

# Black Press of America awards courageous leaders



NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards and Cuban Ambassador to the United States, José Ramón Cabañas

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

With a lively and capacity crowd inside the Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel in Washington, D.C. Sept. 12, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards presented the annual National Leadership Awards.

The 2019 honorees are the Honorable Karen Bass, U.S. Representative (D-CA); the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, U.S. Representative (D-MD); the Honorable Bobby Scott, U.S. Representative (D-VA); the Honorable Benenie Thompson, U.S. Representative (D-MS); Ray Curry, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agriculture (UAW); Shani W. Hosten, Vice President Multicultural Leadership, AARP; Dr. Kim Smith-Whitley, Clinical Director of Hematology and Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP); and Crystal Windham, Director, Cadillac Interior Design, General Motors.

Each of the recipients joined NNPA corporate partners and



NNPA board of director officers interviewed on the Red Carpet after the event. (l-w) Fran Farrer, Jackie Hampton, Karen Carter Richards, Janis Ware and Angela Young, interviewer

sponsors to reflect on the importance of the Black Press.

“I’d like to particularly thank the Black Press for keeping sickle cell disease in the light,” said Smith-Whitley, the clinical director of Hematology and Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Smith-Whitley praised the Black Press for helping to shed light on the fact that one in 12 African Americans have the sickle cell trait, and the blood

disorder disproportionately affects black people.

Windham also applauded the Black Press for its work.

Windham, the director of Cadillac Interior Design, and the first African American woman director in General Motors Design history said it was remarkable that the Black Press of America will celebrate 192 years.

The NNPA observes its 80th anniversary in 2020.

“Do not stop doing what you do,” she said, before encourag-

ing others to follow her historical path.

“I owe it to the individuals that paved the way for me. I’m just an ordinary girl from Detroit,” Windham said. “If I can do it, you can do it too.”

Curry addressed attendees, applauding the Black Press and reminding the audience of the role that unions have played in America’s civil rights struggles. He also shared some of his own history as a beneficiary

**Black Press**  
Continued on page 3

## Mississippi Round UP

The Associated Press

### Officer awarded by NRA for fatal shooting sues over job loss

The National Rifle Association’s 2012 national Law Enforcement Officer of the Year has accused his former police department of forcing him to resign.

The Clarion Ledger reports David McCarley filed a federal lawsuit Monday against the police department of Pearl, Mississippi, that asks for reinstatement and full back pay.

The 51-year-old McCarley was recognized by the NRA for killing a gunman who wounded him and killed another officer.

His lawsuit says police Chief Dean Scott forced McCarley to resign Sept. 19, 2018 by telling him to resign or be fired. It doesn’t include any details about the circumstances.

The lawsuit says McCarley wasn’t given a reason for the demand nor was he given required due process hearings.

Police spokesman Lt. John Chalk says the department can’t comment.

### Hood calls for preschool, teacher pay, higher K-12 spending

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jim Hood Tuesday detailed an ambitious education program which, if fully implemented, would bring the biggest increase in Mississippi education spending in more than a decade.

Hood, Mississippi’s attorney general, told reporters after appearing at a school in Greenville that he wants to expand Mississippi’s small state-funded preschool program, make a big boost in teacher salaries and pay the full tab called for by Mississippi’s education funding formula.

Hood also said he wants to expand subsidies for aspiring teachers and make it easier to qualify academically to become a teacher. He says those measures are needed to combat a shortage of educators in Mississippi.

The Republican nominee, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, has said that Hood’s plans on education and other topics are unrealistically expensive without tax increases. Hood’s proposals would amount to something more than \$500 million a year in increased spending, once fully enacted over several years.

The state’s funding formula, called the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, has long been a source of political contention. Democrats and many public school supporters say schools need more money, while Republicans fear money is wasted on administration. Republican leaders haven’t tried in recent years to hit the funding target required under the law and unsuccessfully sought a major overhaul of the formula after voters rejected a state constitutional amendment that would have enshrined a funding mandate in Mississippi’s fundamental governing document.

Full funding would require \$2.55 billion next year, according to preliminary estimates submitted this summer. That’s an increase of more than \$330 million over what the state is spending this year.

“A lot of Delta schools here have been cheated by the Legislature on proper funding,” Hood told reporters.

Hood also called for a \$3,000 boost in teacher pay over two years, saying the \$1,500 provided by lawmakers this year is insufficient. Using numbers from this year, that would cost more than \$150 million. Hood would go farther than that, realigning yearly increases for experience so educators would get a 2% boost for each year they teach up to 25, and then a 5% yearly boost for years 26 through 35. The Hood campaign didn’t immediately provide an estimate of how much the higher yearly increases would cost.

Hood also proposes spending about \$45 million more over four years to expand state-funded pre-kindergarten classes for 4-year-olds. He says increasing funding

**MS Round UP**  
Continued on page 3

## Public Service Commission candidates Bailey, Stamps make their cases

By Adam Ganucheau  
Mississippi Today

Increasing rural internet access, slowing down the flow of unwanted telemarketer calls, and boosting the state’s energy efficiency are top priorities for Republican Brent Bailey and Democrat De’Keither Stamps, the 2019 candidates for Central District Public Service Commissioner.

Bailey, who lost the race four years ago but has served for six years as a clean energy advo-

cate with the national renewable energy advocacy group 25x’25, said his years of experience appearing before the Public Service Commission qualifies him to serve as the district’s next commissioner.

“I will work every day to make sure we have the lowest possible utility rates, the most reliable and the safest out there available,” Bailey said. “If elected, I will be a full-time commissioner. I will be your watchdog. I’ll be ready to safe-

guard transparency and I’ll be a responsible regulator.”

Stamps, who currently serves on the Jackson City Council, believes his experience in helping city entities find cost savings related to energy could be applied statewide.

“We’re going to be the most aggressive public service commission you’ve ever seen, focusing on the interests of our ratepayers and that our utilities

**Commission**  
Continued on page 3



Stamps, Bailey campaign pages De’Keither Stamps (L), Brent Bailey (R)



The U.S. Department of Energy provided \$407 million in financing for the Kemper plant.



# FEDEx satellite hires MVSU student after internship before graduation

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Life has a way of turning out unexpectedly, and Mississippi Valley State University student Glenn Johnson knows that all too well.

In 2014 Johnson graduated from Humphreys County High School in Belzoni, and he admits that the last college on his list was MVSU.

“I initially wanted to go to Alcorn, but due to the foundation laid by my father (Glenn Sr.) and my older sister, Brittany Coleman, I thought I would give Valley a try,” he shared.

“Brittany was involved in everything and engaged in campus life, so talking to her gave me the idea to choose Valley and that was one of the greatest decisions I ever made in my young life,” Johnson said.

His college choice is paying off in real-time as the 20-year-old engineer technology major, who has an emphasis in electronics, recently completed an internship with Fed-Ex in Memphis as a customer trade agent.

Johnson participated in the internship from June 3 to August 9. During the internship, he was given the opportunity to build webpages as well as create and manage document

libraries.

Now that Johnson has completed his internship, he will be working part-time at the MVSU Fed-Ex Logistics satellite office.

