

Mississippi Round UP

The Associated Press

Officials: Man used fully automatic guns to wound deputies

A Mississippi man is accused of possessing two fully automatic weapons in a shootout that wounded two deputies last week. Madison County District Attorney John Bramlett said Edgar Egbert used a “fully automatic

weapon” resulting in a “barrage of gunfire” Thursday. Sheriff’s spokesman Heath Hall confirmed the guns were “full” automatic. *The Clarion Ledger* reports state and federal Bureau of Alco-

hol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives officials say the use of such weapons in the commission of a crime is extremely unusual. Illegally possessing or using a fully automatic gun carries stiff federal penalties under The Na-

tional Firearms Act. The state Bureau of Investigation is investigating. Egbert is jailed for now on charges including kidnapping and attempted murder of law enforcement.

Driver dies and 8 children are injured as school bus crashes

A school bus driver is dead and eight children have injuries after a school bus rolled over in northern Mississippi. The Mississippi Highway Patrol tells news outlets that the bus driver died in the Tuesday morning incident, with the bus ending up on its side in a ditch. Officials tell WMC-TV that the 63-year-old driver, Chester Cole, likely suffered a medical emergency. Benton County Coroner Larry Hobson said Cole appeared to clutch his chest and slumped over in his seat before the crash. Eight injured children were taken to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The hospital said four are in serious condition and four others are being released Tuesday. Troopers say no other vehicles were involved in the wreck on U.S. Highway 72 west of Walnut.



Wrecker crews inspect the damage to a Benton County School bus that was involved in wreck along U.S. Highway 72 near Walnut, Miss., Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019, that resulted in the death of the driver and sent several students to the hospital. THOMAS WELLS/THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI DAILY JOURNAL VIA AP

Mississippi man gets 11 years for his part in cross burning

A white Mississippi man received an 11-year prison sentence Tuesday for his part in burning a cross near the home of an African-American family. Louie Bernard Revette, 38, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett in Hattiesburg, the Justice Department said. Revette pleaded guilty in April to one count each of interference with housing rights, which is a federal civil rights violation, and of using fire during the commission of a federal felony. Revette acknowledged recruiting someone to help him build a cross to burn near the home of a teenager in a predominantly black area of Seminary Oct. 24, 2017. He also acknowledged building the cross to threaten, frighten and intimidate people because of their race.

Revette expressed remorse at his sentencing hearing, the *Hattiesburg American* reported. “I want everyone to know I’m not proud of what happened,” Revette said. “I hate what I did. I can’t even believe I did that. I never done anything like that before in my life.” Seminary is a town of about 300 residents, located about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of Jackson. Revette’s accomplice, Graham Williamson, pleaded guilty to the same two charges in August and is scheduled to be sentenced in November. None of the victim’s relatives were in court Tuesday, but the newspaper reported that the victim’s grandmother, Rose Marie Shears, told the U.S. attorney’s office that the cross burning revived fear and terror of the past. She told prosecutors that she is afraid that Re-

vette and Williamson or others will return and harm the family. Cross burnings have historically been used by racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan to rally supporters and terrorize black people in the South and elsewhere. “Those who instill fear and terror into our neighbors and our fellow citizens because of the color of their skin will face the full weight and force of the law from the U.S. attorney’s office,” Mike Hurst, U.S. Attorney for south Mississippi, said in a Justice Department statement Tuesday. “There is absolutely no place in our society or our country for this type of behavior, and we will do all that we can to prevent these racist acts and bring to justice those who are intent on committing these crimes.” In 2017, a man pleaded guilty to federal charges after prosecutors said he and three

other men burned a cross more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) high in the front yard of an interracial couple’s home in Port Richey, Florida, in 2012. Other cross burnings in the past decade have occurred in Richmond Hill, Georgia; Minor Hill, Tennessee; Woodland, Pennsylvania; Salado, Arkansas; and Bennington Township, Ohio, among other places, according to Justice Department records. Eric Dreiband, an assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division, said in the statement Tuesday that Revette “terrorized members of a community simply because of their race and where they lived.” “The Department of Justice will not tolerate these acts of hate, and we will continue to prosecute hate crimes like these to the fullest extent of the law,” Dreiband said.

Report: States with history of voter discrimination have far fewer polling places since ‘Shelby’ Supreme Court ruling



Voters wait to vote at Byram City Hall during the midterm elections Tuesday, November 6, 2018. ERIC J. SHELTON, MISSISSIPPI TODAY/REPORT FOR AMERICA

By Bobby Harrison
Mississippi Today

The number of locations to vote in states and jurisdictions with a history of minority voter suppression has been reduced by at least 1,173 since 2013, according to a study by the Leadership Conference Education Fund. The reduction comes, the report finds, after the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2013 struck down a portion of the Voting Rights Act of 1964 that required those jurisdictions to obtain federal Department of Justice approval to make changes to their elections. The Education Fund determined the number of closed polling places by surveying 757 of the 861 counties covered by the Voting Right Act. The study did not compile information from the counties where it could not garner accurate information. The segment of the national report that focused on Mississippi found the number of poll closures at 98, which closely coincided with the totals found by *Mississippi Today* in 2018 before the November mid-term elections. The Education Fund, a research arm of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, based on its report, is urging for congressional passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act to, among other things, restore the need for federal approval of elections

changes in states like Mississippi that have a history of voter discrimination. The Supreme Court left open the possibility of Congress restoring the need for federal approval if the preclearance was based on updated data. The Voting Rights Advancement Act would update the original Voting Rights Act to require federal approval for jurisdictions with more recent history of discrimination. Under the bill, states with 15 or more voting rights violations within the past 25 years or 10 or more if one of the violations was enacted by a state would be covered. Under the proposal Mississippi still would be covered. “Next to the ballot itself, the most identifiable element of our democracy’s voting process is the polling place. It should — and it must — be accessible to all. When it is not, the barriers to participation can be high. Moving or closing a polling place — particularly without notice or input from communities — disrupts our democracy,” said the report, titled *Democracy Diverted*, which was released Tuesday. Leigh Chapman, program director for voting rights at the Education Fund, said the closures of the voting locations come at a time voter turnout is increasing, potentially leading to long lines at polling places. “Long lines can lead to voter disenfranchisement,” she said

Voting
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Flying While Black: Stop the U.S. Congress from raising air travel taxes

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO NNPA



Working families in the African-American community and beyond have a hard-enough time keeping up with daily expenses. Every mortgage payment,

COMMENTARY

car payment, trip to the grocery store, stop at the gas station, or utility bill that shows up in the mail is a reminder of how expensive it is to afford basic needs. Now, lawmakers in the U.S. Congress have introduced legislation that threatens to add

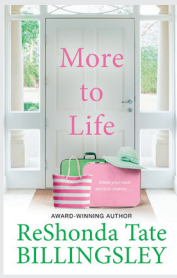
one more expense to that list. On Capitol Hill, some lawmakers are championing what is essentially a regressive tax on airline passengers that would raise the cost of flying — painfully, on working families. If successful, the tax hike would burden African-American travelers with significant additional

fees on top of what is already required. Lawmakers who support the increase insist that the money will be spent on infrastructure improvement projects at airports. But, if our communities can no longer afford to fly, this becomes a moot point. The tax, known as the passenger facility charge, is a lo-

cally enforced but federally authorized fee that every passenger must pay at U.S. commercial airports. Nearly every airport in America charges it. The fee is currently set at \$4.50 per person per leg of a trip. Legislation has been introduced that would remove that cap, allowing airports to charge any

amount they want. Some have proposed raising the PFC to \$8.50, nearly doubling the current tax. That would add a significant cost for all American families. Under that proposal, a family of four on a connecting flight would

Flying
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FedEx launches new HBCU employment program at MVSU



The grand opening event included a ribbon cutting and the following speakers from FXL and MVSU: Jerryl Briggs, president of MVSU; Shannon Brown, senior vice president of Air, Ground, Freight and Services/chief diversity officer of FedEx Express; Bethany Rocheleau, vice president of U.S. Brokerage, FedEx Trade Networks; La Shon Brooks, chief of staff and legislative liaison, MVSU

The Mississippi Link Newswire
Recently, FedEx Logistics (FXL) launched a program to establish a satellite Express Clearance Operations (ECO)

office on the Mississippi Valley State University campus. The program's mission is to connect people and possibilities to deliver a better future for all team members, customers, suppliers and communities. Students are offered part-time employment with the ECO organization while they are in

college, with the potential to be hired full-time with FXL upon graduation. "The FedEx Logistics HBCU employment program is a

unique program where the social benefit is just as important as the economic. We are creating a pipeline of diverse talent for our world-class customs brokerage

operations. Through this initiative, FedEx is connecting people with possibilities," Bethany Rocheleau, VP of U.S. Brokerage, FedEx Trade Networks.



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Voting

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during a recent telephone interview. “Some people are not able to stand in long lines.”

The report found 750 polling places closed in Texas since the Supreme Court ruling, 320 in Arizona and 214 in Georgia.

The national report conceded that there are legitimate reasons to close polling places, such as population loss, but said it appears in some instances no legitimate reasons were provided for closing polling places.

In many instances, Chapman said officials cited non-compliance with American with Disabilities Act guidelines as the reason for closing polling places. But she said national standards provide temporary modifications to make polling places compliant with ADA guidelines, such as temporary ramps.

In addition, in Mississippi the law allows for poll workers to deliver a ballot to a vehicle in the parking lot for a voter who might have difficulties accessing a polling place because of physical limitations. In law, it is referred to as curbside voting.

When the Supreme Court struck down the section of the Voting Rights Act requiring preclearance of election changes, Mississippi’s Republican leadership praised the ruling.

“This chapter is closed,” Secretary of State Delbert

Hosemann, whose office oversees state election laws, said when the Supreme Court ruling was released. “Mississippi citizens have earned the right to determine our voting processes.”

When the ruling was made Hosemann was in the process of enacting a law requiring citizens to display a government-issued photo identification to vote. The ruling meant federal approval was not needed to enact the law.

Under the original Voting Rights Act of 1964, all election changes in nine states, predominantly located in the South and jurisdictions in six other states, had to obtain federal approval of election changes. The proposed new law would cover 11 states.

According to the report, the original Voting Rights Act had an overwhelming impact on increasing African-American voter participation. In Mississippi, for instance, 5 percent of black citizens were registered prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. The state of Mississippi, before the Voting Rights Act, used a litany of methods to prevent blacks from voting, such as poll taxes and outright intimidation.

Mississippi voters can find out where to cast their ballot in the upcoming November election using the Secretary of State’s polling place locator.

Flying

Continued from page 1

pay nearly \$150 in this tax alone – a tax that is layered on top of the price of the ticket itself. Such a substantial increase could be the deciding factor between that family taking this vacation or staying home.

Fortunately, largely due to the recent surge of low-cost flights from many airlines, air travel has become a more obtainable luxury, remaining largely affordable for working people, whether in rural America, the suburbs or the inner cities. While still a relatively expensive proposition, air travel to get away on a vacation, or to visit far-away family and friends, without the proposed new tax, is still within reach for many individuals on tight family budgets. The near-doubling of the PFC tax will likely place air travel out of reach for many. And the reason for this hike is absurd.

