longer publish a print version.

In announcing the move to digital-only beginning Thursday, July 11, Real Times Media CEO Hiram E. Jackson said last Friday that the newspaper has made significant investment in digital media because of changes in the publishing landscape.

Jackson noted the *Defender* currently prints 16,000 newspapers. He said the newspaper reaches at least 10 times more people on its digital platform.

Jackson said Real Times' other newspapers, the *Michigan Chronicle* and the *New Pittsburgh Courier*, will continue to offer a print version.

The newspaper was founded in 1905 by Robert S. Abbott and reached the peak of its influence at mid-century when it was a frequent critic of racial inequities in the nation's Southern states.

The *Defender* delivered news of monumental events – the funeral of Emmett Till, the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the election of President Obama – but also of everyday life for black Americans.

Jackson said the decision was an economic one. Newspapers throughout the industry have



seen a decline in print advertising and readers turning to the internet.

Black newspapers often are an afterthought when it comes to advertising dollars, Jean Patterson Boone, publisher of the *Richmond Free Press* told the *New York Times*.

Regardless of the financial challenges, the *Richmond Free Press*, which has a weekly circulation of 35,000 and a draw

of around 130,000 readers, has no intention of going the way of *The Defender* and eliminating its print edition.

"We're a miracle," Boone told the *New York Times*. "We are a miracle and most black newspapers are a miracle."

The National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade organization for African-American-owned newspapers, currently counts 218 such publications

across 40 states that attract 22.2 million readers between print and online each week.

Although the country may look different now, the enduring challenges of racism make the Black Press just as essential now, said Benjamin Chavis Jr., NNPA's president and chief executive.

As for *Ebony* and *JET*, former

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# U. S. House votes to condemn President Trump's 'racist' remarks

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

The U. S. House of Representatives, this week, voted to condemn as racist, remarks made by President Donald Trump after he tweeted Sunday morning that four women of color in the House of Representatives should "go back" to "the crime infested places from which they came."

He was speaking of Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York; Ilhan Omar of Minnesota; Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan – all Americans and all of whom have called for Trump's impeachment.

The vote by the majority Democratic House is the first time members of Congress have taken a unified stance against the racist postures and outrageous language used by Trump. The Democrats were joined by four Republicans and one Independent in the 240-187 vote.

Civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.) was



Congresswomen Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass); Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.); Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.); and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) at Monday's press conference.

among the members issuing strong rebukes toward to the president from the House floor.

From the standpoint of his civil rights experience, Lewis not only identified the remarks as

U. S. House  
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# Waters to Facebook: "This hearing is only the first step in our oversight and legislative process"



Waters

NNPA Newswire

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, delivered the following opening statement at a full Committee hearing entitled, "Examining Facebook's Proposed Cryptocurrency and Its Impact on Consumers, Investors and the American Financial System."

As prepared for delivery

Today we are here for a hearing on Facebook's proposed digital currency, Libra, and digital wallet, Calibra, and their impacts on consumers, investors and the financial system. Our first witness is David Marcus, Calibra's CEO. Following his testimony, a panel of experts will share their views on Facebook's plans.

I have serious concerns with Facebook's plans to create a digital currency and digital wallet and its efforts to enlist partners that expand its reach, like Mastercard, Paypal, Visa, Uber, Lyft and Spotify. Facebook is apparently trying to create a new global financial system that is intended to rival the U.S. dollar. This venture is slated to be based in Switzerland, which has a history as a monetary haven for criminals and shady corporations. Facebook's plans raise serious privacy, trading, national security and monetary policy concerns, not only for Facebook's over 2 billion users, who will have immediate access to these products, but also for consumers, investors and the global economy.

In addition, Facebook has proposed backing Libra tokens with government currencies and government guaranteed securities, and holding them in a so-called Libra Reserve, to be gov-

erned by Facebook and its partners. Ownership of government assets on such a massive scale without proper oversight threatens to concentrate government influence in the hands of a few elites. Ultimately, if Facebook's plans come to fruition, the company and its partners will wield immense economic power that could destabilize currencies and governments.

Facebook's proposed entry into financial services is all the more troubling because it has already harmed vast numbers of people on a scale similar to Wells Fargo, and demonstrated a pattern of failing to keep consumer data private on a scale similar to Equifax. Facebook remains under a 2011 consent order from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for deceiving consumers and failing to keep consumer data private. In the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which Facebook provided 50 million users' private data to a political consulting firm, the company will reportedly pay a record \$5 billion fine to the FTC for data privacy failures. In addition, Facebook has allegedly: insecurely stored user passwords dating back to 2012; paid unsuspecting teenagers to download spyware; experienced a hack of nearly 50 million accounts; and experienced a software bug that granted third party access to 6.8 million users' photos. It has also been sued by HUD and civil rights groups for violations of the Fair Housing Act in what amounts to modern day redlining. Facebook also allowed malicious Russian state actors to purchase and target ads in a campaign to influence the 2016 election.

I am also concerned

Waters  
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# Visit Jackson welcomes new team members

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Combining a love of community with two-plus decades of background in media, Paul Wolf brings his passion for people and the city to his new role as content marketing manager.

With strengths in writing, news media, voiceover work, photography and design, Wolf is responsible for the bureau's social media, websites and written content creation.

Wolf began his communica-

tion's career at the age of 18 while in college at his school's non-commercial radio station. In the years that followed, he would host numerous radio programs and hold positions as news director and director of

operations for stations across Mississippi.

He has spent the last ten years, alongside his wife, Sophie, building Find It In Fondren® and Explore LeFleur®. The two brands continue to serve the Fondren and LeFleur East communities of Jackson through digital channels.

In addition to his love of travel, Wolf is ever pursuing the next best platter of fried catfish or catching up on television, movies or music.

Originally from Fayette, Miss. (a country girl at heart), Reshonda "Shon" Perryman has created "for as long as I can remember."

As the new creative design manager, Perryman is responsible for the development, design and continuity of Visit Jackson's marketing and sales collateral.

A 2011 Jackson State University graduate with a B.A. in graphic design, Perryman furthered her education at Savannah College of Art and Design, earning a M.F.A. in graphic design in 2014.

Perryman has nine years of design experience, including work for educational and financial institutions, nonprofits, social advocacy, entertainment and more and two years' experience as a design professor. Her passionate, community-centric approach to design can already be felt throughout the office.



Wolf



Perryman

Outside of her creative pursuits, Perryman is always plotting her next laugh, epic sleep session or ziplining adventure.

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## U. S. House

Continued from page 1

racist, but also described the impact of those kinds of words when coming from the president of the United States.

“I rise with a sense of righteous indignation to support this resolution. I know racism when I see it. I know racism when I feel it. And [in] the highest level of government, there’s no room for racism,” Lewis said. “It sows the seeds of violence and destroys the hopes and dreams of people. The world is watching. They are shocked and dismayed because it seems we have lost our way as a nation, as a proud and great people. We are one Congress. And we are here to serve one house, the American House, the American people.”

Trump and the Republican leadership in Congress have defended his words, staunchly claiming that neither he; nor his words are racist. The Trump tweets continued this week, saying “I don’t have a racist bone in my body!” Both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California echoed his denial.

But Lewis, a veteran target of racist language, said the “go back” insult is steeped in white supremacist history from the Civil Rights Movement when segregationists became angry at protestors’ attempts to bring justice.

“As a nation and as a people, we need to go forward and not backward,” Lewis said. “With this vote, we stand with our sisters – three were born in America and one came here looking for a better life. With this vote, we meet our moral obligation to condition hate, racism and bigotry in every form.”

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, avoiding calling Trump himself a racist, declared his words to be “disgraceful and disgusting, and those comments are racist...How shameful to hear him continue to defend those offensive words – words that we have all heard him repeat, not only about our members, but about countless others.”

The stance by the House of Representatives comes at what appears to be a tipping point following a string of shocking statements from Trump as President of the United States during his first three years. Among the most memorable were his statements that a clash between white supremacists and civil rights protestors in Charlottesville had “very fine people on both sides.” He also publicly referred to members of the National Football League protesting police brutality as “sons of b\*\*ches.”

A fight ensued over Pelosi’s use of the word racist. Rep. Douglas A. Collins (R-Ga.) motioned to have her words stricken from the record, a rare move that held up the debate for more than an hour while the House parliamentarian decided whether the use of that particular word violated standards of decorum for the House chamber.

House Parliamentarian Thomas J. Wickham Jr. ruled that Pelosi’s words had indeed violated protocol according to precedent. But – given the anomaly of Trumpism – the Congress overruled the parliamentarian. Trump’s remarks were official condemned as racist.

The four Republicans who voted to condemn were Reps. Will Hurd of Texas, who is the only black Republican in the House; Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania; Susan Brooks of Indiana; and Fred Upton of Michigan. Michigan Independent Rep. Justin Amash, who recently resigned from the Republican Party, also voted for it.

As fellow house members, pundits and political observers defended the four women; they also defended themselves at a news conference on Monday.

Ocasio-Cortez said, “We don’t leave the things that we love, and when we love this country, what that means is that we propose the solutions to fix it.” She said Trump attacks “us personally” because he doesn’t know how to defend his own policies.

Omar said Trump was advocating “the agenda of white nationalists” in his verbal assaults on the four members of Congress, comments during the Charlottesville rally, as well as his verbal assaults on the NFL players and other women of color.

Tlaib repeated her calls for Trump’s impeachment. Pressley only warned her fellow Congressional representatives as well as the general public to not “take the bait” that Trump throws out with his attacks. She indicates that it’s like red meat to fire up his ultra conservative base.

Pelosi, who had been in a rift with the four women, immediately jumped to defend them from the Trump tweets. She tweeted that it is clear that when Trump “tells four American congresswomen to go back to their countries, he reaffirms his plan to ‘Make America Great Again’ has always been about making America white again.” Pelosi concluded, “Our diversity is our strength and our unity is our power.”

## Waters

Continued from page 1

and fear that if these plans go forward, women and minorities and women – and minority-owned businesses may be excluded from participating fully.

In light of these and other concerns, my colleagues and I wrote to Facebook earlier this month to call on it to cease implementation of its plans until regulators and Congress can examine the issues associated with a large technology company developing a digital currency and take action. The Independent Community Bankers of America and others support this commonsense step.