Recently, MVSU was selected as the first university to participate in FedEx Logistics’ HBCU program, giving MVSU students the opportunity to gain part-time employment at a facility on campus.

“I will be doing pre-clearance checking off packages outside of the United States before it reaches U.S. soil,” Johnson explained.

For Johnson, the experiences gained during his internship are examples of the type of commitment MVSU has toward its students’ success.

“My experiences are preparing me for life because I am utilizing everything Valley has and I am going after all the opportunities presented to me. Valley encourages students to complete both internships and community service hours which I think is great,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he’s grateful for the doors that are opening for his future.

“By putting myself out there, I landed an internship and have the possibility to land a full-

time position upon graduation. I’ve used the opportunities to network with executives, and I have their contact information so if I need assistance I can reach out to them,” he said.

Johnson’s ultimate goal is in technology and rooted in giving him the chance to be hands-on while also using his knowledge of the software.

“I did not want to do computer science because it focused more on software and I wanted to be more hands-on. I majored in engineering technology. I am already working for a Fortune 500 company, and I plan to stack enough money and explore entrepreneurship. I also want to own a tech company where we repair things and create things. Ultimately, I want to create my brand.”

Johnson said his advice to new students would be to prioritize.

“College is temporary and it is four years minimum. If you are not setting yourself up for gainful employment while you are in college, then what’s next? I want to encourage the Class of 2023 to use Valley as a stepping stone to get to where they want to go in life and not just waste four years and come out with no plan.”



Johnson



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## Black Press

Continued from page 1

of benefits gained through the labor negotiation process.

An NNPA and UAW resolution reads, “Whether it was hosting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he wrote his historic ‘I Have a Dream’ speech in Solidarity House, or providing bail for Dr. King’s 1963 release from Birmingham City Jail, the women and men of the UAW have and continue to play a historic role in our nation’s civil rights movement.

“I’m truly honored and humbled to be recognized with such a distinguished award,” said Hosten. “I also want to recognize the outstanding legacy of the Black Press; I grew up reading the *Richmond Free Press* and the *Richmond Afro*; they were staples in our home, around our community and in our church. Those stories told our stories, and I thank the Black Press for the continued partnership with AARP, and for 192 years of telling our story in our community which is so critical now more than ever,” Hosten said.

The festive gathering also included appearances by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, NAACP Chairman Leon Russell, Cuban Ambassador to the United States José Ramón Cabañas, and famed film producer and MIT Media Lab research scholar Topper Carew.

The awards honor individuals who are national leaders in their specific fields and whose actions have helped to improve the quality of life for African Americans and others.

The NNPA, the trade organization representing African American-owned newspapers and media companies throughout the country, began the Leadership Awards in 2014 when it was decided that the optimal time to host such an event would be during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) a week-long gathering that’s held each September.

The CBCF ALC is the largest annual gathering in the United States. The shared objective of the conference and the NNPA National Leadership Awards is to network, collaborate and strategize collectively for the advancement and empowerment of Black America.

“We are delighted to celebrate this year’s honorees,” said NNPA Chair and *Houston Forward Times* Publisher Karen Carter Richards.

“We salute them for the leadership they have displayed in the black community and for their overall support of the Black Press,” Richards said.

“The Black Press is needed now more than ever. We are the daily recorders of our history. We are, and forever will be, The Original Black Press of America,” Richards said.

NNPA’s corporate partners include General Motors, RAI Services Company, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Pfizer, Inc.

NNPA corporate sponsors include Toyota, Ford Motor Co., AARP, Northrop Grumman, Eli Lilly, Wells Fargo, Volkswagen, UAW, API, Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts, Comcast, U.S. Census, CBCF, Koch Industries, Ascension and AmeriHealth.

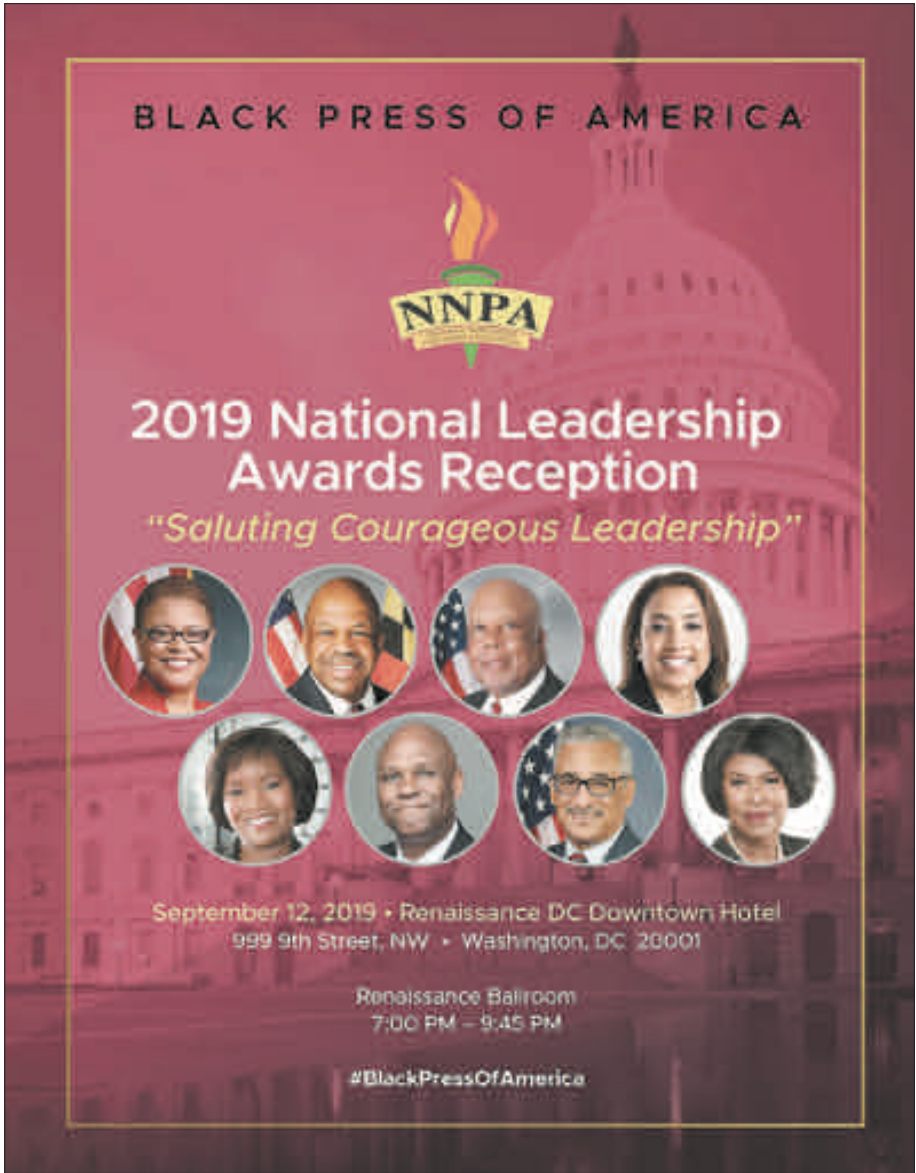
Scott, who accepted the award for his national leadership in education, thanked Chavis and Carter-Richards for their guidance of the Black Press. “The Black Press tells news that needs to be told,” Scott said.