The argument for the hike is that the additional money will pay for much-needed infrastructure improvement projects at airports nationwide. **But here is the problem:** America’s airports don’t need the extra money. Airport revenues are already growing strongly. Since the year 2000, airports have enjoyed revenue increases of 87 percent, without the cost of flights rising meaningfully. This growth drastically outpaces the actual cost of flying, even after factoring for inflation.

In addition, over the last decade, more than \$165 billion in federal aid has been directed to airports for improvement projects at America’s largest 30 airports alone. More than that, the so-called Aviation Trust

Fund is expected to reach nearly \$8 billion by the end of 2019.

And this summer alone, the Federal Aviation Administration has awarded hundreds of millions in renovation grants to airports across America earmarked for infrastructure improvements. It’s also worth keeping in mind that air travel and tourism are now at or nearing all-time highs, meaning that airports are collecting more in PFC taxes than they know what to do with.

By contrast, the income of working Americans has been stagnant for years. Considering that airports are more profitable now than ever before, it is disappointing that they, with the backing of politicians in Washington, are now coming to average Americans and asking them to shoulder the cost.

America’s airports are well-positioned to continue to fund infrastructure improvement projects without needlessly reaching into the pockets of America’s working families and robbing them of one of the few affordable luxuries available to them. Congress must stand up for working people and refuse this tax increase.

Economic progress in America should empower African Americans and others. We in the Black Press of America will not be silent on this issue.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

Backlash sinks magazine cover deemed racist by many

By Erica R. Williams
Special to The New Tri-State Defender

Memphis magazine has pulled its September issue after receiving backlash for what some have called a racist cover.

The magazine featured caricatures of three mayoral candidates – Shelby County Commissioner Tami Sawyer, incumbent Mayor Jim Strickland and former Mayor Dr. Willie W. Herenton.

But it’s the illustration of District 7 Commissioner Sawyer that garnered the most criticism.

After the cover was released, several people on social media pointed fingers at the local magazine’s characterization of Sawyer, calling it racist and offensive. Recently the company issued an apology in a column posted on their website titled, “We Failed Memphis.”

“Being a print publication, a certain number of copies already exist in the world. We have, however, halted newsstand distribution of the September issue to as many retail locations as possible,” said Anna Traverse, chief executive officer of Contemporary Media, the parent company of *Memphis magazine*.

“I took the step as soon as Ms. Sawyer and I spoke Friday afternoon,” Traverse wrote. “By now, we all know what the cover looked like and what effects it has had, the image has been removed from this website and will never go back up.”

Before the apology, and almost immediately after the cover was released, Sawyer issued a statement regarding the depiction.

“I’m shocked, disappointed, and disgusted by the egregious mischaracterization of my personhood and continued inaccurate reporting by Contemporary Media and other Memphis news outlets on my background, activism and values. The caricature (reminiscent of Jim Crow



Sawyer

era cartoons historically used to demean and demoralize African Americans) printed in the September issue of *Memphis magazine* is both insulting and hurtful and represents a false view of how I am seen by my community.”

Sawyer also took issue with the article that accompanied the illustration, calling it an attempt to support her opponent.

“The writing by Jackson Baker, and imagery used to support, advances racial narratives, reflects clear bias against women and black people, and is simply irresponsible. The article is an obvious attempt to elevate the stature of the incumbent mayor. While I am portrayed as outlandish, militant, confrontational and combative, my opponent is portrayed as thoughtful and cautious. We will not stand for the continued willful misrepresentation of and attacks on my womanhood and candidacy.”

While caricatures are often used in political satire and are meant to exaggerate the subject’s features, many drawings featuring black women have sparked controversy as critics argue that they feed into negative stereotypes.

Former first lady Michelle Obama has been the subject of caricatures where she was often portrayed as

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Gwendolyn Bishop Chambliss Endowed Scholarship at JSU

Mississippi Link Newswire

Gwendolyn Bishop Chambliss transitioned to her heavenly home August 22, 2019, in Jackson, MS. She was the oldest child of the late Edward S. Bishop Sr. and the late Eva Hunter Bishop of Corinth, MS.

Chambliss was a clinical speech pathologist and a beloved educator at Jackson State University Department

of Speech and Dramatic Arts/Communicative Disorders. She was a tireless servant of God, an elder in the United Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jackson, MS, an engaged member and leader of many local, state and national organizations, and a kind and caring friend to many.

Chambliss was the loving wife of Carneal E. Cham-

bliss, Jr. (who preceded her in death) and devoted mother to two children Karen Chambliss Clark (Ralph, Sr.) and Carneal E. Chambliss, III (Demethous).

The Gwendolyn B. Chambliss Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established to support undergraduate Jackson State University students studying Communicative Dis-

orders.

You may donate to this fund via PayPal (https://www.paypal.com/paypalme2/GBCScholarship?locale.x=en_US) or by sending checks payable to Jackson State University Development Foundation (Memo line: Gwendolyn B. Chambliss Endowed Scholarship), P.O. Box 16613, Jackson, MS 39236.




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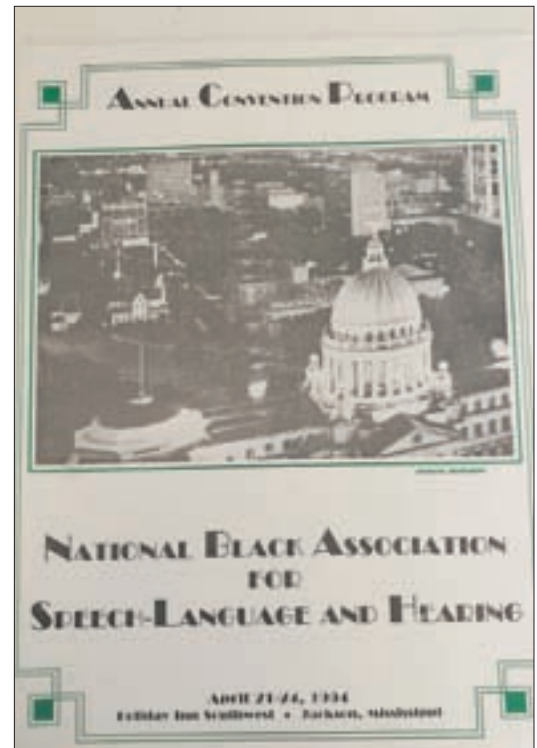
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Bond work completed at Green Elementary and Jim Hill High

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools has recently completed construction of a new parking lot at Green Elementary School and parking lot improvements at Jim Hill High School as part of the 2018 JPS Bond Construction Program.

The parking lot work completed at Green Elementary involved converting an unused basketball court to a 27-space parking lot. The project was completed by R & L Unlimited, Inc. in August 2019.

At Jim Hill, this project was Phase I of planned parking lot improvements and involved pothole repairs in the most damaged areas. Phase II of this project will be completed in summer 2020. It will include a new concrete pad for the cafeteria loading dock area and resurfacing other damaged areas. Phase I parking lot improvement work was completed by R & L Unlimited, Inc. in August 2019.

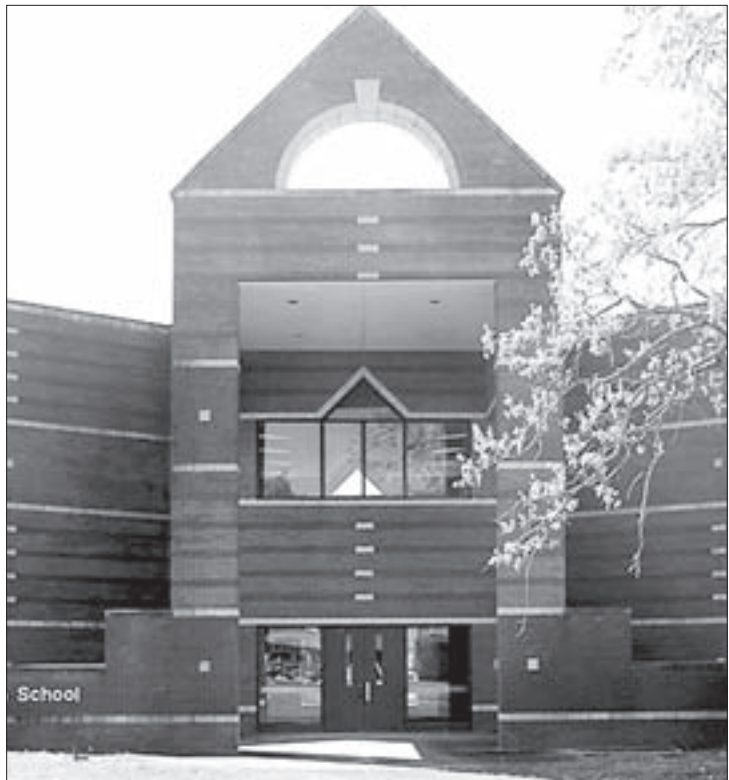


Green Elementary School Parking Lot



Jim Hill High School Parking Lot

Forest Hill High School selected for ACT prep pilot program



Mississippi Link Newswire

Approximately 250 high school juniors at Forest Hill High School will be part of an ACT pilot program next spring. Forest Hill was one of 22 Mississippi high schools selected at random to participate in Jumpstart Test Prep's Reading and Science Review Pilot Program.

The program will prepare students for the state-mandated ACT exam to be administered during the spring 2020 semester. Prep classes will begin at all of the selected Mississippi high schools during the two weeks leading up to the scheduled test day. Currently, the testing window is between February 25 and March 5, 2020.

The Jumpstart Test Prep science and reading review courses were developed by Mississippi STAR teacher and Hall of Fame inductee Dot McClendon. Her 40-plus years of experience and success as a tutor and educator were tapped in developing the courses. The program includes tips and strategies, online review modules, student workbooks and more. Built on her expertise, this program tackles time management during test-taking with engaging, on-demand content.

Last school year, 15 Mississippi high schools completed Jumpstart Test Prep's math review course. Jumpstart reported that nearly half of the participants with prior ACT attempts had an average Math score improvement of 2.24 points.

The pilot program is funded through a \$150,000 allocation from the Mississippi Legislature and will support nearly 3,000 juniors statewide.

The goal of the 2019-2020 state-sponsored pilot is to help the selected high schools improve ACT composite science and reading sub-score averages and gain feedback and improvement results from schools awarded the review course pilot.

The Mississippi Link™
Volume 25 • Number 47
September 12 - 18, 2019
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The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,
please call (601) 896-0084.

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Millsaps College dedicates new Windgate Visual Arts Center



Dedication of the Windgate Visual Arts Center



The Windgate Visual Arts Center located on the west side of the Millsaps campus

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A new era in the visual arts at Millsaps College officially began with the dedication of the Windgate Visual Arts Center, a facility designed to expand and enhance studio art and art history offerings for students at the college. Donors and community leaders joined Robert W. Pearigen, president of Millsaps, and art faculty to celebrate the building.

A \$2.5 million challenge grant from the Arkansas-based Windgate Foundation was the initial driving force behind the building. A major gift from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust (for the William R. Kenan Jr. Lobby) helped spur additional gifts

from individual donors, including Maurice and Cathy Hall (The Hall Gallery) and Michael McRee (The Michael T. McRee Wing for Studio Arts).