Facebook’s plans also raise larger concerns about Big Tech’s expansion into financial services, as it appears to inappropriately mix commerce and banking activities. So, today we will discuss a draft bill, the Keep Big Tech Out of Finance Act, which would prevent large platform utilities like Facebook from becoming financial institutions and block them from creating their own currencies.

Today’s hearing is only the first step in our oversight and legislative process. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

## Chicago Defender

Continued from page 1

employees of the company took to Twitter last week using the hashtag #EbonyOwes to air their frustrations with the company, as it has fired all of its employees with little to no notice.

According to *USA Today*, members of *Ebony* magazine’s digital team say they’ve been fired and haven’t received their final paychecks in the latest controversy to hit the struggling publication that has chronicled black life in America for decades.

Michael Gibson, co-chairman and founder of Austin, Texas-based Clear View Group, which owns *Ebony*, declined to comment to *USA TODAY* on the digital team’s dismissal, citing a “policy of not commenting on any employment practices or issues.”

The *Chicago Tribune* previously reported how *Ebony* was being pressed by the National Writers Union to pay more than \$200,000 it alleged the magazine owed to freelance writers who contributed stories back in 2017. The drama sparked the hashtag #EbonyOwes on Twitter.

According to a report on Ebony.com, the magazine’s previous owner, Johnson Publishing Co., filed for bankruptcy liquidation in April, which *Ebony* said would not affect its operations.

“EBONY Media Operations, LLC brands, which include *EBONY* magazine, EBONY.com, digital magazine *JET* and jetmag.com and its related businesses, have viably operated independently of Johnson Publishing Company dba/ Fashion Fair Cosmetics (JPC) since black-owned Ebony Media Operations, LLC (EMO) purchased the media assets of JPC in 2016. Black-owned investment firm CVG Group LLC assisted in the formation of EMO,” a statement read. “EMO is unaffected by the Chapter 7 bankruptcy announcement regarding the dissolution of JPC. EMO is not able to comment further and is not familiar with the facts or events of the JPC business.”

The first issue of the iconic magazine hit stands 74 years ago and took the industry by storm. Founded by John H. Johnson in November 1945, the black-owned publication has always strived to address African-American issues, personalities and interests in a positive and self-affirming manner.

Timeless editions of *Ebony* featured some of the biggest stars in black America, including issues covered by Diana Ross, Sidney Poitier, as well as President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama.

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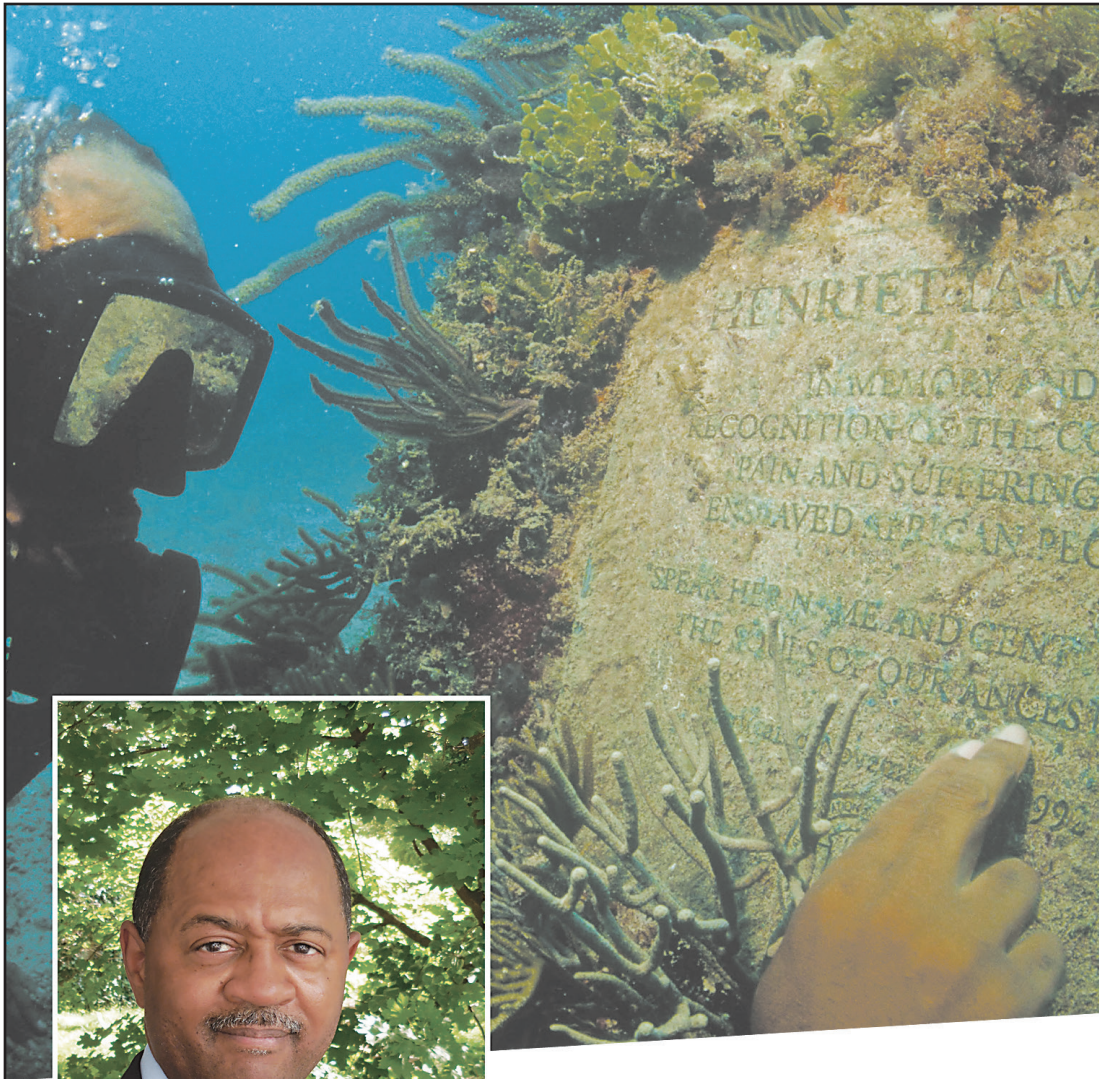
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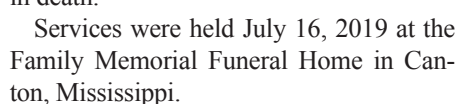


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## Thortis promoted to grants director, Barker named arts-based community development director

Thortis transitioned into her new role at MAC in June while Barker began working at MAC July 8.





# Whitney Jackson chosen as Ridgeland Miss Hospitality

Mississippi Link Newswire

Whitney Jackson will represent the City of Ridgeland in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition July 23-27, 2019 in Hattiesburg, Miss. Jackson is a native Mississippian born and raised in Madison County. She is the daughter of Wesley and Cathey Jackson and has an older brother, Wesley. The family resides in Ridgeland.

Jackson is a graduate of Madison Central High School and Hinds Community College. She currently attends the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg majoring in business entrepreneurship.

While attending Hinds, Jackson was a Dean's Scholar and Phi Theta Kappa inductee. She was a cheerleader her freshman year, a resident advisor and part of the Homecoming Court her sophomore year.

Jackson continues academic success at USM and is active in community service. Her future plans involve owning a business that meets the needs of people who are hurt and mentoring young ladies who dream of owning their own business.

Jackson's hobby is photography. She enjoys seeing nature and people through the lens of a camera. She also enjoys sports and vacationing with family and friends.



Jackson

The Mississippi Miss Hospitality promotes Mississippi's economic development and tourism industries while representing Mississippi with beauty, grace and intelligence.

The Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition is presented by Visit Hattiesburg, Mississippi Development Authority, City of Hattiesburg, Historic Saenger Theater, Forrest General Hospital and University of Southern Mississippi.

The Ridgeland Tourism Com-

mission (Visit Ridgeland) is the official destination marketing organization for the City of Ridgeland.

Visit Ridgeland's mission is to advance the economic vitality of tourism in Ridgeland through the promotion and marketing of leisure and business travel, special events and meetings providing support for the Ridgeland tourism industry and fostering awareness of the industry's significance to enhance the image and recognition of the City of Ridgeland.

# Rho Lambda Omega to host business expo



Mississippi Link Newswire

The Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is hosting an Economic Empowerment Expo August 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Jackson Medical Mall, located at 350 West Woodrow Wilson, Jackson, MS 39213.

The theme is "Economic Empowerment: Connecting the Community to Black-Owned Businesses" and will feature shopping with various vendors, startup business workshops, financial literacy activities for young adults, health screenings, a kid's zone area, an HBCU review, food trucks, door prizes and more. The expo is free and open to the public.

The expo is a part of Alpha

Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated's target program, "Building Your Economic Legacy." This initiative "highlights and promotes successful African-American owned businesses with an aim toward spawning new entrepreneurial ventures in our communities by encouraging intentional support and leveraging the power of the black dollar 365 days a year."

The inaugural expo is in collaboration with the Ebony Pearls Foundation and is partly sponsored by Liberty Bank and Terry's Installation.

For more information on the expo, contact Mechelle Green at [economiclegacyrlo@gmail.com](mailto:economiclegacyrlo@gmail.com).

For more information on Rho

Lambda Omega Chapter and its activities, contact Dr. Kimberly Smith Russ, chapter president, at 601 918- 5605 or [president@rlo.org](mailto:president@rlo.org).

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. The sorority has flourished into a globally-impactful organization of nearly 300,000 college-trained members in more than 1,000 chapters in the United States, Liberia, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, South Africa, and the Middle East.



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# Alvin Edney II learns valuable agricultural skills during internship with The U. S. Department of Agriculture

Mississippi Link Newswire

A sophomore student-athlete at Alcorn State University took time this summer to enhance his skills in agricultural science.

Alvin Edney II, a general agriculture major and Braves football player from Brandon, Mississippi, is interning with The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Stoneville, Mississippi. While there, Edney has shadowed seasoned veterans who work in the USDA’s Crop Genetics Research Unit. The lab consists of procedures such as analyzing soybeans to evaluate grain nutrition that includes protein, oil, fatty acids, sugars and amino acids.

The internship has given Edney a glimpse into what can be his future career path. So far, he’s enjoyed his time with the company.

“My experience has been incredible,” said Edney. “I’ve had the privilege of meeting tons of inspiring people that help me to learn new things each day. For the past few months, I’ve been learning so many procedures that are followed by farmers and scientists to get products from crop fields to local grocery stores.”