Bass said, “We look to [The Black Press] for news. America knows the work you do, and we look to you to help tell our story,” she said.

The ceremony also served as a reminder of the all-important 2020 Census count. Tasha Boone, a long-time public servant who now serves as a senior advisor to the Deputy Director at the U.S. Census, addressed the audience.

“We are working tirelessly with partners like the Black Press to get the word out,” Boone said. “2020 is a big year for us. It’s an election year and, just as important is the Census. In March, you will all get an opportunity to participate in the Census. Fill out the survey either online, by mail or by telephone. It’s extremely important, and it’s safe,” Boone said.

On hand to congratulate the recipients was the entire Board of Directors for NNPA, to include the recently elected officers, Richards, chairman and publisher of the *Houston Forward Times*, Janis Ware, 1st vice chair and publisher of the *Atlanta Voice*, Fran Farrer, 2nd vice chair and publisher of *The County News*, Jackie Hampton, secretary and publisher of *The Mississippi Link* and Brenda Andrews, treasurer and publisher of the *New Journal & Guide*.



## Commision

Continued from page 1

are taken care of,” Stamps said. “Those folks in that industry provide great services when it comes to economic development and providing quality of life.”

Every four years, Mississippians elect three public service commissioners from the northern, central and southern parts of the state to regulate public utilities like telecommunications, electricity, water, gas and sewer.

In recent years, commissioners have been front and center in the controversy over the ballooning price tag of Mississippi Power’s planned Kemper County lignite coal power plant as well as in cracking down on unscrupulous telemarketers and advocating for the ex-

pansion of broadband internet to rural parts of the state.

Stamps and Bailey agreed with the commission’s decision to settle with the company and relieve its customers of paying for the project’s multibillion coal gasification technology.

The often overlooked regulatory body – “It ain’t sexy, but it’s important,” Bailey said on Monday – also works to ensure the state’s utility providers charge fair rates of the state’s residents.

The Central District commissioner seat is currently held by Democrat Cecil Brown, who has 24 years of governmental experience serving four terms in the House, the state’s chief fiscal officer and currently as one of the state’s three public service commissioners.

Brown is retiring from state government after this year.

Four years ago, Brown defeated Bailey, who was the 2015 Republican nominee for the seat. The racial and voting age demographics of the district favors Democratic candidates, with Brown garnering 53 percent of the vote in 2015. Gov. Phil Bryant, the leader of the state Republican Party, endorsed Bailey’s opponent Nic Lott in the primary.

Third-term Democratic commissioner Brandon Presley is unopposed in November in the northern district. In the southern district, Pascagoula Mayor Dane Maxwell, a Republican, faces Democrat Connie Moran, the former mayor of Ocean Springs.

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## MS Round UP

Continued from page 1

to Mississippi’s early learning collaboratives, public-private partnerships that provide the classes, would help 23,000 children not served by Head Start, private or some other pre-K.

During the Republican primary, Reeves proposed a workforce development plan that included calls to expand computer science education and do more to let students earn college credits while in high school. Reeves’ biggest proposed education item would be a \$75 million infusion into community colleges to modernize worker training efforts.

Reeves has said he supports increasing teacher pay but hasn’t said by how much.

“Jim Hood and Tate Reeves agree that we need to keep raising teacher pay and allow alternative certification so that we can get additional talented people into the classroom,” Reeves spokesman Parker Briden said in a statement. “The difference between Hood and Tate on education is that Hood’s plan does not focus on student performance at all while Tate Reeves will keep reforming our system to ensure our kids are learning.”

## Letter grades rise for Mississippi public schools

Mississippi’s public school districts and schools showed broad improvement under the state’s letter grading system in 2018-2019.

The number of A-rated districts rose from 18 to 31 in data published Tuesday, while the number of districts earning a C, D or F rating fell. The state Board of Education still must give final approval to the ratings in a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

“Our accountability system is working,” state Superintendent Carey Wright told reporters. “It also shows you how well our schools are doing. Teachers and principals are doing exactly what we want them to do. They are doing an amazing job of teaching our children.”

One of the state Board of Education’s goals is for every district and school statewide to be rated C or better. This year, 70% of districts and 74% of schools were graded C or better.

The four year high school graduation rate rose to 84% from 83%, while test scores improved and more high school students enrolled in accelerated courses statewide. Those measures aided the districts’ improved ratings.

Some rural schools that teach grades K-12 or 7-12 benefited from a change in the scoring system meant to put them on level ground with four-year high schools.

Ten districts are legally eligible for a special state-controlled district for troubled schools because they scored an F for

the second year in a row or the second time in three years.

That doesn’t mean any or all of them will be taken over by Mississippi’s achievement district. The state also requires that at least half of a district’s schools be rated F or at least half of all students attend F-rated schools for a district to even be considered for such a takeover.

Districts with Fs in two of the past three years and at least half their schools rated as failing include Amite County, East Tallahatchie, North Bolivar, West Bolivar and Wilkinson County

This was the first year that a measure of progress toward learning English was part of the overall score. Only districts with a certain number of students learning English were scored. Wright said grades weren’t affected for the remainder of districts, which had too few English language learners to get a score. Higher scoring districts were more likely to get scores, though. Of 31 A-rated districts, 26 had English learner scores, while only four of 19 F-rated districts did.

The best scoring school district was Petal and the worst scoring school district was Yazoo City, which is part of the state’s achievement district.

Mississippi’s second-largest school district, Jackson, improved from an F to a D, largely thanks to more than one-third of its elementary and middle schools scoring an A or a B.



# LENS & LINES: Gladys Knight, Jeffrey Osborne deliver in ‘Classic’ style

*Special to Mississippi Link*

Soul music legends Gladys Knight and Jeffrey Osborne thrilled a sold-out crowd during the Classic Concert at The Orpheum Theatre in Downtown Memphis on Wednesday evening.

Jeffrey Osborne opened up the show, entering from the stage and taking his performance into a ready-to-party audience. With concert-goers on their feet throughout, He performed hit songs recorded solo and with the group he rode into fame with, LTD. It was definitely a 5-star show.

And Gladys? Who! What a stellar performance.



Gladys Knight and Jeffrey Osborne treated an appreciative Orpheum crowd to memorable performances at The Classic Concert. PHOTOS: WARREN ROSEBOROUGH



# Jackson State defeats Tennessee State at 30th Southern Heritage Classic

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Jackson State gashed Tennessee State for 338 yards on the ground and rolled to a 49-44 win at the 30th Southern Heritage Classic at the Liberty Bowl.

The 49 points was the most points by Jackson State in the Southern Heritage Classic and ended a six-game losing streak in the series to TSU.

“I’m very proud of this team,” JSU head coach John Hendrick said. “It wasn’t pretty, but we did not give up and left it all on the field. We faced adversity and responded in a positive manner. We’ll enjoy this win and take a week off, get better, and get ready for Kentucky State in the Circle City Classic.”