“The support of these incredibly generous donors, combined with other gifts from people who care deeply for Millsaps and for the arts, has resulted in this exciting day in the history of this college,” said Pearigen. “We are grateful for their belief in, and backing of, the value of the arts and what it means as part of a student’s educational experience.”

Construction on the 5,000 square foot building began in November 2017. The Visual Arts Center is located on the west side of the Millsaps campus,

a location chosen in part because it re-opens access to the campus from West Street. A new entrance on Wesley Avenue offers students and visitors alike an easier way to enter the campus, and recognizes the history found to the west of campus.

“The Windgate Visual Arts Center offers our students the finest studios for everything from woodworking to painting to digital art, and it offers our community a new venue for partnerships that can strengthen the arts beyond our campus,” Pearigen said. “It is literally a blank canvas on which we will create a beautiful future for our students and Jackson for years to come.”

Hinds CC a perfect place to take next step in healthcare careers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As a basketball player in high school and part of his college life thus far, Clayton Tate saw both kinds of “PT.” “I was in PT a lot when I played,” Tate said, referring to the verbal shorthand for physical therapy, which went along with the other PT – playing time – he got while dishing assists as a guard for Terry High School and Hinds Community College.

Tate, now 25, is looking for an assist from the college’s skilled instructors as he begins his studies toward a career in healthcare, possibly in the field of physical therapy.

“When I played, I would see how a medical staff would care for people,” he said, as he joined about 125 other current students, prospective students, parents and others at the fall 2019 Nursing Allied Health Showcase held Sept. 5 at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center. “It will help me in the future that I, too, like to help people and exercise to stay in shape.” Held each semester at the Chadwick

Drive complex, the event allows prospective students and others to tour the campus’ learning labs, speak with faculty, explore the college’s 12 health-related and two short-term programs and get the latest on requirements and deadlines.

“Guests spoke with our faculty one-on-one to learn about our programs of study and the promising careers in healthcare that Hinds’ graduates obtain,” said Kathryn Cole, district director of Enrollment Services.

Programs showcased included Associate Degree Nursing (RN), Dental Assisting Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Science, Health Care Assistant, Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology, Surgical Technology, and two short-term programs, Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy.

“We are excited to offer nursing and allied health programs that provide ex-

cellent employment opportunities for our students,” said Nursing and Allied Health Dean Kathy Elliott. “Graduates of our programs are employed at rates of 90 to 100 percent within a year of graduation and consistently meet national benchmarks for licensure/registry pass rates.”

The event draws potential students across a wide spectrum of ages and professional experience. Growing up in medical families is the background on which Jadria Martin, of Clinton, and Jalen Ford, of Raymond, are drawing as they consider nursing careers.

“My grandmother was a registered nurse and my mom came to school for it. I like seeing and learning about the human body,” Martin said as she and Ford checked out the Associate Degree Nursing lab.

Ford’s mother is an LPN, which he says helped shaped his admiration for the healthcare industry.

“I’m following in my mother’s footsteps,” he said. “I like helping others get well.”

DeVos hands for-profit colleges \$11.1 billion over 10 years



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Most consumers would likely agree that consumers should get what they pay for. If a product or service fails to deliver its promises, refunds are in order.

That kind of thinking guided the Obama Administration’s decision to address false promises made to student loan borrowers.

A rule known as the “borrower defense to repayment,” came on the heels of successive for-profit college closures that left thousands of students stranded educationally and financially. The federal rule provided a way for snookered students and borrowers to apply for and secure loan forgiveness. Its premise was that both borrowers and taxpayers were assured that the Department of Education was looking out for them.

But with a new administration and education secretary, rules that made sense and brought taxpayers financial fairness have been repealed and replaced with other rules that favor for-profit colleges, loan servicers and other business interests.

Just as many people were about to begin their Labor Day holiday, the federal Department of Education announced it was changing a key rule that provided a pathway to federal loan forgiveness. Instead, a new rule puts in place a process that will be cumbersome, lengthy and nearly impossible for consumers to successfully secure relief.

Commenting on the rule that will now apply to all federal student loans made on or after July 1, 2020, Secretary Betsy DeVos said, “We believe this final rule corrects the wrongs of the 2016 rule through common sense and carefully crafted reforms that hold colleges and universities accountable and treat students and taxpayers fairly.”

Excuse me Secretary DeVos, the rule was promulgated due to the thousands of wrongs resulting from less than truthful recruitment practices, false advertising and targeting of vulnerable populations: low-income, first-generation college students who were often people of color, and veterans seeking new skills in a return to civilian life. For-profit colleges largely remain financially solvent by their heavy dependence upon taxpayer-funded student loans.

For Black America, the effects of predatory student lending at for-profit colleges comes with severe consequences. According to research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL):

- Only 21% of all for-profit students in four-year programs graduate within six years
- Four years after graduation, black students with a bachelor’s degree owe almost double the debt their white classmates owe
- While for-profit college enrollment represents 8.6% of all college students, these schools generate over 34% of all students who default on their loans.

While this new rule may make sense to DeVos, education advocates had an opposite reaction, quickly and emphatically detailing how the rule

change is as negative as it is costly.

“After the collapse of Corinthian College and ITT Tech, two of the largest for-profit education companies in the country, the Obama Administration created the Borrower Defense rule to protect students and taxpayers from deceptive practices that could jeopardize the future of thousands of students and our economy,” said Ashley Harrington, a CRL senior policy counsel, and a primary negotiator during the Education Department’s negotiated rule-making process.

With DeVos’ new rule, both the automatic discharge of federal loans that took effect after a school closed and another provision that allowed group claim relief are now eliminated. Anyone seeking redress on student loans must also bear the full burden of documenting their alleged “harm” before a claim can be reviewed.

The new rule also removes states from opportunities to defend their own constituents. State laws, many enacted before the 2016 Obama-era rule took effect, provided another route to legal redress. But with the new DeVos rule, no state-level claims can be pursued.

“That’s problematic for us,” added Harrington. “The federal standard should be the floor, not the ceiling, for relief.”

Over the next decade, the Education Department projects an \$11 billion cost-savings from denying loan forgiveness. But for student loan borrowers, denying \$11 billion in loan forgiveness adds an unwieldy and costly burden for an education and earnings that were never realized.

“The new ‘borrower defense rule’ does anything but defend students,” said James Kvaal, president of The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS). “In fact it makes it almost impossible for students who are lied to, defrauded, or otherwise abused, by their colleges to get a fresh start. ...By leaving students on the hook for colleges’ illegal actions, today’s rule sends a clear message that there will be little or no consequences for returning to the misrepresentations and deceptions that characterized the for-profit college boom.”

A similar reaction came from Abby Shafroth, an attorney with the National Consumer Law Center, and like Harrington, participated in the department’s rulemaking meetings.

“There are over 170,000 pending applications with many borrowers held in limbo for years,” continued Shafroth.

“The new rules reflect an ongoing shift to protect the multi-billion-dollar for-profit education industry at the expense of students and taxpayers and come amid concerns about conflicts of interest raised about the rule of former for-profit executives hired by the Department.”

Rather than saving taxpayer dollars, it seems that this new rule is guaranteeing a taxpayer-funded revenue stream for the benefit of for-profit colleges -- not students.

by Rachel James-Terry
rjames@sumsnews.com

Like James, Atehortua also sees the advantages of routine siestas. "The people there may have longer working hours, but they have a break in the middle of the day." He said the rest helps relieve tension because mental health is

“Everything was nice and clean – even the water flowing out of pipes and the ground. People would say, ‘You can get a glass and drink that.’ The air was fresh. The pork was clean because the animals don’t eat slop; they eat acorns.”

Atehortua said the trip to Spain was enlightening for everyone. When people ask why he's in Mississippi he explains it like this: "I'm passionate

“These fields could involve chronic, non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, cancer prevention, hypertension or nutrition. They know things can be done in a better way. That’s the type of vision I try to integrate into these programs – to have an impact on future colleagues in the field,” he concluded.



Free contractor license readiness workshop to be held Oct. 3 in Southaven

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Contractors interested in becoming licensed or obtaining their Certificate of Responsibility are encouraged to register for the Mississippi Development Authority's Contractor License Readiness Workshop. The workshop will be held Thursday, Oct. 3, from 8 a.m. – noon at Community Bank located at 6910 Airways Blvd. in Southaven.

The workshop will provide the knowledge necessary to understanding the contract licensure application and testing process, eligibility re-

quirements, test structure and obtaining a Certificate of Responsibility.

Attendees will learn about the application process, business/management law, NASCLA exams and commercial and residential contracts. In addition, attendees will be introduced to valuable content from Community Bank's Smart Banking for Small Businesses training program.

The workshop will be facilitated by Anthony Griffin, owner and general contractor of The Griffin Group, LLC; and Ford Moore, president of

Community Bank's Shelby County Division.

The Contractor Readiness Workshop is sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority and Community Bank.

The workshop is free, but registration is required.

To register, visit www.msccpc.com, select "Events Calendar" and then "October 3."

For more information, contact Michelle Bernard with MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-6678 or mbernard@mississippi.org.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson D-MS 2nd District

\$9,345 to Midtown Partners, Inc.

Recently United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awarded \$9,345 through the National Days of Service grant program to Midtown Partners, Inc. based in Jackson, MS.

The National Days of Ser-

vice grant competition includes funding for both September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

The purpose of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service grant funding is to mobilize more Americans to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday as a



day of service in communities, to encourage those who serve on this holiday to make a long-term commitment to community service and to bring people together to focus on service to others.

\$591,181 to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) recently announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded \$591,181 to the Mississippi Department of Environmental

Quality (MDEQ) through the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) program.

The HHPD funds will provide assistance for planning and other pre-construction ac-

tivities toward repair, removal, or structural/nonstructural rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.

For additional information contact MEDQ at (601) 961-5171.

MDEQ awards \$296,000 to 12 school districts for new school buses

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has awarded \$296,992 to 12 school districts to assist in the purchase of new school buses. The grants, funded under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), were provided to the school districts by MDEQ's Air Division toward the purchase of new diesel-powered buses with more stringent pollution controls to replace older buses thus reducing emissions of particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide.

Since 2009, the MDEQ Diesel School Bus Replacement Program has awarded more than \$1.38 million to 40 school districts for the purchase of 87 school buses.

"I am very pleased that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has awarded this money to the 12 school districts to aid in the

purchase of new school buses with cleaner emissions to transport students to and from school," said Gov. Phil Bryant.

"Thousands of Mississippi students begin and end their days with a trip on a school bus, so helping school districts provide newer, cleaner buses is an ongoing priority for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. School buses are the safest and most efficient way to transport students, but we want to ensure that it is a healthy trip," said Gary Rikard, MDEQ executive director.

The districts receiving grants were:

Enterprise School District (Clarke County) – \$15,000 (one bus)

Harrison County School District – \$30,000 (two buses)

Itawamba County School District – \$30,000 (two buses)

Lee County School District – \$58,496 (four buses)

Marshall County School Dis-

trict – \$30,000 (two buses)

Monroe County School District – \$15,000 (one bus)

Nettleton School District – \$15,000 (one bus)

North Pike School District – \$15,000 (one bus)

Oxford School District – \$15,000 (one bus)

Pontotoc City School District – \$15,000 (one bus)

West Jasper School District – \$43,496 (three buses)

Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District – \$15,000 (one bus).