Spending the summer around professionals in agriculture has



Edney

been enriching for Edney. He has learned new skills that he can apply to his education and future career.

“We evaluate developed varieties of different traits to inves-

tigate their performance in yield and nutrition. The fieldwork focuses on field management. After learning to distinguish weeds from crops, my job is to remove them from our plots. Maintain-

ing our fields also requires me to take soil and leaf samples for tests that will be conducted in the lab to evaluate the health of the crop.”

One of Edney’s most memorable highlights came when the company went to Promise Christian Academy to conduct science experiments for young students. Interacting with the children and seeing their interest in science inspires Edney to encourage students to pursue scientific careers in agriculture.

“It was a simple Coca-Cola and Mentos reaction, but you wouldn’t have known that based off the kids’ excitement during our demonstration. It inspired me to see how excited they were when the Coke shot into the air. That moment made me realize that I could influence the students to be future technicians or scientists. I am forever thankful for this opportunity.”

Edney credits this opportunity for growing his work ethic.

“Working and living in the Delta has taught me more about myself and my work ethic by being around people who don’t stop until the job is done. Watching their consistent dedication had a positive impact on me. It has given me insight into the type of person I want to be.”

# ASU Ag Extension hosts Ag-Olympics Summer Camp for local youth

Mississippi Link Newswire

Parents can now enroll their children in the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences’ Ag-Olympics Summer Camp slated to be held July 22 - 26 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Alcorn’s main campus. This 5-day health and wellness camp aims to expose children ages 10-14 to the benefits of physical fitness and nutrition. The program has a maximum of 25 slots and the cost is \$100 per participant.

Ag-Olympics falls under the “Get Up – Get Active – Get Fit” initiative, which was designed to inspire and motivate individuals to improve their quality of life and to develop healthier lifestyles.

The Alcorn State University Extension Program will collaborate with the Department of Human Sciences to bring students from the local rural communities an exceptional learning experience. A primary goal for the camp is to introduce students to more nontraditional sports such as tennis, golf, soccer and volleyball. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will have gained leadership and social skills as well as learned about more innovative ways to earn scholarships and further their education.

Lunch will be provided daily by Sodexo Dining Services.

Students are encouraged to come prepared each day with the proper athletic wear.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Ford, project field coordinator, at 601 597.9241 or [jford@alcorn.edu](mailto:jford@alcorn.edu).



# Shears promoted to associate vice president for Student Success at Jackson State University

Mississippi Link Newswire

An Alcorn State University alumnus with a proven track record of success has earned a promotion for his commitment to education.

Mitchell Shears, who earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mass communication (1999) and elementary education (2001), began his new role as associate vice president for Student Success at Jackson State University.

The new role puts Shears in position to lead a team that is focused on the betterment of JSU’s student body.

“I see this chapter as an oppor-

tunity to create programs and initiatives consistent with the institution’s strategic plan,” said Shears. “This is a unique chapter that will allow us to focus on creating a robust system that provides a clear roadmap for student success with someone monitoring their progress and offering intentional support services to ensure their success.”

Along with his latest appointment, Shears will remain the school’s executive director of Title III, a role he’s held since October 2017.

Before his transition to JSU, he served as an academic dean and executive director of Title III and

Sponsored Grants at Hinds Community College in Utica, Mississippi.

Shears’ hard work and ability to lead caught the attention of officials at JSU, which led to his promotion. In every initiative, Shears makes it a goal to do exceptional work that will lay a path for his future.

“I’ve always believed that every day I’m preparing for a new role in the future. Therefore, I do my best to be a good follower by believing in and implementing the vision of leadership. This perspective has allowed me to be elevated throughout my career.”

Helping students to reach their potential is a priority for Shears, which is why he plans to be relentless in creating ways that prepare students for graduation and beyond.

“This new chapter is not about me, and how I feel, rather it is an opportunity to impact the lives of students and their families. I want to have an impact on the lives of students by creating safe spaces to retain students. The ultimate goal is to put groundbreaking initiatives in place that will equip students to receive a bachelor’s degree and pursue graduate school or the workforce.”



Shears

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## Jackson Academy student John Wicks named MCM June Volunteer of the Month



Wicks

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Jackson Academy Student John Wicks has been named “Volunteer of the Month” for June at the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM).

MCM Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Griffin recalls Wicks’ first week volunteering at the museum: “A guest approached a staff member to show her appreciation for how John had interacted with her child with autism. This parent was so pleased and wanted a member of management to know how grateful she was for his thoughtful engagement with her child.”

When considering volunteer opportunities, Wicks let his joy for working with children lead him and ultimately decided to pursue

volunteering with MCM. “I’ve really enjoyed getting to know the other volunteers and interacting with the children at MCM,” says Wicks. “I’ve assisted with activities throughout the museum – I especially like the Run, Jump and Stick, Spin Art and Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood exhibits.”

When asked why he thinks volunteerism is important, Wicks said, “Volunteering gives me the opportunity to serve my community, while having fun at the same time.”

MCM is honored to have young people like Wicks assisting us as volunteers and role models.

*To find out more about volunteering at MCM, please visit our website at [www.ms-childrensmuseum.org](http://www.ms-childrensmuseum.org).*

## USM selected to lead Oyster Aquaculture Consortium

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is funding a research consortium led by The University of Southern Mississippi’s (USM) Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center (TCMAC) that addresses needs surrounding oyster aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico.

“We are excited to lead this collaborative effort to develop solutions for the oyster industry in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Dr. Gordon Cannon, USM’s vice president for research. “This research dovetails nicely with the dedicated oyster hatchery and research center under renovation at The Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center and our work to provide oyster larvae to support the state’s restoration activities.”

TCMAC is set to specifically lead the Gulf of Mexico Oyster Genetics and Breeding Research Consortium SALT (Selection of Aquaculture lines with improved Traits) Project. Eric Saillant, associate professor in the School of Ocean Science and Engineering at USM’s Gulf Coast Research laboratory, will lead the research project.

The creation of the consortium began as Congress recognized the oyster farming industry is composed of hundreds of small farmers who are unable to fund critical research in the fields of oyster disease, food safety, technology development, warming waters and ocean acidification.



“Continued research in oyster genetics and breeding is critical to the sustainability of the Gulf oyster industry,” said Dave Donaldson, executive director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. “The commission is pleased to continue our long-term relationship with USM’s Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center in addressing these important issues.”

To improve coordination and consistency, they directed NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Aquaculture to find ways to engage and partner with industry, academic institutions and states to conduct collaborative research to address the challenges facing this growing industry.

“This is a wonderful ex-

ample of USM’s collaborative efforts to work with industry to leverage University-based research expertise to find solutions that advance the oyster industry and promote sustainable marine aquaculture,” Cannon said.

The scientific bodies included in this project are Auburn University, The University of Florida, Texas A&M University, 4Cs Breeding Technology, INC and a Business Advisory Council comprised of representatives from all five Gulf States. The grant is for five years with funding provided on a year-to-year basis. The first year of funding is \$834,733.

The consortium priorities include implementing genetic selection programs for local stocks to improve production

performance and developing disease or water quality resistant oyster stocks by developing a breeding program focused on critical traits to the industry including disease resistance and product quality traits. The project will produce three lines for each member state bred for improved performance in high, medium and low salinity environments compatible with a broad range of local sites across the Gulf of Mexico.

“This collaborative research offers a unique opportunity to work with a great team of research scientists and industry partners to advance oyster aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Kelly Lucas, director of the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Research Center.

## Hinds CC Utica student named HBCU Competitiveness Scholar

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Hinds Community College Utica Campus sophomore Adrianna Chambers can now count herself among a select group of high-achieving people chosen by the nation’s highest office.

Chambers, a Jackson native, is among 44 students from the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) named a top achiever by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As part of the honor, Chambers, who is studying biology and will pursue medical school, will participate in the 2019 National HBCU Week Conference Sept. 8-11 in Washington, D.C.

Thirty-four HBCUs nationwide are represented on this year’s list, comprised of undergraduate, graduate and professional students. All are recognized for their accomplishments in academics, leadership and civic engagement.

Chambers was inducted into the Alpha Beta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on campus and is part of the campus’ Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics Undergraduate Program (STEM-UP) Academy. She is also secretary of the William H. Holtzclaw History Club and editor of the Utcianite yearbook.

“I was a little shocked when I first found out about the honor, since many of my friends were also nominated,” Chambers said. “But, it’s a great opportunity for me to branch out by myself and meet new people who might eventually help me in my career. Coming to Hinds has been the best decision I’ve ever made. It’s given me more time to interact with teachers and other students.”

Scholars were selected from among several highly distinguished



Chambers

HBCU students chosen based on their academic achievement, campus and civic involvement and entrepreneurial ethos or “go-getter” spirit. In the course of their one-year term, Competitiveness Scholars will learn and share proven and promising practices that support individual and institutional achievement, with the goal of strengthening prospects for career and life success.

“I am extremely excited to hear of Adrianna’s selection for the 2019 HBCU Competitiveness Scholars initiative,” said Jonathan Townes, assistant director of Sponsored Grants for the Utica Campus. “Ms. Chambers continues to strive for excellence inside the classroom and consistently provides service outside of the classroom. I am certain that she will use this opportunity to not only grow as

a student but to guide current and future Hinds students to success.”

Chambers’ participation in this fall’s White House Initiative should prove to develop her abilities on top of what she’s already doing in school, said Noel Gardner, her chemistry instructor and adviser.

“I know firsthand of her work ethic, goals, aspirations and her charismatic personality,” Gardner said. “I know she will use this opportunity to reach her full potential and to help others reach theirs.”

In addition to attending the conference, Chambers and other all-stars will take part in workshops designed to strengthen leadership skills and encourage them to seek ongoing personal and professional development opportunities in innovation and entrepreneurship.

## DSU receives Paleontological Society Outreach and Education Grant for K-12 activities in the Mississippi Delta

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Delta State University biologists Nina Baghai-Riding and Robert Kagumba received an Outreach and Education Grant from the international Paleontological Society for “Improving Scientific Education in the Mississippi Delta through Paleontology,” a series of free workshops and fieldtrips for K-12 students and teachers in the region.

“These grants are highly competitive. Only about six are awarded each year,” said Professor Baghai-Riding. “Northern and central Mississippi contain an abundance of paleontological resources, and the grant will allow us to lead explorations in fossilization, geological time, climate change and paleoecology of past ecosystems.”