The first quarter started off with bang. Josh Little took the opening kickoff back 100 yards, however, TSU responded with a 96-yard kickoff return of its own to knot the game at 7-7.

The Tigers’ remaining touchdowns in the first half were via the ground game.

Facing a third and long, the Tigers dialed up a designed quarterback draw and Derrick Ponder scampered for a 23-yard touchdown – untouched – as the momentum began to swing in favor of the Blue & White.

With 1:08 remaining in the first quarter, Tyson Alexander scored on a 52-yard touchdown and JSU led 21-7.

Jordan Johnson, who rushed for a game-high 141 yards and was named Southern Heritage Classic MVP, scored from four yards out with 1:18 remaining in the half. TSU scored in



the waning moments of the half and JSU led 28-17 at the break.

The halftime didn’t cool the offenses for either team.

TSU opened the third quarter with a field goal and JSU countered with a five play, 39-yard drive that ended with a DD Bowie six-yard touchdown off an end-around.

Bowie scored JSU’s next touchdown, also a six-yard rush, but on a reverse to open a 42-30 lead.

The Tigers final scoring drive of the game took 5:38 off the clock and Ponder found tight end Kyland Richey on a 16-yard pitch and catch.

Keshawn Harper finished with 71 yards on seven carries from an aver-

age of 7.9 yards per attempt.

All-American linebacker Keonte Hampton finished with a game-high nine tackles and added a sack. Tyler Rogers notched six stops and one sack.

Notes:

The 49 point was the most points scored in a win since Sept. 6, 2014 when JSU defeated Virginia Lynch-

burg 59-0

Jordan Johnson collected MVP honors for his 141-yard, one touchdown effort

JSU won the possession battle 33:51 to 26:09

The Blue & White was 10-of-14 on third down

Neither team committed a turnover.



# Study finds black women murdered by men are nearly always killed by someone they know, most commonly with a gun

Mississippi Link Newswire

Nine out of 10 black women murdered by men are killed by someone they know, most often with a gun, according to the new Violence Policy Center (VPC) study When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2017 Homicide Data.

Each year the VPC releases this report in advance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. This year, its release comes following the February 2019 expiration of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). A bill to reauthorize VAWA has passed the U.S. House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

The study uses 2017 data, the most recent year for which information is available. The study covers homicides involving one female murder victim and one male offender, and uses data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Report.

The study found that in 2017, 507 black females were murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents, at a rate of 2.55 per 100,000. In com-

Ranking	State	Number of Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000 Females
1	Alaska	14	3.96
2	Louisiana	63	2.64
3	Arkansas	34	2.23
4	Nevada	30	2.03
5 (tie)	South Carolina	52	2.01
5 (tie)	Tennessee	69	2.01
7	Arizona	68	1.92
8	Montana	10	1.91
9	Vermont	6	1.90
10	Georgia	96	1.80

parison, the rate for white women murdered by males for that year was 1.13 per 100,000. Nationwide, across all races, 1,948 females were murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents in 2017, at a rate of 1.29 per 100,000.

Firearms, especially handguns, were the most common weapons used by males to murder black females. When the murder weapon could be identified, 62 percent of black female victims were shot and killed with guns. Within that group, 72 percent were killed

with a handgun.

"Women are most likely to be murdered with a gun wielded not by a stranger but by someone they know. In many instances the murderer is an intimate partner of the victim. It is important to know these facts in order to identify effective strategies to prevent homicides against women. One critical step is for the U.S. Senate to follow the lead of the House of Representatives and pass legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act," states VPC Legislative Director Kristen Rand.

Additional findings from the report relating to black females murdered by males include:

Compared to a black male, a black female is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance or a family member than by a stranger. Where the relationship could be determined, 91 percent of black females killed by males in single victim/single offender incidents knew their killers. Of the black victims who knew their offenders, 60 percent were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives or

girlfriends of the offenders. More than 10 times as many black females were murdered by a male they knew than were killed by male strangers.

The number of black females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance was nearly four times as high as the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined.

The vast majority of homicides of black females murdered by males were not related to any other felony crime. Most often, black

females were killed by males in the course of an argument. In cases where the circumstances could be identified, 85 percent were not related to the commission of any other felony.

The study also ranks each state based on the homicide rate for women across all races killed by men. The chart shows the states with the 10 highest rates of females of all races murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents in 2017.

The study calculates the rate of women murdered by men by dividing the total number of females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents by the total female population and multiplying the result by 100,000. The rate of black women murdered by men is calculated by dividing the total number of black females murdered by males by the total black female population and multiplying the result by 100,000. This is the standard and accepted method of comparing fatal levels of gun violence.

To view the full report, please visit <http://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

## Online auction of 300 tax-forfeited properties in Forrest County now open

Mississippi Link Newswire

An online auction of 300 tax-forfeited properties in Forrest County valued at \$1,685,202 is now open. Bids may be submitted through the Secretary of State's online auction portal until 11:59 p.m. CST Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

"Tax-forfeited property auctions help communities by returning parcels to the tax rolls which benefits counties, cities and schools," said Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, who launched online auctions in July 2016. "Make a great deal today by going online and placing your bid."

To place a bid, a user is required to register online. Users may view property details such as parcel location and an auction map. Other information, such as auction dates, bid notices and market values of property are also available online.

Successful bidders will be noti-

fied by e-mail as soon as possible once bids are placed, and payment of the bid amount must be paid within 5 to 7 days of notification.

Buyers will also be permitted to pay a "Buy It Now" price on any parcel, which allows them to purchase a property immediately instead of waiting until the end of

the auction.

In recent years, successful auctions in Bay St. Louis, Bolivar County, Greenville, Greenwood, Hinds County, Jackson, Jones County, Madison County, McComb, Meridian, Pearl River County, Rankin County, Warren County, Waveland, Yazoo City

and many other communities, have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Mississippi schools, municipalities and counties.

To learn more about tax-forfeited properties, visit the Secretary of State's website or call the Public Lands Division at (601) 359-5156.




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10 AM - 12 PM	Health Fair



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# Six JPS teachers recognized by Ask for More Jackson as outstanding educators

Mississippi Link Newswire

Ask for More Jackson, with support from the Community Foundation for Mississippi, recognized six teachers from the Jackson Public School District as Outstanding Educators for 2019. The honorees were celebrated September 4 at a special luncheon held at the Jackson Medical Mall. Each outstanding teacher also received a substantial monetary award during the program.

Leading up to the official event, the Ask for More Jackson team visited the schools to surprise the teachers selected as Outstanding Educators. The announcement was made over the intercom so that all staff and students could celebrate the teachers at each school before recognizing them in their classrooms with their students.

A generous anonymous donor made this award possible. The teachers can use the funds for professional or personal purposes.

“This is one of my favorite events,” said Jane Alexander, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for Mississippi. “We are delighted to recognize our outstanding educators by supporting this award. Our teachers are our strength in public schools, and we should certainly be proud of the fine work they do. It’s important to celebrate the many great things teachers are accomplishing in our community.”