MDEQ encourages school districts to adopt anti-idling policies and the implementation of such a policy is a requirement for the districts that received funds for buses this year.

Stricter emissions standards for diesel engines, including school buses, were implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2007.

Mississippi Lottery Corporation selects advertising and marketing firm

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Lottery Corporation (MLC) recently hired an innovative and creative advertising and marketing firm to bolster the lottery's reach throughout the state.

Maris West and Baker (MWB) is a Jackson-based firm with a broad portfolio of artistic capabilities, branding experience, strategic knowledge and advertising experience.

"We are ready for them to become a partner with us in this historic venture of starting Mississippi's lottery," said MLC President Tom Shaheen. "With their skillset, I am confident they will be able to help

us grow the company and reach our audiences through exciting avenues."

MWB will manage media purchases, assist in branding and create digital, video and audio advertising to assist the MLC's drive of sales through the use of traditional and non-traditional outlets. They will work directly with the MLC Director of Marketing in decision making.

"MWB is honored to have been chosen to be the advertising/marketing partner of the Mississippi Lottery Corporation to help launch our state's first lottery," said MWB President/CEO Tim Mask. "We are

excited to help support an organization that will have a positive impact on Mississippi's infrastructure and education system."

The Mississippi Lottery Corporation was created in 2018 upon passage of the Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law, Senate Bill 2001. Governor Phil Bryant appointed the five-member Board of Directors October 19, 2018, with the goal of having the first lottery tickets on sale during the fourth quarter of 2019. The MLC is a legislatively created corporation.

Visit online at www.ms lotteryhome.com.

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Bahamas facing long road to recovery but cleaving to hope amidst devastation

By Barrington M. Salmon
TriceEdneyWire.com

Chris Laville remembers looking out of the window of his apartment, thinking it might not turn out too bad.

“It was early in the morning. It had rained and there was a light breeze,” Laville recalled in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. “I woke saying we could ride this out not knowing what a Category 5 storm was.”

Over the next day and a half, Laville, his wife and nine co-workers learned much more about Dorian than he ever wants to again. Elbow Key, where they lived, bore the brunt of Hurricane Dorian, the strongest storm ever to hit the Caribbean archipelago of 700 islands.

Laville, the 40-year-old head chef of the Sea Spray Resort, now says if he ever again hears a hurricane’s coming, he’ll be on the first flight out. Dorian made landfall and then sat for almost two days, lashing the islands with 185 mile an hour winds and gusts of up to 220 miles an hour.

He said he’s never been more afraid in his life and has been left deeply traumatized.

“... I met everybody running as the storm took off the roof,” he said. “I grabbed some things as the roof flew off my room. I looked and saw the veranda was gone, the stairs were gone and the railing took off. The only thing I could do was jump.”

Laville said he caught his wife Indira who jumped out of the building and waited for the rest of the group to do the same. As they sought shelter, they were buffeted by fierce winds and driving rain and sand.

Elsewhere on Abaco and Grand Bahama islands, Dorian – which traveled at a glacial pace of one mile per hour – tore through buildings, shredded objects in its path, tossed boats and other marine vessels onto land, obliterated homes and businesses and killed residents.

Laville said 40 units on the resort are gone and he lost a co-worker and a friend who was a ferry boat pilot. Elsewhere, Bahamians are trying to comprehend obliterated communities, washed out roads and neighborhoods sitting under water.

Dr. Paul Hunt, a pediatrician and allergy specialist, who has lived in the Bahamas since 1990, said he’s heartbroken. He’s fortunate, he said, because he and his family were in Nassau when the storm hit and his home is not damaged. His thoughts, he said, are on those who’re coping with loss and struggling to come to terms with the shocking devastation.

“I’m just numb. The gut-wrenching thing is my patients. I have a patient who I looked after since he was two and I just heard that a storm surge swept away him and two of his children,” said Hunt, a husband and father of three. “He’s lost and presumed dead. Save for the surge, this wouldn’t have been a big thing. The surge doesn’t happen over time, it can occur in two or three minutes.”

Hunt spoke to a niece who works at CNN who told him the government just sent 200 body bags to Abaco.

Official reports indicate that 43 people have been confirmed dead but that number is expected



Homes in the Bahamas turned to wreckage by Hurricane Dorian. PHOTO: Courtesy/CNN



A family returns to the High Rock community, one of the towns worst hit in Grand Bahama. PHOTO: VIDEO SCREENSHOT/SKY NEWS

ed to rise astronomically as rescue teams finally reach islands and communities that have been cut off by flood waters. At least 70,000 are homeless, according to reports.

The hurricane dropped 30 inches of rain and triggered a storm surge as high as 23 feet, leaving more than 13,000 homes damaged or destroyed, the Red Cross and government officials said. A video, which was shared widely, taken by a member of Parliament inside his home, shows dark water lapping against a second-story window 15-20 feet off the ground.

Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said in a press conference that although the storm targeted only a small section of the Bahamas, it still inflicted “generational devastation.”

According to CNN, Joy Jibrilu, director-general of the Bahamas Tourism and Aviation ministry, estimates that “... hundreds, up to thousands, of people are still missing.” Bahamas’ Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands told Guardian Radio 96.9 FM, that body bags, additional morticians and refrigerated coolers to store bodies are being transported to Abaco and other affected areas. Four morticians in Abaco are embalming remains because officials have run out of coolers.

“The public needs to prepare for unimaginable information about the death toll and the human suffering,” Sands said. “Make no bones about it, the numbers will be far higher. It is going to be significantly higher than that. And it’s just a matter of retrieving those bodies, making sure we understand how they died. It seems like we are splitting hairs, but not everyone who died, died in the storm.”

Back at Elbow Key, Laville said the group took refuge in a laundry room after breaking a window to get in. While gaining entrance, he gashed his hand but ignored it as everyone tumbled inside. It wasn’t long before the floor above them began to fall into the storeroom

so they all set off to find another safe space.

“I ran to the boss’s house and saw a boat parked in the room where he was,” Laville said.

His boss joined the group which went to another house.

“We bent down low and reached the house, by the grace of God,” said Laville. “Amazingly, the door opened with a gentle kick. As soon as we got in, the wind slammed the door behind us.”

Laville said this particular house was on stilts.

“Actually the building moved four or five inches,” he said, referring to the wind’s power. “When the eye passed over, I went to look for food and snacks because we ran out of food and water. We slept with our clothes and shoes on because we were afraid that something else might happen while we slept.”

Although he didn’t think of the wound to his hand, or his having stepped on a nail, Laville said his wife was concerned enough to encourage him to go to the Hopetown Fire Station. Surprisingly he said, he received 12 stitches and was put on an emergency flight to Nassau to receive additional medical care.

“It was a minor cut, but they opened it up and stitched the tendons,” he said. “My wife couldn’t come with me. I’m still worried about her because she’s there with people but still by herself. She was at the ferry station ‘til 4:45 p.m. and didn’t get on. I’m not feeling good, it’s not a good feeling at all.”

After Dorian’s arrival, Kevin Seymour said, he spent the worst 48 hours of his life.

“My second daughter Keyashawn lives in Abaco. We lost track of her for two days. They got flooded out and had to find refuge somewhere else,” said, Seymour, director of health, safety and the environment for the Grand Bahama Power Company. “Not knowing – that was painful. It was the worst two days of my life. I last spoke to her on Sunday and told her she needed to go to Marsh Harbor which is higher

ground. Good thing she didn’t go.”

As he and his family rode out the storm with no electricity but with adequate food and water, Seymour said the hurricane sounded like airplane engines revving on the tarmac. While the sound didn’t bother him, he said it really bothered his wife.

Corinne Laville, Chris’ aunt, said she’s most concerned about the trauma people have experienced and how that will affect them going forward. This hurricane offers yet another opportunity for the government and Bahamians to self-correct, she said.

“I swear, if we don’t change our thinking ... this is an opportunity to really do this right,” said Laville. “In Freeport people are taking care of one another. But in Abaco, Haitians have replaced white Abaconians as cheap labor while they stay on their yachts. We have to look at Haitian-Bahamian situation.”

Laville said a few thousand Haitians live in two shanty towns, one called the Mudd, where the structures aren’t built to code and likely were not able to withstand the powerful hurricane.

“We need to set standards on the islands,” she said. “And everything is too Nassau-centricity. That has to stop.”

She said humor has been one way for Bahamians to cope. For example, people said Dorian couldn’t leave the Bahamas because it was too dark, referring to the constant electrical blackouts caused by load-sharing.

“And a Bajan newscaster said on air that the Bahamas is a vacation destination and Dorian came for vacation,” Laville said with a hearty chuckle.

Hunt said the Bahamas will rebuild.

“Our beloved island of Grand Bahama took a pounding and there is a lot of hurting,” he wrote on Facebook. “My heart goes out to the families of those with loved ones who have lost their lives, several of whom were well known to me. The destruction in Abaco was catastrophic and gut wrenching...I will be returning to Freeport shortly to do my part in trying to alleviate some of the suffering and help in the rebuilding of our island. We in Grand Bahama have faced and conquered many obstacles that have been placed in our path. We will not be undone by Hurricane Dorian and we all will emerge from this collective experience stronger, wiser and more united.”

Black homeownership plummets to ‘crisis’ level, new NAREB president promises strategies for increase



Donnell Williams being sworn in as new president of NAREB at the organization’s annual convention July 28-Aug.2, 2019.

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

The new “commander and chief” of Black Homeownership in America has released a new strategy for raising the numbers that have plummeted to percentages below the time of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. But accomplishing that fete could prove more than daunting as the 2019 State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report – released this week – reveals the situation to be at crisis level, according to leaders in black homeownership.

“Someone needs to proclaim and declare a cease and desist on the declining rates of black homeownership. Someone needs to bring some programs and highlight this epidemic, this crisis in our community...I pray that I am up to the task,” says Donnell Williams in a recent interview following his swearing in as the 31st president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the 72-year-old organization founded to secure “equal housing opportunities, regardless of race, creed or color.”

A member of NAREB for 16 years, Williams, owner of Destiny Realty and the largest independent black real estate broker in the state of New Jersey, describes himself as “boots on the ground,” a posture from which he is able to see up close and personal the hindrances and the obstacles to black homeownership – and how to fix them.

The SHIBA report, researched primarily by the Urban Institute and released annually by NAREB, in order to “shed light on the public policies, private sector practices and other systemic disparities preventing black Americans from purchasing a home of their choice,” reports this week that “all gains in black homeownership that had been achieved between 1968 and 2004, had been erased by 2018.”