The opportunity also helps fulfill State of Mississippi learning objectives, added Assistant Professor Kagumba: “exploring sites of paleontological significance; becoming engaged in experiential learning; experiencing fossil collecting; understanding geological marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems; and recording scientific observations.”

One-day field trips throughout the fall 2019 semester will focus on vertebrates, invertebrates and plant fossils in a specific part of Mississippi within a 150-mile radius of Delta State – for instance, at the Mississippi Petrified Forest in Flora and Mississippi Museum of Natural History in Jackson August 24 and at Nonconah Creek along the Mississippi/Tennessee border and the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis, Tenn., September 28. Another excursion is being finalized. There also will be a one-day paleontological workshop at Delta

State November 2.

Collaborators include Bolivar County 4-H members, research paleontologists associated with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the University of Memphis, members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society and DSU biological education and environmental science students.

There is room for 25 6th-12th grade Mississippi Delta students and five corresponding K-12 science teachers. The deadline to reserve a space is August 20.

*For more information, email Baghai-Riding at [nbaghai@deltastate.edu](mailto:nbaghai@deltastate.edu). Contact Barbara Knight, senior secretary of biological sciences, via email at [bknight@deltastate.edu](mailto:bknight@deltastate.edu), or phone 662 846-4240.*

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

In addition, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing and education, among other areas.



# College of Business student selected as recipient of 2019 US SIF Peter DeSimone Scholarship

# Duckett serves as conductor of 'Orquesta Sinfonica de Falcon' in Venezuela

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Duckett has been at JSU since 2014. "I love teaching. I love being able to share with students my experiences. I like watching students grow. I enjoy watching the evolution from when they enter school and whom they become when they

“For students aspiring to attain this scholarship, simply express your passion for impact in the areas of environmental, societal or corporate governance. If you desire to help make a change, than this is definitely the opportunity



# Reunion Golf & Country Club's Clubhouse named "Clubhouse Of The Year" By Golf Inc. magazine

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Reunion Golf & Country Club's spectacular new 33,000 square-foot clubhouse has been named the "Clubhouse of the Year - Top New Private Clubhouse" by *Golf Inc.* magazine, the world's only magazine for golf course developers, owners and management company executives. The \$16 million clubhouse opened in August 2018 and is the newest luxury amenity to be added to the 2,100-acre private golf community located in Madison, Miss.

"To be named Golf Inc.'s best 'Clubhouse of the Year' for private clubs is a tremendous honor," said Casey Smith, general manager, Reunion Golf & Country Club. "The interior design team of Cindy Anderson from Troon, Kristie Nutt and Phyllis Doby produced incredible results that truly set us apart as one of the best clubs in the country. The efforts of our contractor, White Construction along with the guidance of Reunion president, Ernie Coward, and vice president, Keith Kent, were tremendous and second to none. Everyone involved was able to take the incredible vision of Kristie and David Nutt and turn it into an award-winning reality."

*Golf Inc.* magazine annually recognizes top public and private, new and remodeled clubhouses in their July/August issue. In 2019, a total of nine new public and private



clubhouses were honored by the industry-leading publication, with Reunion's clubhouse named the best-of-the-best for private clubs.

"The clubhouse is inviting from all angles," commented one of the Golf Inc. Clubhouse of the Year judges. "The outdoor space is perfect for a multitude of events and the interiors are a homerun; classic design without being overstated."

The clubhouse exterior was inspired by a home on the Reunion property, which current-

ly serves as the development's welcome center. Originally built in 1859, the Italianate-style home was destroyed by fire in 1924, but was later rebuilt. The clubhouse's distinctive wrap-around porch provides scenic views of the club's golf course, lakes and the property's wooded acreage, while also providing additional event space for club gatherings.

The interior of the clubhouse features three unique dining options for members, including a distinctive bar experience. The restaurants are

uniquely positioned with Ella Jane's Pizza Pub offering a casual, family-friendly atmosphere and Kristie's offering a more formal, yet comfortable a la carte dining experience. The Henry is a fun and sophisticated bar that features an incredible wine cellar, the finest whiskey and scotch selections along with a variety of craft beers on tap, paired with a small plate, tapas-style menu.

In addition, Reunion is now a premiere wedding and special event venue, as the ballroom can accommodate up to

500 guests or can be sectioned off for any size group.

The outdoor lounging and dining spaces around the clubhouse are enhanced with comfortable furnishings, modern fire pits and unique light fixtures to blend indoor and outdoor transitions.

The clubhouse complements Reunion Golf & Country Club's award-winning Bob Cupp-designed 18-hole golf course. The 7,400-yard course takes advantage of the property's wooded acreage with a well-balanced mix of straight

holes and challenging doglegs. Open since 2004 and named one of the top golf courses in Mississippi by Golf Digest, the course is set on the former site of the Ingleside Plantation with roots preceding the Civil War.

The Reunion community has numerous amenities, including 400 acres of lakes, a white sandy beach, a full-service country club, a Junior Olympic-size swimming pool, a tennis complex, miles of hiking and biking paths and an equestrian center.

The club's fitness center is currently being expanded to 6,000 square feet. When completed in the spring of 2020, the fitness center will feature all new equipment, expert personal trainers and dedicated space for spin, individual and group Pilates Reformer classes and group fitness instruction.

The community is located within the city limits of Madison, five miles from Interstate 55 and 10 miles from Jackson. The 2,100-acre residential community currently features 800 homes with more than 1,700 homes planned.

Reunion Golf & Country Club is a Troon Privé club of distinction and professionally managed by Troon's Honours Golf Division.

For more information on Reunion Golf & Country Club, visit [www.reuniongolfandcc.com](http://www.reuniongolfandcc.com), [www.reunionms.com](http://www.reunionms.com), or call 601 605-8784.

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## Smithsonian traveling exhibition highlighting Changing Landscape of Rural America coming to Miss.



*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street, in cooperation with the Mississippi Humanities Council, presents "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." The exhibition examining the evolving landscape of rural America arrives in Mississippi September 2020. "Crossroads" will be in Mississippi through June 2021.

"Crossroads" explores how rural American communities changed in the 20th century. From sea to shining sea, the vast majority of the United States landscape remains rural with only 3.5% of the landmass considered urban. Since 1900, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas dropped from 60% to 17%. The exhibition looks at that remarkable societal change and how rural Americans responded.

Americans have relied on rural crossroads for generations. These places where people gather to exchange goods, services and culture and to engage in political and commu-

nity discussions are an important part of our cultural fabric. Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America's small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.

"Crossroads" allows us to reflect on Mississippi's history, present and future, and we are excited to explore what the future may hold for communities around our state," said Caroline Gillespie, Crossroads state coordinator. "We want to convene conversations about what makes each of these communities unique, the challenges they face and how they are navigating their futures."

Six communities around the state will be selected to host the exhibition free of charge. Potential host sites are invited to apply through September 30, 2019 to host the exhibition, which will arrive in the state September 2020.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, "Crossroads"

will serve as a community meeting place for conversations about how rural America has changed. With the support and guidance of the Mississippi Humanities Council, these towns will develop complementary exhibits, host public programs and facilitate educational initiatives to raise people's understanding about their own history, the joys and challenges of living rural, how change has impacted their community and prompt discussion of goals for the future.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation and local host institutions.

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress.

To learn more about "Crossroads" and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org), contact Caroline Gillespie or visit [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org).





# The Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA): providing opportunities



By **Stacy M. Brown**  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*

The Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA), a statewide trade association representing every facet of the Texas oil and natural gas industry including small independents and major producers, has for 100 years lived up to its mission of promoting a robust oil and natural gas industry while advocating for sound, science-based policies and free-market principles.

Today, the association says that all 10 sectors of the Texas oil and natural gas industry – from production, to pipelines to refineries – supported 348,570 direct jobs last year.

Those workers earned an average of about \$130,000 a year – which was 2.3 times the average pay in other private sectors.

It's those facts that underscore why many – including African Americans and Latinos – are turning to the oil and natural gas industry for careers they know will pay family-sustaining wages.

Nearly 1.3 million job opportunities are projected in the oil and natural gas and petrochemical industries through 2030, and minority workers represent a critically vital and available talent pool to help meet the demands of the projected growth and expansion, according to the American Petroleum Institute (API), the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry.

The industry continuously seeks ways to better diversify its employment makeup, TXOGA said.

The increased implementation of diversity and inclusion programs explain why nationally, African-American and Hispanic workers are projected to account for close to 25 percent of new hires in management, business and financial jobs through 2035.

"The oil and natural gas industry provides some of the most high-paying, desirable jobs that offer great benefits and the opportunity to make a difference, and the employees of the Texas oil and natural gas industry are making life better for people here and across the world," said TXOGA President Todd Staples.

"Many may not know the level of technological innovation and sophistication of the industry or

the fact that oil and natural gas impacts nearly every aspect of modern life," Staples said.

"Oil and natural gas are the building blocks of 96% of the everyday essentials we use. From cell phones and computers, to cosmetics and clothing, to medical devices and contact lenses, the list is lengthy," Staples said.

"Ingenuity and innovation are increasing efficiency and companies are investing billions of dollars in advanced technologies that are protecting and improving our environment and, with expanded exports of LNG, other countries are improving their air by using more natural gas for electricity," he said.

But the industry isn't just made up of the engineers who help make these accomplishments possible. The job opportunities vary widely and require diverse backgrounds including attorneys, architects, truck drivers, welders, carpenters, accountants and human resources specialists, to name a few.

"Whether you specialize in business development, chemistry, construction or public relations, there's an opportunity for almost every type of background in the oil and natural gas industry," Staples said.

Collectively, the membership of TXOGA produces in excess of 90 percent of Texas' crude oil and natural gas, operates over 80 percent of the state's refining capacity, and is responsible for the vast majority of the state's pipelines.

In fiscal year 2018, the oil and natural gas industry paid just over \$14 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties, funding Texas schools, roads and first responders.

Lee Warren of Marathon Oil, an independent global energy company specializing in exploration and production and a member company of TXOGA, said diversity of background, experiences and thought among the workforce is critical to their success.

Warren said the percentage of minorities among their total staff increased to 33.3% in 2018, and Marathon Oil will continue to focus on ways to improve those metrics even more in the future.

"Many Marathon Oil jobs, including the majority of our leadership positions, require a degree in science, technology, engineer-

ing and math (STEM) subjects," Warren said.