Research says that educators are the most important factor affecting student achievement.

“As a former principal and teacher, I know how challenging yet rewarding teaching is,”



The 2019 Outstanding Educators from JPS are (from left) Keisha Parker, Katrina Clerk, Margaret Price, Melissa Speed, Lynsey McQueen and Pamela Osborne.

said Gwendolyn Gardner, interim executive director of Ask for More Jackson. “When you have committed and dedicated teachers, they should be recognized and celebrated every day.”

## 2019 Outstanding Educators

**Katrina Clerk**, a 5th-grade teacher at Lester Elementary School, has 14 years of experience in education and was the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year at Lester and for Area 2. She holds bachelor and master degrees in Human Services/Family Counseling and a Specialist degree in leadership from Delta State University and Liberty University. Her principal at Lake is DeLacy Bridges.

**Lynsey McQueen**, a 3rd-grade teacher at Dawson Elementary, has five years of experience in education and was the 2018-2019 Teacher of the

Year at Dawson. She received her bachelor and master degrees in Biology from Jackson State University. He principal is Vicki Conley.

**Pamela Osborne**, a 10th-grade biology teacher at Forest Hill High School, has 14 years of teaching experience and was the 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year at Peeples Middle School and the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year at French Elementary. She received degrees from Belhaven College, Alcorn State University and Jackson State University. Her principal at Forest Hill is Torrey Hampton.

**Keisha Parker**, a 1st-grade teacher at Spann Elementary, has 17 years of teaching experience. She graduated from Jackson State University with a degree in Elementary Education. Her principal Lori Torrey at Spann.

**Margaret Price**, a 3rd-grade teacher at Galloway Elementary School, has 22 years of experience in education. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and was a 2019 Greater Jackson Metro Chamber Teacher of the Year. She holds a master’s degree in Education from Millsaps College. Marvin Davis is her principal at Galloway.

**Melissa Speed**, a 4th-grade reading and English language arts teacher at Pecan Park Elementary, has 18 years of experience in education and was the school’s 2018 nominee for the Greater Jackson Metro Chamber Outstanding Teacher Award. She graduated from Alcorn University with a bachelor’s degree and from Jackson State University with a master’s degree in Elementary Education. Her principal at Pecan Park is Wanda Quon.

We salute these 2019 Outstanding Educators from Jackson Public School for their commitment and dedication to providing excellence for all students they serve.

# City of Jackson receives competitive CityStart grant award to kickstart local municipal financial empowerment efforts

Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, the City of Jackson along with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund) announced their selection as one of seven cities to receive a planning grant and technical assistance to identify and plan for local municipal financial empowerment strategic priorities.

The CFE Fund’s CityStart initiative, with support from JPMorgan Chase and others, offers mayors and their administrations a structured approach to identify financial empowerment goals, convene stakeholders for sustainable success, develop concrete strategies, and ultimately craft an actionable blueprint rooted in local priorities and opportunities.

The City of Jackson will receive an intensive 6-9 month technical assistance engagement partnership, along with a \$20,000 planning grant. In addition to Jackson, other selected cities chosen through a competitive process include: Birmingham, AL; Columbus, OH; Jersey City, NJ; New Orleans, LA; Madison, WI; and Waco, TX.

As part of the effort to create a dignity economy which supports the well-being of all citizens of Jackson, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba’s administration is committed to the financial security and independence of all Jacksonians through the implementation of initiatives such as the CityStart Grant which seeks to financially empower all citizens.

Jackson is part of the second cohort of CityStart partners for the CFE Fund. In 2018, the CFE Fund competitively selected its inaugural cohort of CityStart cities: Albuquerque, NM; Anchorage, AK; Dallas, TX; Durham, NC; El Paso, TX; Fort Worth, TX; Portland, OR; Rochester, NY; Saint Paul, MN; and Tulsa, OK. These partners have since created blueprints that outline their administration’s public vision for integrating financial empowerment efforts within local government infrastructure some working to open an Office of Financial Empowerment to serve as a platform for overall efforts, some identifying strategies centered around a specific municipal priority such as affordable housing, and some replicating existing programs such as the Financial Empowerment Center FEC Public initiative.

“We are thrilled to receive the

CityStart grant which helps facilitate the city’s plans of moving towards a dignity economy which gives full access to economic opportunities to every citizen. As we look at the issue of communities being underbanked and not having the benefit of financial resources, we can’t truly say that we have a successful economy until we address those who have been under served and underrepresented,” said Lumumba.

“Cities control a host of policies, programs and funding streams that can transform the lives of residents with low incomes on a large scale. Across the nation, more and more city leaders are turning to innovative financial empowerment strategies to improve the financial stability of their residents,” said Jonathan Mintz, president and chief executive officer of the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. “We congratulate Mayor Lumumba and look forward to working with him to empower Jackson residents, and we thank JPMorgan Chase for their longstanding partnership and investment in municipal financial empowerment.”

JPMorgan Chase’s support of CFE Fund is part of the bank’s \$125 million, five-year commitment to improving the financial health of people in the U.S. and across the world, especially those in underserved communities.

The CityStart initiative draws on the CFE Fund’s extensive programmatic work with local government leaders in over 80 cities, connecting critical on-the-ground insights about the impact of financial instability on families, communities, and municipal budgets with tangible, measurable, and sustainable municipal strategies to improve families’ financial lives.

The City of Jackson, working with the CFE Fund, will craft its municipal financial empowerment blueprint identifying actionable implementation steps based on the financial needs of residents, key mayoral priorities and partnership opportunities. Development of the blueprint will be based on a series of briefings with key stakeholders and a boot camp event that brings together key local constituencies.

CityStart cities have historically leveraged their engagement with the CFE Fund to further their commitment to this work.

# JPS Bond Overview

Mississippi Link Newswire

## Bond Management

The 2018 JPS Bond Construction Program is managed by JPS Facilities and Operations staff. Key administrators are:

Don McCrackin – Executive Director of Facilities and Operations/Bond Administrator

Sandra Robinson – Interim Chief Operations Officer/Project Manager

Lena Franklin – Architectural Design/Project Manager

Vacant Position – Project Manager

## Bond Oversight Committee

The Bond Oversight Committee was appointed by the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees. Their function is to track and communicate progress toward the construction of projects and the expenditure of funds associated with the \$65 million school bond. In carrying out this duty, the committee meets regularly. Bond Oversight Committee meetings are open to the public. Neighborhood organizations and others may use the JPS Contact Form

to message their ward representative and request information that can be distributed at association meetings.

Akilah Irvin – Ward 1  
H. Ann C. Jones – Ward 2  
Sandra McCall – Ward 3  
Erica Fell – Ward 4  
Kass Welchlin – Ward 5  
Ercilla Dometz-Hendrix – Ward 6  
Mitch McGuffey – Ward 7  
Bond Phases

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

Phase I – January 2019–July

2020

Phase II – January 2020–December 2020

Phase III – January 2021–December 2021

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

Construction projects will be developed in packages to provide and ensure smaller construction companies will have repeated opportunities to participate in the JPS Bond Construction Program.