The following are just some of the chief findings:

- The homeownership rate for black households stood at 40.6 percent in the second quarter of 2019 – a full percentage point lower than 2018’s second-quarter rate of 41.6 percentage points. The current homeownership rate for blacks is currently below the 1968 level of 40.9 percent at the time of the passage of the Fair Housing Act.
- Homeownership for non-Hispanic whites stands at 73.1 percent, down from its high of 76 percent in 2004.
- Blacks have experienced the most substantial loss of homeownership since 2004, declining more than 8.5 percentage points, or 17 percent, as compared to the less than 4 percent decline for non-Hispanic whites. In other words, blacks have lost more than four times the share of homeownership as non-Hispanic whites since 2004.
- Half of all blacks born between 1956 and 1965 were homeowners by the age of 50. Blacks born between 1966 and 1975 have a homeownership rate of just above 40 percent and are thus unlikely to achieve a 50 percent homeownership rate by their 50th birthdays. Black millennials, if current trends continue, may fail to achieve a homeownership rate of 40 percent by the age of 50.
- The gap in homeownership rates between blacks and non-His-

panic whites is larger now than it was in 1934, the year of the enactment of FHA (Federal Housing Administration) and the start of modern housing finance system.

SHIBA places the plummeting levels of black homeownership squarely at the feet of loan denials, largely because of debt to income ratio and credit scoring.

“For black applicants, overall denial rates for home purchase loans were double those of non-Hispanic white applicants – 18 percent versus 9 percent, unchanged from 2016,” the report states. It adds, “The black denial rate for conventional loans is down significantly [from] its high of 36 percent (versus 19 percent) at the height of the foreclosure crisis in 2008.

The report continues, “Debt-to-income ratio was the most common reason for denial reported for black applicants – at 31 percent compared to 20 percent for non-Hispanic white applicants. Credit history was the second most prevalent reason for denials among both black applicants (25 percent) and non-Hispanic white applicants (20 percent).”

Williams says he believes he has a winning strategy that will take up arms against the key hindrances. He was set to release that strategy this week in a press conference and conversation with national leaders.

Among the key programs and initiatives, according to a NAREB release this week:

- House Then The Car – A campaign targeted to the 1.7 million American millennials and generation X populations who make over \$100k per year and who are home buyer ready but are currently renting.
 - Realist Opportunities For Seasoned Individuals (ROSI) – An initiative that addresses the wholistic needs (buying/selling real estate, life insurance, retirement, health insurance, etc.) of people over 40 years of age, or parents of any age.
 - Civic Engagement – Program that identifies and cultivates a host of “Allies” that expand beyond established networks of partners and faith-based communities. These “Allies” would include Black Chambers of Commerce, Greek organizations, minority professional organizations and more.
- “This is a moment in our history to demand a cease and desist in the denial of equal access to mortgage credit and homeownership for the nation’s black Americans,” Williams concludes in a letter as part of his “Message from the President” in the SHIBA report. “After you have read our report and are armed with both an understanding of the barriers faced, and solutions required, I encourage you to support NAREB’s efforts. Whether you are a policymaker, regulator, mortgage lender, real estate professional, housing or civil rights advocate, faith-based leader, trade association executive, non-profit organization representative, housing counselor, black head of household or student, there is a place for you on our team. NAREB’s work is guided by three words: Educate, Empower and Mobilize. With these three words as our guide, NAREB is confident it will succeed in increasing black homeownership and wealth in America.”

There is joy in the Lord

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



We read in Psalm 89:15-18 these words: “Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. For the Lord is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our King.”

Psalm 89 is a beautiful chapter to read concerning the mercies of the Lord and how He poured out His favor on the children of Israel. Verse 15 is what I want

to focus on in our Scripture text: “Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.” I am glad for the knowledge of the joyful sound, and I am thankful that we can know the joyful sound.

I like to be joyful, do you? I would much rather be happy than to be sad. I would much rather be happy in my soul than to carry a heavy weight of burdens and troubles. There is joy in the Lord, and we can have joy even in the midst of trouble.

This joy that I am talking about is not just a feeling. It is not something that we can experience in a physical manner. This joy is not from getting something that we have wanted for years and we finally have it, so now we

are happy about it. That kind of happiness only lasts for a little while, but the joy that I am talking about far exceeds anything that we can ever experience in this temporal, physical world. I am talking about a joy that comes from Heaven, a joy that comes from knowing Christ. This joy settles down deep in the soul of mankind. It lifts him and strengthens him in the midst of his affliction and in the midst of trouble. When our heart is breaking, when there is sadness all around us, we can have a joy that the world doesn’t know.

Joy is an important ingredient in the life of a Christian. First of all, we will never know what it is to really be saved until we know that joyful sound. Joy is important.

In Isaiah 12:3 the prophet

Isaiah said, “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” Joy becomes a dipper or a means of supply.

He said out of the wells. The word “wells” is plural. This implies that many, many times God is going to deliver us out of problems and trials. He will bring salvation and victory to us in every battle. In every situation of life, we can draw water, the Holy Spirit, the supplier of the power of God, right from the wells of deliverance that God brings to our soul. The child of God is not left alone.

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

P R E S E R V E D

Vision for your life

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“All vision begins with light.” I’ve seen this phrase in my eye doctor’s office every year for the last 15 years and honestly never paid much attention to it. Yet, a few years ago when I looked at these words as I waited to pick up my new contact lenses, I thought, “That’s so true and not just for our natural sight but also our spiritual sight.”

If our eyes lose the ability to process light correctly, images become blurry, fuzzy or, in the worst case, we lose our sight altogether. Similarly, our ability to have vision for our lives is directly impacted by how much light (or God’s revelation) we allow in our own lives.

For some of us, the problem is that we don’t have a vision for our lives or if we have a vision, we don’t allow enough light (Godly revelation) to make the vision clear. Moreover, if we live in darkness (often caused by sin), it is hard to have a clear Godly vision for our lives.

How do we develop a Godly vision for our lives? Read the Bible, pray to God, believe in faith, praise and worship Him and be obedient to God’s word. The more time we spend doing each of these, the greater revelation and sharper Godly vision we will receive.


Habakkuk 2:2-3 then says that we should “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time....” These biblical verses also provide insight on how to take care of our God-

given vision. The verbs “write,” and “make” explain what we should do when we get a vision from God.

We need to write down the vision in some way. This includes writing in a journal or creating a vision board with images that remind us of what God has shown us. Making it plain means that we have to spend time in prayer and get a complete understanding of God’s vision. Having a clearer understanding of God’s vision makes it easier to share the vision with others. In addition, sharing our Godly vision with others allows us to build a network for support and accountability as we wait for it to come to pass, no matter how long it takes.

Even though it is not the beginning of the calendar year, last week I celebrated a birthday which had me thinking about developing a vision for the next year of my life. Unlike a New Year’s resolution which often has to be repeated every year because the changes aren’t sustained, my New Year’s vision states what I believe in faith God will do that will permanently change my life. Over the years, what I’ve learned is that God will often give a vision so incredibly transformative that only He could make it happen. And when it happens, you’ll know that it was God.

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



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Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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Healing the wounds

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



The chaotic and catastrophic conditions we are seeing at an alarming rate across the world have even the most optimistic people around us very concerned. Mass shootings appear to be ordinary now. Just recently, there were the tragedies in El Paso (TX), Dayton (OH) and Odessa (TX) in rapid succession before we had a chance to recover from the tragedy before the last one. What just happened in the Bahamas is hard to imagine – and yet, tragedy of a monumental proportion just happened. Add to that the horrendous way #45 behaves daily both at home and abroad, and acts like none of it matters to him. As the song by Marvin Gaye goes, “It makes you want to holler and throw up both your hand.” Unfortunately, that is not the solution.

In some way, we’ve all been wounded. Some of us have been wounded by the circumstance of our ancestors’ enslavement. It’s too difficult for me to think about people like Harriet Tubman having to stand there and take the lash of an evil system called slavery; of Fannie Lou Hamer having to leave her family and her home just because she wanted to vote; of Dr. Martin Luther King facing the threat of murder and ultimately being murdered; and about Malcolm, Evers, and many others being murdered for trying to do good.

Add to that all the mothers who’ve buried their children much too soon for senseless reasons. Our brains have been battered with mass shootings in churches and synagogues, and in schools where some children have become traumatized by the thought of going to schools. We’ve seen babies separated from their parents, and a recent report indicates how these children have been damaged – maybe even wounded for life unless we come up with a way to heal the wounds.

Can we afford to just let it go and hope that things will get better? I submit that we cannot. We must look for ways to heal our wounds. My eyes are always open to do just that. On a recent trip to Columbus, Ohio, I met a group of wonderful people who’ve come up with ways to heal the wounds of our circumstances. As president of the National Congress of Black Women, I’ve invited the principals of this process to come to Washington, DC during the upcoming Congressional Black Caucus Foundation conference to begin the discussion of what we can do as a group of people who’ve been wounded in this country for over 400 years, and with the current occupants in the White House, it seems there is no hope and no hope of hope, so the healing falls on you and me collectively with the help of professionals who’ve offered us help.

Keep your ears open for the names Dr. Linda Myers, Dr. Monica Clement and Dr. Jordan Argus. In the meantime, you may do one of 2 things: Go to www.wpfwfm.org. click on Archives, scroll down to Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 10 a.m. for my program called “Wake Up and Stay Woke.” Click on Play and you’ll be able to hear an interview with some of the leaders involved in the process called “Healing the Wounds of Circumstance.” I guarantee you’ll want to hear more about the program. In the meantime, there are things we can do to begin the process of healing. We can form healing circles, always do the right thing, look out for one another, refuse to meet hate with hate, anger with anger, jealousy with jealousy or fear with fear. Finally, never spend money where we’re not respected. Always “throw the ball in the right goal” lest we contribute to our own losses.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women, 202 678-6788 www.nationalcongressbw.org.. She also hosts “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW FM 89.3.

Attitudes about gun safety are changing, but senate leadership is mired in the past

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



“The biggest movement and shift that we’ve seen in this culture is simply because of the victims. When victims and survivors are coming to the legislative bodies and they’re telling their stories and they’re appealing, we’ve seen movement. We’ve seen movement. And so it’s a matter of changing one mind and one heart at a time. You change the culture, and the policy change comes right on the heels of that.” – Congresswoman Lucy McBath, mother of 17-year-old Jordan Davis, shot to death in an argument about loud music.

The facts on gun safety are clear. Since 1994, background checks have blocked over 3.5 million gun sales to felons, domestic abusers, and other people who aren’t allowed to have guns under existing law.

About 90 percent of Americans support background checks for all firearms sales.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refuses to allow

the senate to vote on bills, passed by the House of Representatives, that would expand background checks to private sales and extend to at least 10 days the amount of time firearms dealers must wait for a response from the background check system before the sale can proceed.

A ban on military-style assault weapons effect from September 1994 through 2004 was associated with a 25 percent drop in gun massacres and a 40 percent drop in fatalities.

About two-thirds of American support a ban on military-style assault weapons.

But a bill to restrict the sale of military-style assault weapons remains mired in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

One of the people who should have failed a background check to buy a handgun was Dylann Roof of Columbia, South Carolina. Because the check was not completed within three days, Roof was able to buy a gun.

A few months later, Roof shot and killed nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. One of the people who was prevented from buying a

gun because he failed a background check in 2014 was Seth Ator of Odessa, Texas. Ator had been committed to a psychiatric institution in 2006 because he was deemed a danger to himself and/or others. Because of a loophole in the law – a loophole that would be closed by the House-passed Bipartisan Background Checks Act – Ator was able to purchase an AR-15 style rifle through a private sale.

Ator used that rifle to shoot nearly 30 people in Odessa and Midland, Texas killing seven and wounding 22.