"We broaden the pool of diverse job candidates by reaching out to local student chapters of the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, LGBTQ Engineers and other organizations. We also use digital methods to recruit at approximately 17 universities to reach diverse job candidates," she said.

The company also awards scholarships to increase the number of qualified diverse hires in the U.S.

In 2018, Marathon Oil funded college scholarships totaling \$280,000 for students to study core disciplines and that included approximately \$150,000 for diverse students with a record of academic excellence studying engineering and geosciences at the University of Texas, Texas A&M University and the University of Houston.

In addition to college recruiting, Marathon Oil continues to look for ways to hire, retain and promote more women and under-represented minorities.

Marathon Oil partners with organizations such as Women in Energy, Pink Petro, Hispanic Alliance for Career Advancement (HACE) and Human Rights Campaign to make their members aware of career opportunities with Marathon Oil, Warren said.

"These relationships also give our employees networking and professional development opportunities. For example, we hosted the 2018 Mujeres de HACE Leadership Program and 2019 HACE Executive Leadership tour, where several Marathon Oil Hispanic leaders were among a diverse group that participated in leadership and career development conversations," Warren said.

"Additionally, when two of our senior executives were recognized as *Savoy Magazine's* Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America in 2018, it created ongoing career development and professional networking opportunities for our African-American employees. Marathon Oil employees also attended an African-American Executive Leadership Council event," she said.

Further, Texas energy producers are fueling education with oil and natural gas industry dollars – the state received about \$2 billion in royalties in 2018 – paid into Texas' Permanent School Fund and Permanent University Fund.

The Permanent School Fund has reached a new high of \$44 billion and is the largest educational endowment in America, according to officials.

The Texas energy industry also pays property taxes to independent school districts, accounting for billions of dollars each year for public schools in the state.

In some communities, the oil and natural gas share of the school district's tax base tops 70, 80 and even 90 percent, according to data released annually by TXOGA.

The energy community also is cultivating the next generation of STEM graduates and skilled workers with innovative education programs and productive partnerships with some of Texas' leading colleges and universities, TXOGA officials said.

Jobs that require STEM skills and training currently comprise 20 percent of all jobs in the U.S. economy, according to API.

Current projections anticipate that the STEM economy will grow about 9 percent between 2014 and 2024 – faster than the growth rate projected for all other occupations.

As an industry that supports 7.6 percent of the U.S. economy and 10.3 million American jobs, many of which are STEM jobs, the oil and natural gas industry has a great interest in better understanding and promoting the relationship between STEM education and employment, officials said.

In addition to the millions of jobs already supported by the industry, IHS projects that through 2035 nearly 1.9 million direct job opportunities will be available in the oil and natural gas and petrochemical industries.

"These achievements and opportunities represent more than bragging rights," Staples said.

"The women and men who work in the Texas oil and natural gas industry are growing our economy, funding our schools, building our roads, and most importantly, they're securing our future," he said.

# Innocence Project: 2018 was record year for exonerations



Counts



Alexander

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

The Innocence Project reported in the most recent issue of its magazine that a record nine clients were exonerated and released from prison in 2018 for crimes they did not commit.

Maddy deLone, the Innocence Project's executive director, wrote in the Spring 2019 issue of "The Innocence Project in Print" that the nine exonerations were the most at one time in Innocence Project's 26-year history.

Exonerations continued into 2019 with three more men being released from prison for crimes they didn't commit. The incarcerations took a problematic toll on the 12 men who were locked behind bars for a total of nearly 300 years.

Gregory Counts, one of the exonerated said, "I went to jail when I was 19. I did 26 years – over half of my life in jail. I need to see the world."

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. vacated rape, sodomy and kidnapping charges against Counts after a woman who claimed she was the victim admitted to lying. Semen and other physical evidence eliminated Counts as a suspect.

Malcolm Alexander, another exoneree, said, "freedom is a new life. It's like being reborn. It's giving me a chance to live a life I had been denied."

The Innocence Project determined Alexander's attorney was incompetent. Genetic testing eventually eliminated him as the rape suspect. He left prison with a smile on his face and his black pet Labrador Retriever named "Innocent."

In another matter, New York created the first ever statewide commission to study prosecutorial misconduct, failure to disclose exculpatory evidence or discrimination in jury selection.

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# Refuse to be discouraged

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



Have others seen a difference in your life since you have gotten saved? Can they hear a different talk coming from you or do they hear the same worldly conversations coming from your mouth? Do you still go to the same sinful places that you went to before you were saved? If you are truly saved, you do not go to those places anymore and you do not talk as you once did. Why? Because you do not want to do anything that would hurt or displease the Lord.

What about your worldly friends? Dear ones, when you get saved, you cannot keep company with them, listen to their foul language, nor go bar hopping with them and expect to stay saved. Many of those so-called friends will only be there as long as your money is there. When your money runs out, so will your so-called

friends.

As the Lord looks down in your heart, what does He sees? Does He see a heart full of envy? Do you have hatred in your heart against your brother or sister? Do you have bitterness toward your pastor? Those things will bar you from entering the gates of Heaven.

Sad to say, many people are walking around today with these spiritual diseases in their hearts, but the enemy has deceived them into thinking that they are getting along fine. Some will tell you one thing to your face and knife you in the back, so to speak, when you are gone. That spirit is not of God.

Romans 5:1-5 reads: “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and

experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

As Paul states clearly in 1 Corinthians 13:13, faith, hope and love are at the heart of the Christian life. Our relationship begins with faith, which helps us realize that we are delivered from our past by Christ’s death. Hope grows as we learn all that God has in mind for us: it gives us the promise of the future. Then, God’s love fills our lives and gives us the ability to reach out to others.

I am so glad that I have found the wonderful peace given by God. When the world looks bleak, the Christian can have peace every day of the year. When you are living in sin, you cannot have peace. You may think you do, but when you lay your head on your pillow at night, you do not. You toss and turn because you do not have that deep, settled peace. The peace that God gives goes further than you could ever re-

alize. We read in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” With these words, Jesus told His disciples to take courage in spite of the inevitable struggles they would face, they would not be alone.

Jesus does not abandon us to our struggles either. If you remember that the ultimate victory has already been won, you can claim the peace of Christ in the most troublesome times.

Discouragement leads to doubts and fears. Your doubts and fears can affect others. Do not allow others to get you down. Let others see a difference in your life. It is amazing what God can do if you let Him take control.

*Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynea Road Church of God, 31 Joynea 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

## Becoming a fruit inspector

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



It was one of the most shameful pictures I’ve seen of a Christian... ever. I’m not talking about a pastor being caught in a compromising position doing illegal drugs or cheating. I’m talking about the recent picture of Vice President Mike Pence at one of the migrant detention centers in Texas. Pence had his arms crossed and the disturbing expression on his face was cold and emotionless.

He and a few Republican Senators were on a tour of the facility and were looking at the immigrant men caged in overcrowded conditions as if they were animals in a zoo. What was most disgraceful is that Pence swaddles himself in Christian faith but seemed to offer no Christlike love or compassion to the men. The videos and photos released of the visit showed Pence offering no prayers or words of encouragement to the men who were obviously in emotional and physical distress.

Considering the current chaotic political environment in the United States, how do those of us who are Christians choose to sit by and say nothing when injustices like these are supported by “Christians” like Pence and others?

There are many scriptures that talk about the hypocrisy of religious leaders mistreating people. For example, in Luke 11:42 Jesus says, “What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.” This scripture implies following religious rules is not all that God wants us to focus on. These words remind us that being fair and


showing His love to others is more important.

It saddens me that Christianity has been hijacked by some who claim to support life but actually take actions that show apathy and, in some cases, hostility to others. As a result, Christianity is now perceived by some as a religion of cruel disdain and bigoted judgement.

It seems the words of 1 Corinthians 5:18-19 have been forgotten: “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation...” The growing public backlash against the treatment of those being detained at the migrant detention centers indicate that there are some who understand and are passionate about not just the gospel of salvation but also about this gospel of reconciliation.

Many evangelical Christians proudly voted based on a superficial display of religiosity and promises of a renewal of moral values. The shameful behavior of the current presidential administration shows the consequences of voting based on those criteria and not for those who pass the “fruit inspection.” Instead, we should strive to support elected officials and candidates who exemplify the words of Galatians 5:22: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”

*Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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## A man of many descriptions

By E. Faye Williams  
*Trice Edney Newswire*



Most of us are known by a first name, maybe a middle name and a last name, but the current occupant of the White House has been “blessed” with so many names.

His most recent description came from the United Kingdom’s ambassador who said exactly what he was thinking (and what is rumored to be said in many circles by other diplomats). He described Trump as “inept,” “insecure,” incompetent.” As if that were not enough, his good friend Lindsey Graham sized him up in 2015 and said, “He’s a race baiting, xenophobic bigot” but Lindsey has since fallen in love with him and he can do no wrong in Lindsey’s eyes.

I won’t say who did it, but I just heard him referred to as a “jerk.” Rex Tillerson is rumored to have called him a “moron.”

Ben Parker and Stephanie Steinbrecher referred in “Lest we forget the horrors, a catalog of Trumps worst cruelties, collusions, corruptions and crimes and named the following when referring to Trump: sexual misconduct, harassment and white supremacy. Many reporters have called out Trump’s more than 10,000 lies – so that would qualify him for another name – liar.

In a conversation with a child molester, he was heard saying Jeffrey Epstein likes beautiful women as he does, and on the younger side. I guess that raises the question about whether he’s a child molester, too. He’s been called “draft dodger” who claimed to have had bone spurs, but can’t remember on which foot when asked.

In court documents in 2016, he was accused of being a “sexual assaulter, harasser and groper.” A former beauty queen called him a “sexual harasser.” Another one said he was guilty of “sexual misconduct.” Lately a very credible accuser has called him a rapist who raped her in a store.

Trump admitted in the Billy Bush tape to being a “grabber” of women’s genitals and claimed “I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star, they let you do it, you can do anything to them....” He admitted to being a predator who walks into women’s dressing rooms at beauty contests because as owner he can get away with it. Someone referred to him as a the “Diet Coke-swilling television-addicted ... golf aficionado.”

It gets worse. Some further remarks from UK’s ambassador were “We don’t really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction driven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept.” He was right and we are told many more diplomats feel the same way.

I’m not making this up. He’s been called an “idiot man-child.” “Global buffoon” has been used, too. After Barack Obama became president, many children wanted to be president. Since Trump has been around, I never hear those words.