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## The Mississippi Link™

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# CPSD maintains strong ‘A’ rating as a district

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Not only is the Clinton Public School District an A-rated district, this year it moved from the fifth-to third-highest achieving school district in Mississippi.

“Our students and teachers continue to meet or exceed the high expectations placed on them,” said Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. “We’re grateful for all their hard work to make this A rating possible.”

The Mississippi Department of Education released letter grade ratings this week, with an A as the highest possible academic rating. CPSD’s overall score is 729, up nearly 20 points over last year’s total of 711. The minimum score districts must reach for A-status is 668.

Of all 144 Mississippi school districts, Clinton’s score is the 3rd highest statewide and tops in the Metro Area.

In addition to the district’s high score, three of CPSD’s schools are

among the top 25 elementary schools statewide – Clinton Park Elementary (3rd highest), Northside Elementary (4th highest) and Eastside Elementary (24th highest). Among high schools, Clinton High and Sumner Hill (which are ranked together as 9-12) are Mississippi’s 24th highest achieving high school.

**Diminishing Returns**

While the district as a whole maintained its A rating, some school ratings changed from last year. Clinton Park, Northside, Eastside and Lovett elementary schools are all A-rated schools. Clinton Junior High, Sumner Hill and Clinton High School are B-rated schools. Sumner Hill and Clinton High School receive the same ratings because they are treated as one 9-12 high school in the accountability model.

“This does not mean that our junior high and high school are doing worse,” Martin said. “The issue is with the accountability formula and the requirement for growth. Because

growth is such a significant factor in the formula, we were caught by the law of diminishing returns.”

Students are scored on a five-point scale on state tests, with 3 considered a passing score. But schools don’t get growth points for students who score 3 one year and then score 3 the following year. Only students scoring 4 or 5 meet growth by maintaining their current levels. The percent of students scoring at a 1 or 2, the two lowest levels, dropped from 19.3% in 2016 to 12% in 2019 in language arts. They also dropped from 16.3% in 2016 to 9.9% in 2019 in math. This causes more students to score at a level 3, a positive outcome for students, but hurts a school’s growth score because they are not being counted as meeting growth.

“As a district,” Martin said, “our priority is and always has been student learning and we are going to continue to provide excellence in education, regardless of the accountability formula.”

# Mississippi Public Universities prepare workforce for automotive industry

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

In choosing Mississippi, Nissan and Toyota have changed the manufacturing landscape of the state. In addition to their plants, many automotive suppliers have located near the plants in Canton and Blue Springs. According to the Mississippi Development Authority, more than 200 automotive related manufacturers employ more than 20,000 skilled workers.

Students at **Jackson State University** are acquiring skills in 3D printing that may be used in the automotive manufacturing in the future. Just as the use of robotics in automobile manufacturing has made the process more efficient and streamlined, the use of 3D printing may reduce the number of parts needed, speed up the manufacturing process and allow for greater customization. Jackson State students will be prepared to enter the automotive workforce where 3D printing is the norm.

Offered in **Mississippi State University’s** Bagley College of Engineering, mechanical engineering is the application of science and mathematics to the design, development and operation of mechanical and energy systems. Examples of these systems include mechanical machines from simple linkages and gears to complex automated robots and energy machines from basic water pumps to high-performance jet engines.

Since the range of applications is so broad, virtually all industries employ mechanical engineers in various capacities. Some of the major areas for employment are the manufacturing, chemical, paper, aerospace, utility, construction, transportation, petroleum, electronics and computer industries. In addition to a strong foundation in the sciences, mechanical engineers must

develop speaking and writing skills and spend much of their time creating complex design processes.

MSU’s Swalm School of Chemical Engineering offers an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, a world that explores the chemical and physical processes used to develop and make products. Students who enroll in this program usually have a strong interest in applying chemistry and math to make processes and products to improve all aspects of human life.

Without question, chemical engineers are making major contributions to the technological infrastructure of modern society through careers in industries such as chemicals, oil and gas, alternative energy, environment, food, biomedicine and pharmaceuticals, electronics, materials and pulp and paper.

Master’s and doctoral degrees are also offered.

**Mississippi Valley State University’s** Engineering Technology department prepares students to become management-oriented technical professionals in the automotive industry. During their matriculation, students majoring in engineering technology receive experience with 3D printing and modeling, which can be used to design vehicles. The department also offers courses related to production management as well as electronic skills utilized in the automotive industry. Students are also introduced quality control techniques that can be employed.

**The Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME) at the University of Mississippi** partners with the Schools of Accountancy, Business Administration, and Engineering to offer a unique undergraduate degree for careers in manufacturing. Students gain the pro-

fessional skills involved in successful manufacturing along with an understanding of accounting, communication, human resources, leadership, management and marketing.

The CME is closely tied to the manufacturing industry through its advisory board including executives from Toyota and GE Aviation. Along with extension and co-op programs, CME has extensive facilities including a 47,000-square-foot building with state-of-the-art classrooms, a 12,000-square-foot factory, assembly and finishing areas, and a robotics laboratory.

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has played a vital role in economic and workforce development in the automotive industry. The **Mississippi Polymer Institute (MPI)** at USM is recognized as a leader in the study of composites, advanced materials, polymers and plastics, which function as catalysts for the development of new technological advances in transportation, electronics, and food, water and energy security.

In addition to serving industry with dedicated staff, laboratories and equipment, MPI leverages resources with USM’s School of Polymer Science and Engineering when highly specialized knowledge or equipment benefits customers. USM faculty in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering are engaged in world-leading and innovative research spanning multiple areas in the field of polymer science and engineering; and USM students, in all of the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, receive valuable education and training that prepares them for careers in academic, government or industrial settings.

# Competitive chess club starts at CJHS



Clinton Junior High students Pyper Finch and Griffin Threatt practice playing chess after school. They are part of the new chess club at CJHS.

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Students trickled into Mrs. Jaime Coon’s classroom at the end of the school day, smiling and excited.

“I really like chess,” said seventh-grader Joshua Noble. “I like to play against multiple people.”

His classmate Aaron Zimitrovich agreed.

“I like the strategy of it and the thinking you have to do,” he said.

This year there’s a new chess club at Clinton Junior High, sponsored by art teacher Jaime Coon.

“Last year my son was in sixth grade and competed in the district chess tournament in April,” she said. “There were so many kids in sixth grade at the tournament and I wanted to provide an opportunity for them to continue.”

Chess is a newly sanctioned activity by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, so Coon wants to prepare her students for competition. She attended a workshop at the University of Mississippi over the summer where she learned more about the game and how to run a chess program.

Although MHSAA will not be coordinating its own chess formal leagues or state championships this school

year, there are other opportunities for CJHS students to experience competition. The Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association offers a range of scholastic tournaments throughout the year, including statewide team and individual championships.

Coon said this organization offered a lot of help and advice as she was starting the new club at CJHS.

“We’re keeping an ear out for their competition schedule and as a group we will travel to one,” she said.

In the meantime, she’s working with students after school and getting them in the habit of noting their moves as they play.

“We always write down what moves we make,” said seventh-grader Jonah Godbold, pointing to his chess notebook. “We’ve watched videos and studied different defenses ... we play each other and study the moves we made.”