There were six other mass shootings in the United States, leaving five more dead and another 20 injured. There have been 287 mass shootings in of 2019 – more than a shooting per day. There have been 10,018 deaths and 20,061 injuries from gun violence this year, and that’s not even including suicides by firearms, which claim about 23,000 lives each year.

Stopping gun violence is now the third-most important issue for voters, after health care and immigration, according to a recent poll.

The ongoing epidemic of gun violence prompted Walmart to stop

selling handgun ammunition and “short-barrel rifle ammunition,” such as the .223 caliber and 5.56 caliber, that can also be used on assault-style weapons. Walmart and Kroger also have requested that customers not openly carry firearms in their stores.

These decisions mark a significant turning point in the effort to protect Americans from gun violence. Senate leaders have, instead, chosen to continue along the path of cowardice.

As the House passage of the background bill and the Walmart and Kroger decisions demonstrate, the firearm industry is losing its stranglehold on our political and legislative institutions. But not fast enough. As long as McConnell refuses to consider the common-sense gun safety laws passed by the House, it’s clear his loyalties lie with the gun lobby and not with the American people.

We must do everything we can to urge the Senate to do its job. Call 202 224-3121 to speak to your senators and let them know they were elected to defend your safety and your family, not the profits of the gun industry.”

In the wake of Hurricane Dorian: Climate change and infrastructure issues

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Hurricane Dorian has drowned the Bahamas and devastated the coasts of North and South Carolina. There are trillions of dollars worth of damages and communities will take years to rebuild. The fury of this hurricane, some say, is unprecedented, with winds measured at 130 miles per hour at their fiercest. Dozens of lives have been lost in the Bahamas, and many others here in the United States.

As the winds die down, the questions rise up. Could this hurricane, and its devastation have been prevented? What role does climate change play in the destruction this hurricane has caused? Are extreme and unexpected weather patterns our new reality? What does it mean for our quality of life and our economy?

One doesn’t have to be a climate scientist to believe that climate change is affecting our weather. But there is a large body of scientific research to prove it. The ferocity of Hurricane Dorian and the massive

destruction it has left in its wake is at least partly due to climatic destabilization. This is why 195 nations signed the Paris Accord, the 2016 agreement to contain greenhouse gas emissions. Many applauded President Barack Obama’s support of this accord. We have been dismayed that the current “President” has indicated his intent to withdraw from the agreement, and has already supported public policy to undermine it.

The willingness of US leaders to ignore the scourge of climate change is challenging. It is also challenging to watch democratic presidential candidates flail around the issue, as they did in the recent CNN debates. To be sure, there was great rhetoric and good ideas, but from my perspective, no robust approach to better managing our environment.

Hurricane Dorian reminds us of the urgency of dealing with climate change policy. It also reminds us of the underinvestment our nation has made to our infrastructure. Better infrastructure would mitigate some of the destruction of this hurricane, and our 45th President promised to address infrastructure. He has not.

It’s a bipartisan challenge since whether you are a Democrat or Republican, you ride on our nation’s highways and drive across vulnerable bridges. The American Society of Civil Engineers (asce.org) rates our infrastructure a D+, hardly a passing grade. It points to deficiencies on everything from our bridges and roads to our water supply, and daily headlines suggest their D+ grade may be generous.

Flint, Michigan has yet again made national news headlines after its water supply has been again polluted. It is easy to focus on Flint, but too many other municipalities also have water challenges, and the public health effects in Flint reverberate all over the country.

We have long known of the adverse effects of lead paint on children, yet too many of our schools still are riddled with lead paint. And the beat goes on. The worst thing is that little has improved between 2013 and 2017 when the last report was released. The “President” knows it, but doesn’t care to use his political capital to spark a bipartisan agreement, but instead prefers to keep up the combative mess around immigration and jingoism.

Congress is just back from its six-week break. Perhaps they will approach our challenges with renewed enthusiasm. From my perspective, the three top things they must deal with are gun control, infrastructure, and climate change. These need to be bipartisan issues, issues that the majority of the population will be positively impacted by. But the rudderless, leaderless Oval Office prefers to engage in a rhetorical sideshow that diverts from the failing economy (even with low unemployment rates), the white supremacist gun crisis and infrastructure ineffectuality.

Hurricane Dorian reminds us that legislative malfeasance is unacceptable. To ignore climate change, infrastructure and gun control is to ignore the issues that are critical to the lives of our nation’s citizens.

I’m not surprised that 45 ignores these issues, but what about the Congress, including those who represent areas that Dorian devastated?

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

After Labor Day commit to raising full-time workers out of poverty

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



The origins of Labor Day in the United States are murky. Various labor leaders are credited with suggesting the celebration to the Central Labor Union. The first Labor Day parade took place in 1882 in New York. Nearly two dozen states declared Labor Day holidays between 1887 to 1894.

Undisputed is that the federal recognition of Labor Day, in 1894 by President Grover Cleveland, was precipitated by the bloody

Pullman Strike that year that left 30 railroad workers dead.

And it is that strike – its origins, and public perception of the workers – that holds valuable lessons for the present day.

The most obvious parallel is declining wages and the rising cost of housing. In 1893, Pullman workers lived in the company town of Pullman, Illinois, and lived in company-owned housing. During a recession, the company cut the workers’ wages, but the rents and other costs of living controlled by the company remained the same.

Today, the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage has

plummeted by more than 30 percent since 1968. Over the same period, adjusted for inflation, the median home value has nearly doubled and rents have skyrocketed by nearly 70%.

One in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that can leave them in poverty, even when working full time. About one in seven black workers and one in five Latino workers were paid poverty wages in 2017, compared with about one in 12 white workers.

Legislation that would boost the federal minimum wage for the first time in a decade languishes in the U.S. Senate. The Raise the Wage Act of 2019, passed by

the House in July, would set the federal minimum wage at \$15 by 2025. As many as 33 million Americans – nearly two-fifths of African Americans and one-third of Latinos – could see a raise, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Adjusting the minimum wage also boosts the economy. Research shows that after even minimum wage adjustment of just \$1, spending in households with minimum wage workers increased, on average, at least \$700 per quarter. In the year since San Francisco set a minimum wage of \$15, the unemployment rate dropped from 2.5 percent to 1.9

percent.

This is the longest the United States has ever gone without adjusting the federal minimum wage since it first was established in 1938. In a Fireside Chat the night before signing the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established the federal minimum wage, President Franklin Roosevelt said, “Do not let any calamity-howling executive with an income of \$1,000 a day, [\$18,000 in today’s dollars] who has been turning his employees over to the Government relief rolls in order to preserve his company’s undistributed reserves, tell you – using his stockholders’ money to

pay the postage for his personal opinions – tell you that a wage of \$11 a week is going to have a disastrous effect on all American industry.”

Income inequality has returned to a level last seen in the days before the Great Depression. The top 1% owns about 40% of total household wealth, according to a study published earlier this year.

There is no shortage of “calamity-howling executives” opposed to adjusting the minimum wage, but their arguments ring hollow. Cities that increased their minimum wages did not experience dramatic job losses.

Forrest General Hospital to offer 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, September 18, at 12 p.m.

For more information about the advance care planning seminar, visit forrestgeneral.com or call 601-288-4445.

Forrest General Hospital offers seminars to educate the public on high quality, affordable healthcare options

Series of free educational sessions to provide the community with valuable information on the Medicare and related programs

The Mississippi Link Newswire

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

Information will be shared about Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, and how to enroll in the plan of your choice.

"The Care Management Organization provides a unique and needed free health insurance consultations to anyone living in Forrest General's 19 county service area, whether you do business with us or not. With the Annual Enrollment Period around the corner, the Care Management Organization is dedicated to assisting anyone in the Pine Belt find and enroll in the best Medicare Benefit Option, or Affordable Care Act Marketplace Plans. As a division of Forrest General Hospital and Hattiesburg Clinic, our agents are not allowed to make percent-

age-based commissions, so the advice we give is always with the customer's best interests in mind," said Stephen Ryan, director of insurance operations at Forrest General.

The next meetings will be at 10 a.m. at the following locations:

Wednesday, September 11 at Highland Community Hospital in Picayune

Thursday, September 12 at Oak Grove Public Library – 4958 Old Hwy 11, Hattiesburg

Thursday, September 19 at Jones County Library – 530 Commerce Street, Laurel

Tuesday, September 24 at CMO – 106 Madison Plaza, Suite A, Hattiesburg

Thursday, September 26 at Marion General Hospital in Columbia

For more information or to reserve a place at the event, call 601-288-8115 or 1-800-844-4445. Participants may also find more information online by visiting forresthealth.org/insurance.

Molina Healthcare seeking nominations to receive \$3,000 awards

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Molina Healthcare of Mississippi is seeking nominees from across the state for its first ever Community Champions Awards.

Molina's Community Champions Awards program honors and brings together people whose leadership, volunteerism and public advocacy embody the spirit of service.

Winners each receive a \$3,000

grant to donate to a nonprofit of his or her choice and a trophy.

We are inviting the community to nominate volunteers who work to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. The heroes will be celebrated at an awards ceremony luncheon Thursday, October 24, in Jackson.

The deadline is Friday, September 13.

Forrest General Hospital hires new chief nursing officer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General Hospital is pleased to announce the hiring of a new chief nursing officer. Phyllis Chambers-Berry, DNP, RN, NE-BC, assumed the duties of CNO effective September 1, 2019.

Dr. Chambers-Berry most recently served as Director of Emergency and Nursing Staff Services at Baptist Memorial Hospital Desoto in Southaven, Mississippi. In that position, Dr. Chambers-Berry was involved with supervising a 92 person staff, managing the daily operations of an emergency department, which cares for 67,000 patients annually, overseeing a multimillion dollar budget, and strategic nursing oversight for a 25-bed emergency expansion project.

Additionally, Dr. Chambers-Berry oversaw nursing support services at Baptist



Berry

Desoto and was responsible for bed flow daily operations.

"I am excited to be a part of the Forrest General Hospital family, and I look for-

ward to leading our nursing staff as they provide the highest level of patient care as envisioned by our president, Andy Woodard," said Dr. Chambers-Berry.

Dr. Chambers-Berry has a wide range of honors and accomplishments including serving as president of the Mississippi Nurses Association of Marshall, Tate, and De Soto Counties from 2018 till her relocation to Hattiesburg September 1 and being voted Top 100 Nurses in Memphis-Shelby County 2015. She was also nominated for the prestigious Nightingale Nurse of Distinction Award.

Dr. Chambers-Berry earned a Masters of Science in Nursing from Loyola University New Orleans and went received a Doctorate of Nursing Practice also from Loyola University New Orleans in 2016.

Vaping: Whose side is the FDA on?

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Most recently, we are finding out that vaping and e-cigarettes are causing health problems in the healthy lungs of young people.

Initially touted as a sure-fire way to create a generation of tobacco-free adults, we are now finding that they are not the panacea they were intended to be. Electronic cigarettes are less harmful than traditional cigarettes, but they aren't safe. There's evidence they can damage the lungs, and they're also a path to nicotine addiction. Last year the percentage of teenagers using nicotine grew at the fastest rate ever recorded for an addictive substance, according to a survey funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

In fact, studies have found that young people who use them are more likely to become consumers of tobacco products than those who have never used them.