He’s been called “jailer of children at the border.” He’s been called “liar” over 10,000 times. When he went to the United Nations to brag about great things he’s done, many diplomats laughed out loud at him.

He’s been called cheater on his wives, climate denier, grievance-based person. He’s been classified as having the abilities of a child as low as kindergarten. So many people from around the world have given him well-deserved less-than-flattering assessments. We know he claims to be the best and only one who ever did many things. I can easily add that he’s the only president who has gotten away with so much shameful behavior.

When will more people say, “I’ve had enough? Trump must be impeached now.” Otherwise, stop telling the people that no one is above the law. Trump has violated so many laws that no one is surprised when he violates another one.

*Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM 89.3 in Washington, D.C.*

## Color blindness is impossible in the United States

By A. Peter Bailey  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*



Recently, while shopping in an Ethiopian-owned store in my Washington D.C neighborhood, I witnessed a verbal confrontation between an African-American woman and the Ethiopian sales clerk. She was very upset that on a previous visit to the facility he had told her that her credit was no good. What really set her off was the fact that she did that “in front of white people.” His response was “I am color blind. I am Ethiopian.”

I had listened quietly to their exchange until he said that. In a calm voice I told the brother that it’s impossible to be color blind in the United States of America. One may

try very hard to ignore color in this country, but one can’t be color blind. I told him that when a white person first sees him in this white supremacist society, they don’t see an African or African-American; he or she sees a black man. After hearing you they may make a distinction but their initial reaction is “that’s a black man.” With that I left the store and assumed he and the woman continued the confrontation.

The mistake made by that young Ethiopian is one made by many African immigrants to this country and also by way too many black people born and raised here. They mistakenly believe that the whites they see and deal with in urban areas are the real white Americans. They spend time in New York City, Washington D.C, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta

and open such urban centers when the white smile, say hello, address them as Mr. and Mrs. Sir and Madam, even if in a patronizing manner, are a prime example of a changed color blind America. My response is that those who share such a belief should leave the urban centers and visit Nebraska, Iowa, Vermont, Kentucky, Kansan, Wyoming, Arkansas etc. That’s when they’ll see the essence of white America.

If I had the money, I’d pay for them to travel from Washington to California by train to experience what this country is all about when it comes to black folks. His awareness of that America is why Number 45 (aka) Donald. J. Trump is president of the United States today. He mostly ignored the large urban centers, while focusing on white people throughout

the country who basically believe that black people whether African immigrant or born here should be grateful that they are allowed to be here at all.

Unfortunately, for us as people of African descent, a whole lot of us believe that we should keep our mouths shut, make as much money as whites will allow us to make and be grateful like they want us to be.

Their position brings to mind a survey on what constitutes racial integration made by a University of Michigan professor in the 1990’s: Black folks said 50 percent black, 50 percent white with a black or white person in charge. Whites said one black person for every 15 whites with a white person always in charge. That is why it is impossible to be color blind in the U.S.

## Poverty and the fallacy of long-term economic greatness

By Julianne Malveaux  
*NNPA News Wire Columnist*



The first week of July produced a somewhat positive Employment Situation report. While the unemployment rate ticked up just a bit, about 224,000 new jobs were created, nearly three times as many as were created in the tepid previous month. There was, of course, the administration crowing about the strength of the economy, and with wage growth on the rise, an impassioned outsider might agree that the US economy is doing well.

But too many aren’t doing as well as they might, and too many, even with wage growth, aren’t making enough money to live on. Rev. William Barber’s Poor People’s Campaign says that more than 140 million people are living in poverty or near-poverty, nearly 100 million more than the Census suggests. Indeed, the very existence of a Poor People’s Campaign, 51 years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. launched his initial assault on poverty, speaks volumes about the status of our economy.

Poor people have been the volleyball in a partisan net game, with some simply ignoring the realities of poverty, and others vilifying the poor for their poverty. These are the folks

who will tell you that the economy has never been better, ignoring the fact that at least 40 percent (and perhaps as many as 60 percent) have not benefitted from economic expansion. The average family has yet to recover from the Great Recession. Many have financed their survival with credit cards, and between student loans and consumer credit, our nation’s households are \$13.7 trillion in debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank, 40 percent of our nation’s families can’t manage a \$400 emergency.

Half of all jobs in this country pay \$18.58 per hour or less. How stable is an economy that pays people so little? Fully a third of all jobs pay less than the \$15 an hour, many legislators want to pay all workers. The minimum wage, at \$7.25, has not increased in a decade, even as the economy expanded, productivity has risen, stock market indices are at an all-time high, and we have a president who crows about economic expansion without paying attention to those on the bottom.

Macroeconomic indicators suggest the economy is healthy, but for how long? How long, can we expect our decades-long economic expansion, to continue? A minor blip, an extended trade war or, heaven forbid another kind of war could have devastating effects. This is why our 45th president keeps picking fights with the

Federal Reserve Bank, urging them to cut already low interest rates to fuel economic expansion. Our nation can’t thrive when nearly half of its citizens are on the outside looking in. And poverty can be a drag on economic expansion.

The people who are doing well in our economy have a stake in it. They own their homes. They own stocks and bonds. They have retirement accounts and investment accounts. They’ve seen their asset base soar as the economy has expanded. But the Great Recession cause African-American people collectively to lose a third of our wealth.

Black homeownership rates grew for thirty years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act. Those gains were wiped out mostly during the Great Recession, and today black homeownership is as low – 41.2 percent – as it was in 1968 when discrimination was legal. In contrast, the overall homeownership rate in 2016 was 63 percent overall and 72 percent for whites.

If this is a stakeholder economy, African Americans have fewer stakes, but we don’t occupy the economic periphery alone. Latinos and whites also experience poverty, but not at the disproportionate rate that African Americans do. Racism makes it possible for excessive poverty to exist. As long as some see poverty as a

personal, not structural failure, it is easy (and acceptable) to demonize the poor and even to criminalize them for their poverty.

Thanks to folks like Barber, some Americans are awakening to the fact that one person’s poverty is another person’s profit center, that the prison industrial complex needs to be dismantled and that a restructured, less militarized (and dare I say green) economy might offer more opportunity for all.

The folks who earn \$18.58 an hour or less aren’t benefitting from the expanding economy, but some of them support a wealthy huckster who lies with the same ease that he rises in the morning. He spins economic confusion in jingoistic and confusing terms so that an unemployed manufacturing worker in Ohio will passionately argue that he’d be working if it weren’t for illegal immigrants.

Will we buy into the fallacy and let increasing poverty imperil long-term economic expansion? Or will we develop a more inclusive and expansionary economic model? The presidential campaign offers the opportunity for a dynamic exchange of ideas. What’s next?

*Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com*

## Michelle Obama at Essence Fest: Frank and Free

By Marc H. Morial  
*President and CEO  
National Urban League*



*“And if we’re thinking about what the agenda is, which is getting to a place where we all live in a country where we’re proud to pass on to our kids, going high is the only way we get there. It’s our patience, our tolerance, it’s our belief in honesty and truth, it’s our belief in hard work. It’s not about getting somebody back, it’s not about the immediate clapback. The immediate clapback is just for your own selfish purpose right there in the moment and rarely does it solve anything.” – Michelle Obama, July 6, 2019, New Orleans*

In the 25 years since, as mayor, I first brought the Essence Festival to New Orleans, I’ve been privileged to experience some of the festival’s most groundbreaking and innovative

phenomenons. Michelle Obama’s interview with Gayle King ranks as one of those memorable moments that could only happen at Essence.

As First Lady, Michelle Obama earned a singular place in American history as the first black woman to hold the title. But it was her dignity and grace, her compassion and her commitment to uplifting the American people that truly defined her era in the East Wing of the White House.

Since her husband left office, her popularity and influence have only soared. Her memoir, *Becoming*, sold more copies than any other book published in the United States in 2018, breaking the record in just 15 days. Her tour to promote the book sold out in cities across the United States, Canada and Europe.

Her interview with King showed her at perhaps her most honest, outspoken and decisive. She spoke candidly of her marriage and family life, the Obama legacy and the state of the nation in the Trump era.

I was particularly struck by her reflections on Inauguration Day, 2017: “That day was very emotional and then to sit at that inauguration and to look around at a crowd that was not reflective of the country, and I had to sit in that audience as one of the handfuls of people of color, all that I had to hold on to over those last eight years, and it was a lot emotionally.”

Her words resonate all the more because that crowd, “not reflective of the country,” has served as kind of an omen for the exclusive and regressive policies, hostile to people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ persons, the administration introduced.

The Obamas experienced more than their share of hostility during their time in the public eye – to the point where she considered dropping out of the campaign trail.

“For a minute there, I was an angry black woman who was emasculating her husband,” she said. “As I got more popular, that’s when

people of all sides – Democrats and Republicans – tried to take me out by the knees and the best way to do it was to focus on the one thing people were afraid of: the strength of a black woman.”

She decided to use the opportunity to be a role model.

“I would have to earn my grace and I knew I would have to quickly define myself and I want all young girls out there to know – we all struggle with that, people of color, working class folks, women of color – people try to define us in a negative way before we get a chance to get out there and tell our own stories.”

It would be hard to overstate how influential and inspirational Michelle Obama has been over the last decade, particularly for black women who are the heart of the Essence Festival. Michelle Obama was the ultimate headliner for a gathering devoted to the empowerment and celebration of black women.



# Forrest General director co-authors professional article for national publication

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Lorie Mills, RHIT, CCS, director of Coding and CDI at Forrest General Hospital, co-authored an educational article for coders and other health information professionals titled AMI Documentation: Red Flags for CDI and Coding, which was published by American Health Information Management Association’s (AHIMA) website HIM Body of Knowledge. Coding accuracy can impact patients in a multitude of ways, ranging from the claims payment amounts determined by insurance companies and CMS to provider decisions impacting patient care.

“My job isn’t just my career it is my passion. I never imagined one day I would be sharing that passion in a national journal. With Forrest Health being a Cardiac Center of Excellence it seems fitting we would be a part of an initiative to protect the integrity of health data and the improvement of cardiac patient outcomes. This truly has been a blessing from God,” said Mills.