Coon said up to 12 students can play at a time since she only has six boards. Students are asked to bring \$1 each to play – money she’s saving to purchase time clocks and additional boards.

*For more information contact Coon at jcoon@clintonpublicschools.com.*

# William Carey University and Millsaps College form teacher preparation partnership

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

In an effort to prepare future teachers, William Carey University and Millsaps College have agreed to a new partnership that will enable Millsaps students to earn teacher licensure after graduation.

Participating Millsaps students will complete teacher preparation coursework and student teaching through William Carey University during their senior year and, if they meet all licensure requirements, will be recommended by William Carey University to the Mississippi Department of Education for licensure. Participants will then be eligible for full-time employment as teachers, and may pursue a Master’s in Education in the Art of Teaching (MAT) through William Carey University.

“This partnership gives both of our institutions the opportunity to

reach our goal of producing quality educators for Mississippi,” said Ben Burnett, dean of the William Carey University School of Education. “We look forward to working with the faculty and students of Millsaps on this important mission.”

Robert W. Pearigen, president of Millsaps College, believes the partnership represents an opportunity for the two institutions to blend their strengths for the benefit of education in the state.

“Millsaps is committed to supporting our students who want to pursue a career in teaching and education, and our partnership with William Carey University is an important part of that effort,” Pearigen said. “In the long run, the ultimate beneficiaries of this work will be the students in classrooms around Mississippi and beyond.”





1



# Mississippi in position to lead wonder material Graphene's future

*Organization chooses Jackson, Mississippi for conference*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Following the momentum from the American Graphene Summit on Capitol Hill in D.C. keynote by Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) earlier this year, Mississippi's business and industry will now get an up-close look at the global graphene technology revolution in their home state.

The Graphene Innovation & Research Conference, previously held in Nashville and Austin, will convene in Jackson, Mississippi, November 19-20, at the Westin Hotel. The conference, titled "Mississippi The State Of Graphene," will include speakers from around the globe. Leading scientists, scholars and industry leaders will share the most recent research, innovation, and trends in the field of graphene. Special tracks will highlight opportunities for different industry segments.

Sponsors and partners include the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), The University of Mississippi and the National Graphene Association (NGA), with the sup-

port of the Mississippi Manufacturing Association (MMA) and the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC).

The Conference will acquaint and prepare Mississippi businesses and industries with the coming technology revolution envisioned by the National Graphene Association and partners to promote "Mississippi The State of Graphene." Sponsors also include Ergon, Inc., Huntington Ingalls Industries, Innovate Mississippi, CREATE Foundation and TLC Graphene Composites, LLC.

Graphene is the thinnest known material and is 200 times stronger than steel. Scientists call it a disruptive technology that is a "game changer." While the advanced material is only scratching the surface of its potential to enhance existing products and inspire new ones, it has already made an impact in many industries ranging from sporting goods to aerospace.

Examples of current uses are: cell phone batteries that fully charge in 30 minutes; the finest of membranes to turn salt water

into drinking water; adding to paint for ships to reduce corrosion and increase fuel efficiency; adding to concrete to make it twice as strong and adding to asphalt to make roads last twice as long.

To encourage engagement and innovative thinking, the NGA has also launched a Graphene Composites Design Competition as part of the event. Finalists will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas for new or enhanced products using graphene at the conference.

"Mississippi business and industry should be prepared for the enormous opportunities graphene will offer. The NGA is working with state leaders to locate a significant national graphene presence in Mississippi," said Ed Meek of Oxford, NGA founder and CEO.

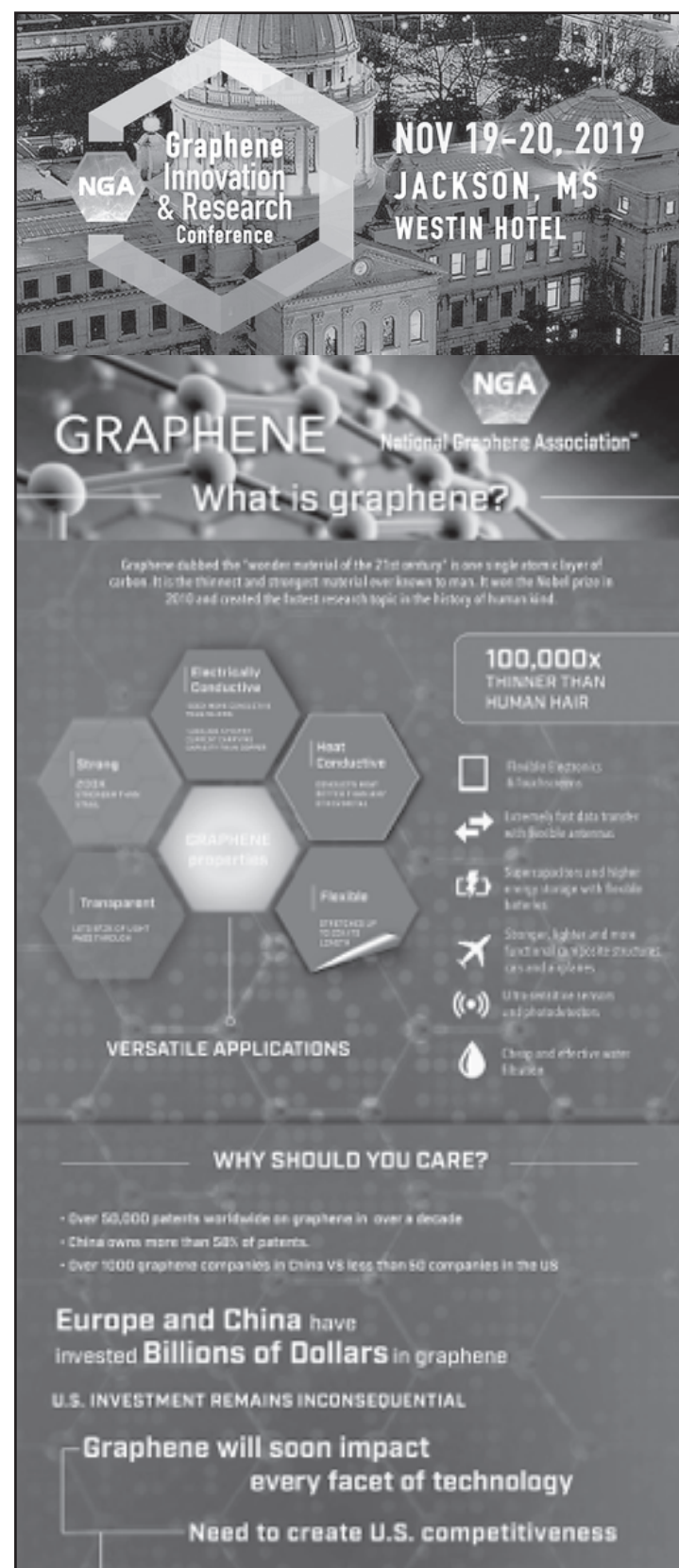
"This conference is the continuation of NGA initiatives to support the needs of current and future graphene stakeholders," said Zina Jarrahi Cinker, NGA executive director. "Senator Wicker is committed to Mississippi maintaining a leadership

role in graphene development. This event focuses on graphene research, innovation, and its impact on regional and national economic development."