I should say a little about vaping, and what it is, for those who don't know. In 2014, The Oxford English Dictionary made "vape" the word of the year!

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The term is used because e-cigarettes do not produce tobacco smoke, but rather an aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor, that actually consists of fine particles. Many of these particles contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, as well as respiratory and heart disease.

Vaping has grown in popularity with the rise of e-cigarettes, which were introduced to the mass market in the U.S. in 2007. Vaping devices include not just e-cigarettes, but also vape pens and advanced personal vaporizers.

More than 200 people across the US have come down with a mysterious illness that appears to be linked to vaping – the latest wake-up call to the potentially serious health risks of using e-cigarettes.

Federal officials are now confirming 193 potential cases of lung ailments linked to e-cigarettes reported by 22 states. The most publicized was the recent young student-athlete in Wisconsin, who suffered from severe lung damage from vaping. Even when vapor is nicotine-free, it may carry other heart health risks. The heating element in e-cigarettes emits tiny particles, sometimes including metals, which can lodge themselves deep into the lungs and get absorbed into the body's circulatory system.

As of August 27, there were 215 cases of severe respiratory disease in 25 states since late June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported recently. All patients reported using e-cigarette products. But while officials believe their illness is associated with vaping, they haven't been able to single out which ingredient or device may be causing the problem.

My issue is with the FDA, not the CDC.

The CDC monitors and tracks diseases and outbreaks; the FDA is charged with the responsibility of "protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs..."

They are supposed to have our backs. Until 2016, e-cigarettes were freely able to enter the market without any pre-market approval by the FDA.

At the time electronic cigarettes were first available on the market, Obama-era Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said in a news release, "Today's announcement is an important step in the fight for a tobacco-free generation – it will help us catch up with changes in the marketplace, put into place rules that protect our kids and give adults information they need to make informed decisions." I don't think so, Ms. Burwell!

To their credit, the CDC has been warning about the identified and potential dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping since these devices first appeared around 2007. In May of 2016, the FDA informed the public that its authority would be extended to cover electronic cigarettes and e-liquids, which meant that they were able

to develop and enforce regulations on the industry. Essentially, any vaping product or e-cig that was released after February 15, 2007 fell under the exact same lengthy and expensive FDA approval process as regular tobacco cigarettes.

It doesn't help matters to know that in 2010, the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rules against the Food and Drug Administration that absent therapeutic marketing claims, the FDA cannot ban e-cigarettes as unapproved drug delivery devices. This decision provides the legal framework for the very survival of the e-cigarette and vapor industries.

Seems we've been down this road before: The Federal Agency (FDA) charged with protecting us as consumers, failed us. We saw what happened with FDA oversight on allowing tobacco products, opioids, and now with electronic cigarettes.

I believe that this is the tip of the iceberg or an even larger problem. A new study found that more than a third of drugs failed to complete the approval process. This means there are lot of drugs on the market that haven't been fully approved.

The time has long passed when we can assume that as consumers, we are protected from products entering the market that can cause us harm. We must hold the FDA, and all regulatory bodies to a higher standard of accountability. If not, we pay with our lives and the lives of our children.

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

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

Glenn Ellis, was Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics.

For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Chicago; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com

LEGAL

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10/15/2019, for:

RE: GS# 108-285 Cook Library Renovation (Phase 2)
University of Southern Mississippi
RFx #: 3160003153

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

Professional: Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, PLLC
Address: 2727 Old Canton Road, Suite 200
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601-321-9107
Email: mboerner@wbaarchitecture.com

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

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

9/12/2019, 9/19/2019

LEGAL

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10/15/2019, for:

RE: GS# 645-007 Simpson Dam Repairs
(Simpson County Lake Dam Repairs)
Division of Fisheries (Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Parks)
RFx # 3160003143

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

Professional: Dungan Engineering, P.A.
Address: 1574 Highway 98 East
Columbia, Mississippi 39429
Phone: 601-731-2600
Email: info@dunganeng.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

9/12/2019, 9/19/2019

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.
1989 CADI BRO Vin #1G6DW51Y4KR737379
Registered to Alexander Kenny
Mississippi Title Loans, Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: September 26, 2019
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

9/5/19, 9/12/19, 09/19/19

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI


IN THE MATTER THE ESTATE
OF EDDIE CHARLES NELSON

CAUSE NO. 19-1371-M

NOTICE TO CREDITORS


Letters of Administration having been granted on August 14, 2019, by the Chancery Court of Rankin County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Eddie Charles Nelson, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.


This the 09th day of September, 2019.


Stephanie Nelson, Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Stephanie Nelson, Administrator for the Estate of Eddie Charles Nelson, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.


Notary

My Commission Expires: 

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1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202

9/12/19, 09/19/19

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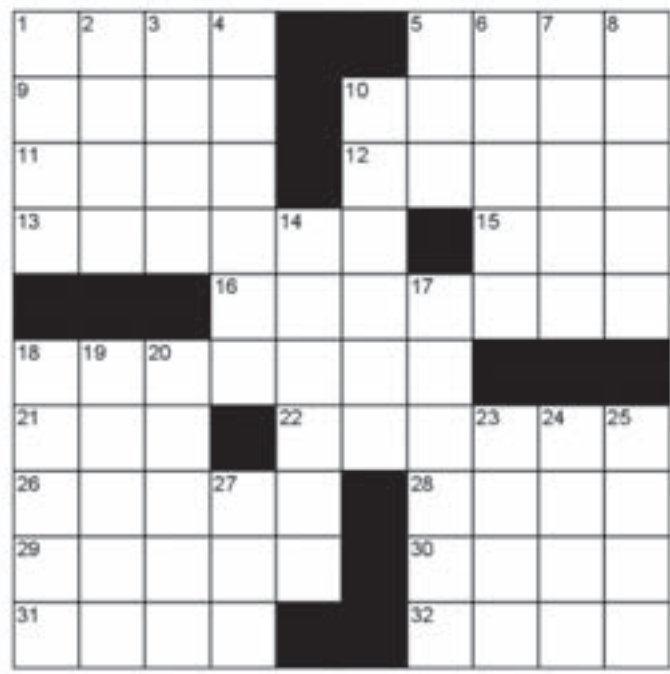


Though there is lots of competition, newspapers stack up as the number one form of advertising that Mississippi residents have used in the past month to make a purchasing decision. (Pulse Research, June 2016)

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Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Santa call (2 wds.)

5. Mexican sandwich

9. A piece of bedroom furniture (2 wds.)

10. Capital of Senegala

11. Only

12. Accede

13. Stomach enzyme

15. Evening

16. Speak with involuntary pauses

18. Cubist painter

21. Hubbub

22. Engraved

26. Having to do with the navy

28. Corn syrup brand

29. Book holder

30. Zeal

31. Past times

32. Pill
1. Clasp

2. Band instrument

3. Relief

4. City

5. Thai

6. BB Player Abdul Jabur

7. Give birth to a cow

8. Arrangement

10. Ruler

14. Its own

17. Treated with contempt

18. Many times a purple flower

19. North of the Beehive State

20. Drape

23. Aura

24. Times

25. Ended

27. Lager

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Crossword Solution

H	O	H	O			T	A	C	O
A	B	E	D			D	A	K	A
S	O	L	E			Y	I	E	L
P	E	P	S			S	I	N	E
						S	T	A	M
P	I	C	A	S	S	O			
A	D	O				E	T	C	H
N	A	V	A	L		K	A	R	O
S	H	E	L	F		E	L	A	N
Y	O	R	E			D	O	S	E

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2020 Kia Soul

By Frank S. Washington
Car Reviewer

Kia starting rolling out its models for 2020 recently and there were two new lines. We had the 2020 Soul X-Line; a more or less basic model. But basic does not mean what it used to years ago.

First, the Soul mystique was present. The test vehicle had that squared look with that slightly slanted roof that makes the Soul look as though it was cutting through the wind.

Under the hood was a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that made 147 horsepower and 132 pound-feet of torque. It was mated to what Kia called an Intelligent Variable Transmission, the automaker's in-house version of a continuously variable transmission.

This combination gave the car plenty of power. It was smart, snappy and it had a little oomph. What's more, we were hard pressed to tell that the transmission was a CVT of sorts. The Soul X-Line was a pleasure to drive. It featured body cladding; overfenders for a chunkier look, offroad-inspired accents, unique 18-inch alloy wheels, roof rail inspired accents, optional two-tone paint (ours was white) and fog lights.

In some sense, it was a throwback. This Soul had an actual key. There was a fob to lock and unlock the door, but there was no push button on the door nor to start or stop the car. We had to put the key in the ignition and turn the switch to start it. But once we did, there was a certain verve to this Soul X-Line no matter the trim line.

Handling was surprisingly agile. Steering was very responsive to driver input, as a colleague used to say. Soul handling mirrored that of a Go-Kart. It took just a little turn of the steering wheel for the car to go in another direction. Cornering was excellent and lane changes were effortless.

The ride was firm without being harsh. The suspension took minor lumps and bumps out of the road. And the car was quiet; road noise was left outside and at times we could not hear the engine at all.

The only complaint we had during the week-long test drive was the alarm. Or,



more precisely the beep of the horn that signaled the alarm system had been engaged. You know that beep you hear after a second push of the lock button on the FOB. On the Soul it wasn't a bleep it

was the blare of the horn. The reason for the decibel level of this feature escapes us. But it was intimidating enough, especially in a close-space, that we didn't engage the system because we wanted to

escape that blare. We're sure that was not the intent.

Still, the interior of the Soul X-Line was comforting, even though this was a basic car. However, that does not mean it

was without creature comforts or safety equipment.

This 2020 Soul had blind spot collision warning. The rear view camera had cross traffic alert; it had lane change assist, front fog lights and a leather-wrapped steering wheel, roof trim and exterior body cladding. There were also 18-inch alloy wheels.

And it had stop start to save fuel. The EPA rating was 27 mpg in the city, 33 mpg on the highway and 30 mpg combined. Power windows were not automatic. Only the driver's window went down with one touch but it didn't come up. The button had to be held.

This Soul had cloth seats, they were big and soft. There was a touch infotainment screen but no navigation system or satellite radio. However, Kia did an admirable job of giving this Soul entertainment options. It could stream music from a smartphone including Pandora because it did have Bluetooth as well as voice controls. Plug the phone in with a chord and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto were available. And navigation via either service became doable.

There were two drive modes: normal and sport. The instruments were analogue with a relatively small TFT screen between the odometer and the speedometer. The former had the fuel gauge at the bottom and the later had the temperature gauge at the bottom.

Underneath the infotainment screen there were two 12V sockets and a USB jack between them. That was a little surprising since the car is aimed at the young or the young at heart. There were no connections for external equipment in the back seats either.

However, there was a bunch of room in the backseats. The Soul had plenty of head room and legroom in the back. With a virtually flat floor, we think three people could sit in relative comfort in the back where the seats were firm but not hard.

And though it doesn't look like it, the Soul is and has always been a hatchback. There was a sizable 23.8 cu. ft. of storage space. For \$22,960, the 2020 Kia Soul X-Line was not a bad buy.