Coding professionals and physicians work in tandem to ensure that conditions are coded properly. This particular piece focuses on cardiology and appropriate coding of Myocardial Infarctions (MI) and Non-MI troponin elevation. According to the article, “Coding accuracy related to MI diagnosis affects a multitude of areas including: CMS quality claims-based measures, public health data tracking, physician comparisons, reimburse-



Lorie Mills, RHIT, CCS and Thad Waites, MD, MACC

ment, as well as patient outcomes.”

Thad Waites, MD, MACC, cardiologist at Hattiesburg Clinic and Forrest General Hospital, contributed by offering insight from a physician’s perspective. Both Mills and Waites are natives of Waynesboro, Mississippi, and Mills calls it an honor to collaborate professionally with a hometown hero like Waites.

“I have heard his name my entire

life, as he is somewhat of a hero in our small town. I never dreamed of working with Dr. Waites on a national initiative that will have such a far reaching impact on the healthcare system. This opportunity is a direct result of a passion we both possess for the integrity of reported health data,” said Mills.

Mills’ team includes three other authors: Susan Sweeney RN, BSN,

CCDS, CCS of Emory Health System; Laura Little RHIT, CCS, CDI manager of St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi; and Abhinav Goyal, MD, MHS, FACC, FAHA, associate professor of medicine at Emory School of Medicine.

The group hopes to publish a second article, an educational piece for physicians, through the American College of Cardiology later this year.

# Forrest General Hospital offers advance care planning seminars

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General Hospital is hosting free educational sessions to answer questions and provide information about advance care planning.

Advance care planning is a process of communication to help individuals understand, reflect upon and discuss goals for future healthcare decisions in the context of their values and beliefs.

When this process is done well, it has the power to produce a written plan, called an advanced directive, which accurately represents the individual’s preferences and thoroughly prepares others to make healthcare decisions consistent with these preferences. Advance care planning is appropriate for any adult.

The course will promote person-centered advance care planning conversations through exploration of understanding of advance care planning, past experiences and living well. Participants will learn about the three important steps involved in advance care planning and will be given resources to guide them through the process of completing an advanced directive.

These classes will take place in the Hickory Room at Forrest General Hospital. This meeting room is located in the corridor next to the cafeteria. The next seminar will take place Wednesday, July 31, at 12 p.m.

For more information about the advance care planning seminar, visit [forrestgeneral.com](http://forrestgeneral.com) or call 601 288-4445.

# AMR Central Mississippi Paramedic Tullos among nation’s best

Recently received National Star of Life Award in Washington DC

The Mississippi Link Newswire

AMR Paramedic Courtney Tullos risked her life twice in single-handedly saving a paraplegic man from his burning van last year. For her heroism, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) presented Tullos its Star of Life award in Washington DC in late June. Tullos is one of only 107 outstanding paramedics and EMTs nationwide to receive the award this year.

In January 2018, Tullos was driving on the Natchez Trace headed to her job at AMR when she saw a van that had run off the road and hit a tree. She was the first to stop to help. As she approached the van, she saw the driver was reaching behind his seat for something. She also saw smoke coming from under the hood.

She told the man, “Come on. We’ve got to get away now!” and then saw he was a paraplegic who used hand controls to drive. He had been reaching for his wheelchair. She pulled the man about 20 yards from his van and then went back to grab his wheelchair.

The van was soon completely on fire. Tullos called 911 and stayed with her patient. Raymond Volunteer Fire Department arrived and put out the blaze, but the van was a total loss. An AMR ambulance also arrived and took the van driver to a hospital. The man was unhurt and the hospital released him.

Tullos resumed her drive to AMR’s headquarters and worked her shift. She never said a word about the rescue. The paramedic who transported the rescued man told AMR man-



Tullos

ers about Tullos’ heroics.

Tullos’ co-workers felt she should be recognized and they nominated her for AAA’s Star of Life. Based in northern Virginia, AAA has conducted the Star of Life program for 20 years. The program annually recognizes only about 100 paramedics and EMTs nationwide. The recipients are said to “embody the best of the ambulance service profession.” AAA’s member ambulance services employ several hundred thousand frontline medical transport workers.

Tullos was in Washington June 22 through 27 to participate in ceremonies recognizing all of this year’s Stars of Life. She attended recognition banquets, met with members of Mississippi’s Congressional delegation and toured the city.

At the time of the rescue, Tullos was an EMT in paramedic training. She was only 21 years old.

Stan Alford, operations manager for AMR Central Mississippi, said, “Courtney is already

one of our best team members. We nominated her for not only saving the paraplegic man by herself, but also for her strong medical skills, deep compassion and admirable work ethic. Just 23 now, she has an extremely bright future in our field. Star of Life is often called the nation’s top honor for paramedics and EMTs. Courtney is definitely deserving of the acclaim.”

Since rescuing the paraplegic man, Tullos has received the Mississippi EMT Association’s EMT of the Year award, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors Above and Beyond award, a Mississippi Business Journal Healthcare Hero award and a First Responder of the Year award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Alford said Tullos has been “modest, humble and classy” in receiving the multiple recognitions. “She says she was just in the right place at the right time to pull the man from the van. Here at AMR, we say she was the right person in the right place at the right time.”

Alford said Tullos is also known for volunteer service to the community. “She’s active with Raymond VFD and also works with Horses for Handicapped, a non-profit that provides horseback rides for disabled folks.”

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians has reported there are about 840,000 EMTs and paramedics in the US.

AMR, the nation’s largest ambulance service, sent 23 Stars of Life to the AAA events in Washington this year.

AMR is a component of Global Medical Response.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Jackson hereby gives notice that its annual audited financial report for the year ended September 30, 2018 has been completed. Copies are available to the public at 219 S. President St., Jackson, MS 39201.

7/18/2019

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**RFP 2019-17 Lead Partner for Science Support and Assessment**

Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) August 01, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfp's, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfp's are opened.

7/18/2019, 7/25/2019

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# 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe Ultimate 2.0T

By Frank S. Washington  
*AboutThatCar.com*

There have been some big changes for the 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe. The five-passenger Santa Fe Sport is now called Santa Fe. The current long wheelbase three-row, seven-passenger model called Santa Fe has been renamed Santa Fe XL. And an all-new three-row, eight-passenger SUV is currently under development and will carry an all-new name.

What's more, the Santa Fe crossover that I test drove had a bolder design, new safety, comfort and convenience technology, and better sight lines and cabin storage space. All of that is a long winded way of saying the Santa Fe has been reworked for the better.

The first thing I noticed about the 2019 Santa Fe was the quiet smoothness of the engine. Its ride was silky, much like an all-round air suspension. Instead, the 2019 Santa Fe had a multi-link with gas shock absorber and 24 mm stabilizer bar w/self-levelling suspension.

I had the top-of-the-line 2.0-liter direct injected turbocharged four cylinder engine that made 235 horsepower and 260 pound-feet of torque at a low 1,450 rpms. In other words, the Santa Fe 2.0T could get up and move from just about any speed. It had an EPA rating of 19 mpg in the city, 24 mpg on the highway and 19 mpg combined.

The engine was mated to an all-new eight-speed automatic transmission. Despite having two extra gears, the new eight-speeder, which was designed



in-house, was lighter than the outgoing six-speed model. The automatic transmission added ratio range at both the top and bottom of output speeds allowing for extra thrust off-the-line and a quieter, more fuel-efficient dash down the interstate.

My test vehicle had an all-wheel-drive system that Hyundai called advanced. It was developed as a multi-mode scheme that provided an electronic, variable-torque-split clutch with active torque control between the front and rear axles.

The 2019 Santa Fe had an overview camera and a stop start system that was so smooth I never turned it off because of irritation. That's rare.

The driver-selectable normal, sport and smart drive modes aided traction control in all weather conditions. Given that we got bunches of snow, followed by warmer temperatures and the accompanying slush and wet pavement and then followed by

refreezing during the test drive, I left the drive mode in smart and I don't think there was even any wheel slippage much less wheel spin.

Still, I could sense the slick ride, comfort, handling and stability of the 2019 Santa Fe. Hyundai said they were achieved through a change in suspension geometry. The major adjustment came when engineers moved the rear shocks from an angled position to upright, improving the ride and handling no matter the driving conditions.

The Santa Fe featured Hyundai's cascading grille and composite light design with LED daytime running lights positioned on top of the LED headlights. The midsize crossover had a wide stance and it looked athletic. Hyundai keeps calling the Santa Fe an SUV but I'm not sure it can go off-road.

Its character line went from headlights to taillights and what the automaker called a daylight

opening with satin surround that provided better visibility. I called it windows. There was also diamond cut 19-inch wheels. The rear featured a muscular high and taut shape. There was also a panoramic sun roof that of course never got used but I did let the shade back.

Except for the panoramic roof, most of the descriptive stuff I pulled from the Santa Fe's press material. When you are cleaning snow off a vehicle, you're not checking character lines, trust me.

But the Santa Fe's interior was quiet, stately and posh. It was like looking at snow, ice and windblown elements through the window from the cozy surroundings of a den. There was even the feel of a fireplace. Well, okay, that might be a bit much. But it was comfortable.

The 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe had a floating touch infotainment screen. Climate controls were underneath it and there

were USB, auxiliary and 12 volt jacks and sockets beneath that along the back wall of a small storage bin at the start of the center console.

A large circular TFT speedometer dominated the space in front of the driver. It had digital speed readout within it. The fuel and temperature readouts were combination TFT and analogue gauges on either side. There was also a heads-up-display. Overall this was an uncluttered look.

This 2019 Santa Fe could be locked into four-wheel-drive. It also had a hill descent control which I thought laughable since this area is about as flat as a billiard table. But other parts of the country have hills and mountains galore.

Anyway, I climbed into the backseat and was really surprised. First, there wasn't much of a drop off in the quality of the rear seats. They were comfortable and maintained the sleek styling of the front seats.

They were also heated and the panoramic roof covered the rear seats as well. There were privacy shades on the side windows and the green house had an airy feel because of the expansive windows.

And those seats were movable – manually. They slide forward and the backs tilted. They were also 60/40 split seats. There was a latch on the back cargo floor. I pulled it and it revealed three cargo bins under the floor.

Hyundai engineers did a number of little things to enhance the driver and rider experience. The audio/visual/navigation system screen had been tilted and

positioned to reduce glare. The window switches and grab handles had been moved forward for more elbow room. The door map pockets had been reduced in size for more legroom and cup holders in the center console had been re-positioned for ease of use and the height and length of the center armrest has also been increased. None of this stuff would you necessarily notice but it makes the experience more satisfying.

There was the usual equipment. These days that includes blind spot monitoring, rear cross traffic alert, implicit is a rear-view camera, smart cruise control, satellite radio, Bluetooth, premium audio system, etc.

What impressed me most was the back seat monitor reminding me to check back there every time I got out of the vehicle and the oncoming traffic alert. This wasn't traffic from in front but vehicles from the rear. If I parked on a busy street and unlatched the door to exit, it would alert me if traffic was coming.

It was a well-equipped crossover and Hyundai continues to hold on to its DNA of offering more for the money; I thought the \$39,905 sticker as tested was a pretty good price for the 2019 Santa Fe Ultimate 2.0T.

**Pros:**  
Lots of equipment  
Great price: \$39,905  
Good ride and handling

**Cons:**  
Mileage less than 20 in the city  
Only front doors have push-button unlock  
No fully automatic power windows in rear.

## TAKE ON A BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY TODAY

The new school year is right around the corner and we're helping things off to a big win. Join AARP Mississippi at our Back to School Block Party, where you can pick up new back-to-school and school supplies, get a head-to-head, look at free phone and health screenings, and even enjoy some fun activities and delicious food. Local and community will be on hand to answer your questions and provide resources to help you get started. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with us and take on today.

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Mississippi

## 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 SP or IFSP)

### To Qualify:

- \* Child must be 4 or 5 years old by 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 SP or IFSP)**

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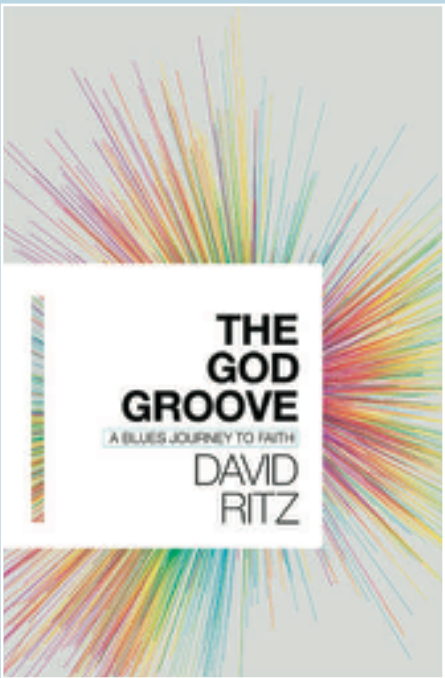
### To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

- 1) Proof of child's age (birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport)
- 2) Proof of family's income (tax return, W-2, pay stubs, VA, Social Security, child support, TANF, government benefits, unemployment, and any other source of household income)
- 3) Proof of Hinds County residency (lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill, voter reg or card, current phone or cable bill)
- 4) Child's Social Security number
- 5) Medical insurance of child (if applicable)
- 6) IFSP or SP (if applicable)
- 7) Legal guardianship (if applicable)
- 8) Documentation of home care (if applicable)

For more information about Head Start, call 662-633-1844.  
To apply, call or visit the 24-hour automated application line at 662-633-1844.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! APPLY EARLY!**





# BOOK REVIEW: “THE GOD GROOVE: A BLUES JOURNEY TO FAITH”

BY **DAVID RITZ**  
**C.2019, ATRIA**  
**\$26.00 / \$35.00 CANADA • 243 PAGES**

By **Terri Schlichenmeyer**  
*Columnist*

One thing leads to another. Isn't that how it goes? You start somewhere and a door is opened. You enter that door and see a window. The window takes you elsewhere and each new place teaches you something different. Isn't that the way life is – and in the new book “The God Groove” by David Ritz, isn't that the way faith is?

Growing up in New York City, Ritz fell in love with music. Finding it was “as easy as walking

down Fifty-Second Street,” or just to his parents' living room: Ritz's father loved classical music and shared his passion with his son.

For Ritz, though, jazz was the thing. It was always there in New York but when he was a teen, his family moved to Dallas, where hearing jazz meant a lengthy search and at least a “ninety-minute bus trip.”

One day, in his quest for good music, he stumbled upon an open door from which emanated tight harmonies and soaring voices.

He'd found a black church, but he was reluctant to enter. Though his family had never been all that religious, the fact remained that Ritz was white and Jewish. God was a distant thought. Jesus was someone he barely knew about.

And so it continued through most of his life, until he was a married father of twin girls. He was thirty-two years old then, and desperate for a career change so, because he'd “become obsessed with Ray Charles' voice,” Ritz pestered Charles to let him write the singer's biography.

That led to an opportunity with Marvin Gaye and an introduction to Aretha Franklin, who led Ritz to another jazz-and-blues singer and another and another. As each person sat down with him in interviews, the conversation often turned to religion, God and the love inherent in Christianity.

As he was ministered to, Ritz began to listen, and he began to think. He started to see Christ in a different way, and he visited churches. And yet, he still wasn't ready to call himself a Christian...

For a lot of reasons, “The God

Groove” is a challenge to read.

The name-dropping is first on the list: Ritz worked with many premiere performers and they're all in this book, which is impressive, initially, but becomes like background noise after awhile. Alas, those star-stories get tangled up in Ritz' own tale, which can drown out his fascinating memoir; and the back-and-forth, does-he-or-doesn't-he religious argument also goes on too long.

And yet – there's an underlying personal change of direction that Ritz allows to run just beneath the

surface of his story, as he meets flawed people and confesses his own flaws, including drug use and infidelity related to bisexuality.

At the risk of spoiling, there's a happy ending available, but getting there might be tough.

Readers who are questioning their faith may find takeaways here. Jazz fans might also like what they see but if you're neither, you may struggle.

“The God Groove” isn't awful but you might be led to just put it aside.

JXN

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON

SAT | JULY 20, 2019 | 10AM - 3PM

Do you want to know where money is going in the City?

Do you have ideas on how City dollars should be spent?

Are there priorities in the community that can be addressed through proper funding?

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

If you answered yes to any one of these questions, this People's Assembly is definitely for you.

The Mayor's Office, in partnership with the Jackson People's Assembly, is opening its budgeting process to include residents' recommendations in the development of the 2020 City of Jackson budget. This is your city, you live here, and you have an idea on what is needed. Your voice not only matters, but is important to developing a city budget that reflects the needs and desires of all Jacksonians.

REDEEMER CHURCH, PCA

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REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 70

August 6th, 2019

Paid for by friends of Bo Brown.

WRTM-FM SMOOTH 100.5 FM, IS JACKSON'S URBAN RHYTHM AND BLUES STATION PLAYING FAMILIAR FAVORITES FROM THE 70'S, 80'S AND 90'S. TUNE IN TO HEAR JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF BLUES AND TODAY'S BIGGEST HITS.



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



### HCS D Back to School Tips for Parents

Hello Parents,

Yes, summer is almost over and soon we will be starting a new school year, which can be a time of great excitement... and anxiety. Help calm your child's fears (and your own) with these teacher-approved tips:

**Meet the new teacher**

For kids, one of the biggest back-to-school fears is "Will I like my new teacher?" Breaking the ice early on is one of the best ways to calm everyone's fears. Take advantage of your school's open house or back-to-school night. Some teachers welcome phone calls or e-mails – another great opportunity to get to know each other before the year begins.

**Tour the school**

If your school hosts an open house, be sure to go. Familiarizing your child with her environment will help her avoid a nervous stomach on the first day. Together you can meet her teacher, find



her desk or explore the playground.

**Connect with friends**

A familiar friend can make all the difference when heading back to school. You might try calling parents from last year's class and finding out which children are in your child's class this year. Refresh these relationships before school starts by scheduling a play date or a school carpool.

**Tool up**

Obtain the class supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. Having the right tools will help him feel prepared. While keeping basic needs in

mind, allow for a couple of splurges like a cool notebook or a favorite-colored pen. These simple pleasures make going back to school a lot more fun.

School supply lists also provide great insight into the schoolwork ahead. Get your child excited about upcoming projects by explaining how new supplies might be used. Let her or him practice using supplies that he's not used before – such as colored pencils or a protractor – so he or she will be comfortable using them in class.

**Avoid last-minute drilling**

When it's almost time to stop playing,



give a five-minute warning. Giving clear messages to your child is very important.

**Ease into the routine**

Switching from a summer to a school schedule can be stressful to everyone in the household. Avoid first-day-of-school mayhem by practicing your routine a few days in advance. Set the alarm clock, go through your morning rituals and get in the car or to the bus stop on time. Routines help children feel comfortable, and establishing a solid school routine will make the first day of school go much smoother.

**Have a Great Year!**

## 2019-2020 Reminders for Parents and Employees



1. Beginning August 2019, all school buildings are open for registration Monday – Friday during normal school operation hours (8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.).
2. All parents are now required to provide proof of residency for all grade levels annually.
- Upon enrollment, any parent seeking to enroll a student must verify full-

- time residency by submitting TWO pieces of business or government correspondence (dated within the last 30 days). HCS D does not accept affidavits, drivers' licenses/ Mississippi state identification cards, or voter registration cards as proof of residence.
3. All students entering the 7th

- grade must have proof of the Tdap Vaccination
4. Transportation/Bus Routes
- Parents can find information regarding bus transportation, bus routes, time, etc. at the local school build, on the district website, or by contacting Durham Services at 601 857-5562.

5. Convocation will be held Friday, August 2, 2019, in Cain Hall on the main campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS beginning at 7:45 a.m.
6. Meet the teacher will be held Monday, August 5 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
7. Students will report to classes Wednesday, August 7, 2019.

## Gary Road Elementary School Registration

Kindergarten registration and re-enrollment for Gary Road Elementary students is open for the summer. Parents and guardians will be able to register children for kindergarten at Gary Road Elementary (7241 Gary Road, Byram, Miss.) from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday –Thursday.

Returning first and second grade students can be registered online with a Snap Code. If parents do not have a code, they can call Gary Road Elementary at 601 373-1319 to speak with a counselor and/or principal.

Parents and guardians will need to bring the following to complete enrollment:



- A driver's license or other state identification card
- Child's birth certificate (long-form), immunization records (Form 121), social security card and discipline

- record for each child being enrolled
- Current utility bill from the previous 30 days, AND filed Homestead Exemption from the previous year, mortgage payment documentation or



- property deed of trust, apartment or home lease OR two (2) business or government correspondence.
- We encourage you to go ahead and register as soon as possible.