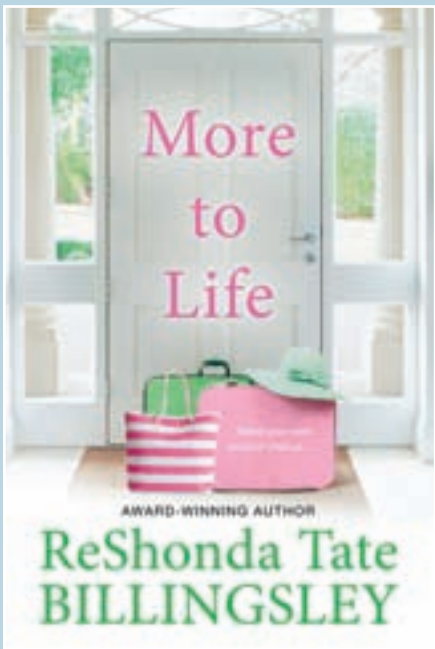
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BOOK REVIEW: “MORE TO LIFE”

BY **RESHONDA TATE BILLINGSLEY**
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

“Keep this to yourself!”
That’s the way big dreams start: don’t tell anyone, because telling makes them more delicate. Sharing makes it hurt more when what you want doesn’t happen. As in the new book “More to Life” by ReShonda Tate Billingsley, it’s even worse when your dreams are ignored.

Even by her own admission, Aja James had everything a woman can want: a handsome husband, Charles, who loved

giving gifts. Two wonderful children. A beautiful home, fine furnishings, a full closet, a new car.

And yet, during an Islands birthday vacation with her three best friends – paid for by Charles, of course – forty-five-year-old Aja realized that she never had what her soul needed.

Once, she’d showed promise as a painter and it was her passion. She was good at it but, as she realized at the island resort, nobody listened when she said she wanted to paint forever. Her high school guidance counselor

and her parents shooed her away from it. Her husband and children called it “a hobby.” When Aja said she wanted to open an art gallery, her friends didn’t take her seriously, either.

So, like the good wife she was expected to be, she put her own needs aside to take care of Charles and the children. She painted when she could, which was rare because her time was spent looking for lost socks and lost golf clubs and doing what her family demanded of her.

And then Aja met a strange

Island woman who told her that she needed to walk her own purpose, words that struck her to the core. Finally, Aja knew what made her feel so unsettled, and she went home to face her future.

But was it with – or without – Charles? Aja’s best friends thought she was crazy to give up a good man for the unknown. And the house and the lifestyle, too? Insane. Ah, but just thinking about a quiet art gallery and an easel made Aja smile.

Could she really do it?

Dreams deferred. Is that the

story of your very existence? If so, then you’ll love having “More to Life”... more or less.

More, because author ReShonda Tate Billingsley offers fans another novel that reads as though she’s spent a month spying on their lives and calendars, and anyone who’s ever lost a dream or shelved one indefinitely will feel a kinship with Aja. That character, as well as the rest of Billingsley’s cast, feels familiar, almost personal, and mostly likeable, although the situations they’re placed in (here’s the

“less”) are really too over-the-top. Suffice it to say that there’s a Big Event inside this tale that abruptly alters the entire course of the story, adding unnecessary drama to a situation that was arguably better and more relatable without embellishment.

Still, if a dream is like a butterfly in your hands, or if you’ve ever moved to seize a what-if, then this book will read like a diary for you.

Start “More to Life” and you won’t be able to keep it to yourself.

PIZZA, PANINIS, WINGS, DRINKS, AND MORE

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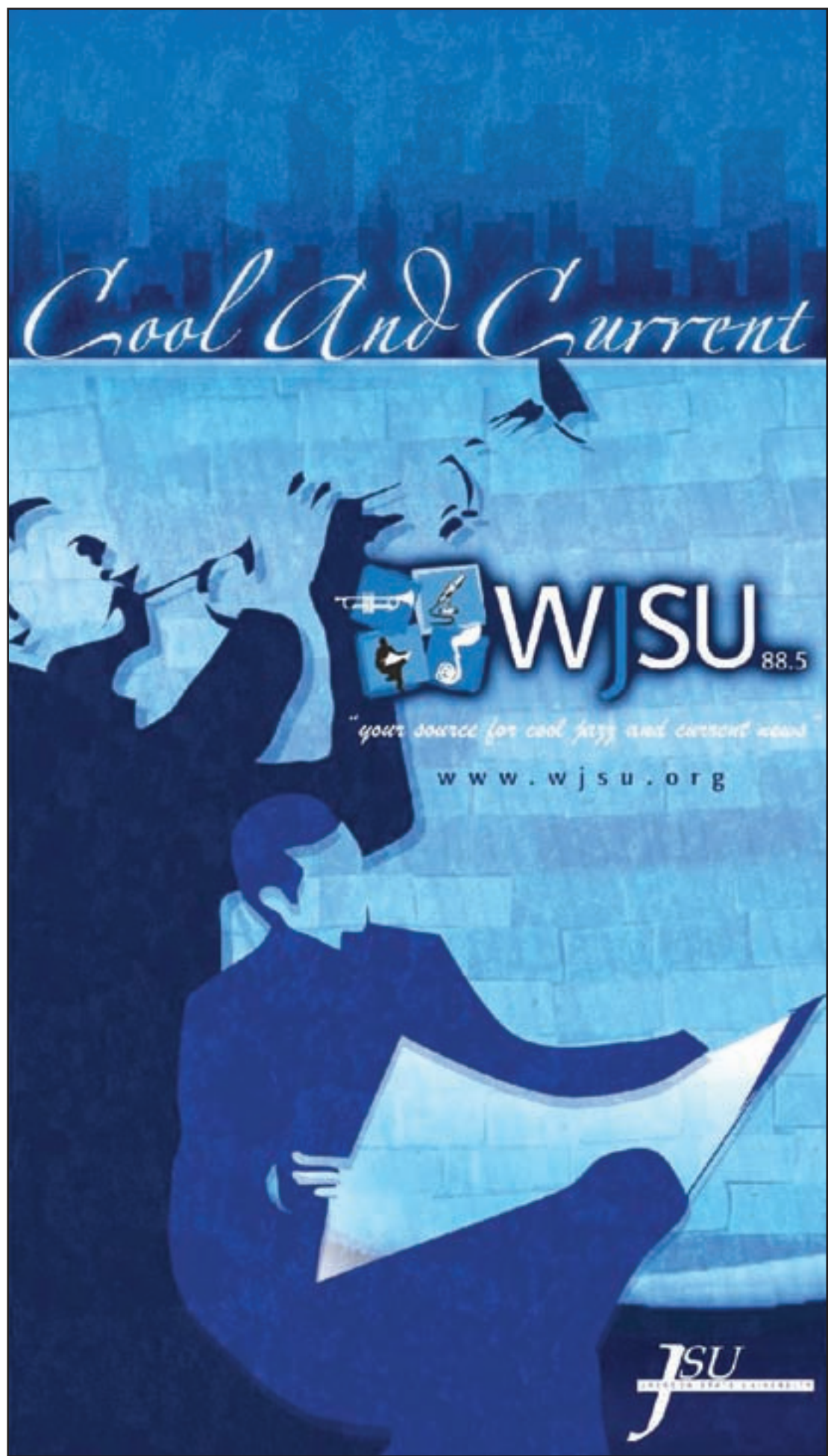
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Citizens for the VOTE YES School Bond Referendum off to a great start

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Citizens for the VOTE YES School Bond Referendum hosted a kick-off meeting for volunteers and selected community leaders, August 30, in the Agape @Harvester Restaurant 20735 Highway 12, Lexington, MS, to galvanize support for the first-ever passage of the county’s school bond. Nearly 50 people turned out ready to learn about the bond and to volunteer their energy and support to the crucial sub-committees campaigning for an historic passage of a school bond – something not seen in Holmes County for more than 50 years.

Steering Committee Co-chairs Holmes County Circuit Clerk Earline Wright Hart and Straight Talk radio host Zelpha Montgomery Whatley gave inspirational speeches to the attendees encouraging them to use their influence to convince their fellow citizens to vote for the referendum.

Attorney Jim Young of the Young Law Group brought the information everyone had been awaiting: the cost to homeowners for the up to \$18.4 million bond. Young presented multiple calculations based on

home values and car ownership, including the following:

- For homes with \$30,000 tax roll value, the tax increase will be approximately 23¢ per day
- For homes with \$65,000 tax roll value, the tax increase will be approximately 34¢ per day
- For homes with \$100,000 tax roll value, the tax increase will be approximately 45¢ per day.

These calculations include the assumption of ownership of a vehicle valued at \$15,000. For most county residents, the average increase is 27¢ per day.

Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson followed the attorney with a presentation describing the potential three new schools: PreK–8 elementary school in Durant serving up to 900 students; a 9th grade center for 350-400 students; and a 10th-12th grade high school serving 650-700 students. He repeated the urgent and historic statement, “No school bond measure has received community approval in the past 50 years, according to our research. It’s time to invest in the future of our children. Our children deserve the

best!”

Between now and Election Day November 5, the Steering Committee and school employees will get the word out that there is no increase in taxes for renters/non-homeowners, residents age 65-and-older with home value less than \$75,000, or disabled persons. Moreover, 80% of the residents who see a change to their taxes will experience an average cost of only 27¢ per day – which translates to less than \$100 per year.

Whatley led everyone through a timeline of tasks for the next two months before sending them to work with their group chairs on finance, media, community leaders, schools, youth, speakers bureau and get out the vote sub-committees. The room vibrated with the buzz of energetic discussion and ideas of how to proceed.

It was clear that everyone present felt the excitement of bringing new schools to the county to improve the future of the area’s children.

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



Superintendent of Holmes County Schools James L. Henderson and Attorney Ben Piazza



Citizens for the Vote Yes School Bond Referendum co-chairs Zelpha Whatley and Arlene Wright Hart



Get Out the Vote committee (left to right): Ed McGaw, Greg Potee, Robert Bowers, HCCSD BOE President Anthony Anderson, Joann Rucker, BOE Vice-President Louise Winters, Larry Dennis, Linda Campbell, William Primer



Youth committee (left to right): Shem Whigham, HCCHS student Harvey Ellington, Antwayn Patrick, Kavitha Gandham



Community Leaders committee (left to right): James Jones, BOE member Elder William Dean, BOE Secretary April Jones, Jason Sargent, Cruger Mayor Arrica Weatherall



Get Out the Vote committee (left to right): Louise Winters, Greg Potee, William Primer, Linda Campbell, Joann Rucker, Larry Dennis, Eugenia Franklin



McGaw reacts with enthusiasm

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Terry High School Spirit Program Highlights



Raymond High School Spirit Program Highlights



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2019

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DERRICK JOHNSON
PRESIDENT AND CEO | NAACP

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The Annual Awards and Recognition Gala is Hinds County Human Resource Agency's annual signature development event, which helps to provide critical matching funds for several services such as home-delivered meals, congregate meal sites, and Hinds County rural public transportation.

Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the National NAACP, will be featured as the keynote speaker for this year's Gala. Tickets are \$75.

The Gala provides an important opportunity to create greater awareness about our programs and services; celebrate clients who have transitioned out of poverty to self-sufficiency; and honor our volunteers and community partners who work with us throughout the year to help eradicate poverty and provide a better life for more than 48,000 low-income citizens throughout Hinds County.

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