Anyone can attend. Attendees will include business and industry leaders, company R&D personnel, entrepreneurs, scientists, university and government officials.

"The Graphene Innovation and Research Conference is an information exchange between academic and government scientists and industry and is a critical step toward transitioning graphene-based technologies into products and tools that can benefit society," said Josh Gladden, vice chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs at the University of Mississippi and NGA Academic Council chair. "The University of Mississippi and the Center for Graphene Research and Innovation are thrilled to participate and support this inaugural conference in our home state."

*For more stories on ways graphene is changing the game, visit the GRAPHENE NEWS section of the NGA website.*



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## Superior Catfish expanding in Macon, creating 25 jobs

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Catfish processing company Superior Catfish is expanding its operations in Macon. The project is a \$17-million corporate investment and will create 25 jobs.

"Superior Catfish's expansion is a win-win for the company and the area's local catfish farmers," Gov. Phil Bryant said. "Mississippi's agriculture industry is our strongest economic driver, and Superior Catfish's growth in Noxubee County serves as a testament that companies in this important sector can find long-term success in our state."

Superior Catfish is constructing a 31,500-square-foot addition onto its 31,000-square-foot facility to house two new full processing lines, which will accommodate an increase in de-

mand.

The company's customers include Sysco, Performance Food Group, Merchants Foodservice and local restaurant chain Penn's.

"We really appreciate the role the Mississippi Development Authority played in helping and encouraging us to move forward with this project. This plant expansion will help us sustain and improve current jobs, as well as create new jobs for the residents of Noxubee County," said Superior Catfish President Fred Johnson.

"This expansion will allow us to process more fish grown by the local farmers and allow us to better serve our existing customers while also allowing us to confidently expand and seek new customers. We are re-

ally excited about the future of Superior Catfish."

The Mississippi Development Authority is providing assistance for building improvements and construction costs.

"MDA salutes the leadership of Superior Catfish for creating dozens of new job opportunities for the people of Noxubee County and the East Mississippi region," said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough, Jr. "The positive impact of this expansion will benefit the local economy while enhancing the quality of life for Noxubee countians for many years to come."

Founded in Macon in 2003, Superior Catfish currently employs 140 workers. The company expects to complete its expansion in October 2020.

## \$47,500 to the Mississippi Department of Transportation

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) recently announced the United States Department of Transportation has awarded \$47,500 in Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) funds to the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

The funds will be used for a

statewide Call Before You Dig media campaign to help educate the public regarding new damage prevention enforcement provisions of the law that require stakeholders who are in violation of the damage prevention law to attend training and/or pay penalties.

*For more information contact the Mississippi Department of Transportation at 601 359-7001.*



Thompson

## Insurance Commissioner Chaney approves State Farm home insurance rate decrease

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney has approved a 4% decrease in rates for State Farm home insurance consumers. The rate decrease goes into effect January 1, 2020, for new businesses and March 1,

2020, for renewals.

"This is the third rate decrease for State Farm homeowner rates in the last 4 years," said Chaney.

"It is good news for consumers that competition and market share continue to result in lower rates."

Premiums could vary person-to-person based on the homeowner's policy and chosen coverages.

Customers with questions can contact their local State Farm agent to discuss their individual situation.



# In one section of Queens, gun violence has left activists with lots of work to do

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*

The latest shooting spree in the New York City borough of Queens has rocked the foundation of the community – the parents and grandparents of both the victims and the perpetrators.

It has also nearly broken a dedicated and longtime activist, who said her organization desperately needs help.

“I’m hurting,” said Erica Ford, the founder and CEO of Life Camp, Inc., a mobile trauma unit that brings trauma recovery services to African American communities.

As of September 4, the Jamaica, Queens neighborhood where Ford grew up and now serves, has seen 12 people shot and nine of them killed over a 13-day period.

On September 4, Ford, hip-hop and business mogul Russell Simmons, civil rights activist and Women’s March on Washington Co-Chair Tamika Mallory, and others attended a wake for a 22-year-old victim.

Mourners packed a local church as at least a dozen New York City Police officers stood outside. Ford, Simmons and Mallory offered some of the victim’s family members and friends, comfort.

“We’ve had nine deaths in Southeast Queens,” said Ford, who was selected in 2012 to join a gun-violence task force established by then-President Barack Obama.

“Among the victims are a 13-year-old and all of these deaths were preventable,” said Ford, whose work has led to global recognition with features by Oprah Winfrey and *Essence Magazine* among others.

The level of violence in Queens is shocking and previously unseen since Ford founded Life Camp nearly 20 years ago.

The gun violence occurred as Ford continued her cry for help.

While the city provided funding for the mobile trauma



ma units, Ford hasn’t gained enough help with other needs.

“We need to expand. We can’t do it alone, and nobody is reaching out,” Ford said.

It isn’t as if Ford’s organization hasn’t been successful in combating violence.

Over the last three years, the crisis management system that was co-created by Life Camp has contributed to a 15 percent decline in shootings in the 17 precincts with the most violence.

With the motto, “making peace a lifestyle,” Life Camp provides youth and families impacted by violence, the valuable tools needed to stay in school and out of the criminal justice system.

The organization provides programs and other holistic approaches to reinforce self-esteem and respect for life among young ones. Life Camp also connects and mobilize youth to prevent and heal from violence in New York’s most underserved communities.

Life Camp supplies job training and resume development for community members. Organization members travel to crime scenes and hospitals to try and avert retaliation after a shooting has occurred.

“If young people who have experienced gun violence receive wraparound supports to empower them to fulfill their basic needs and sustain mental, physical, and economic health

and wellness, they will lead healthier lives,” Ford said.

“They will also be less likely to resolve conflicts with violence,” she said.

Ford said her team is always busy.

Life Camp is comprised mostly of working mothers who have lost their children. They offer therapeutic and healing services and funeral and security preparation.

The Life Camp team canvasses affected neighborhoods to help de-escalate tensions and to provide intervention and mediation to help stop the violence.

Ford said the organization needs the support to hire credible community messengers and for its neighborhood communication campaign.

They’d also like to purchase uniforms and supplies for team members and extend the hours of its mobile crisis unit.

“We want to create safe corridors for our kids and for our staff to get to and from school and work safely,” Ford said.

The program “is a shining example of how much better and effective local interventions are than the police who, in many cases are disconnected, not trusted, brutal and too often fatal,” said Simmons, who has sponsored an annual dinner for the parents of gun violence victims in Queens.

“Violence cannot be contained. It has to be prevented

by trusted and effective community-based programs,” Simmons said.

Simmons hosted the September 4 dinner at “The Door” restaurant in Queens where dozens of mourners and Life Camp staff members gathered after the wake.

“Unfortunately, we had this planned [before] we had 12 people shot in queens in last two weeks,” Ford said.

“It’s usually just for the mothers, but my staff is here. I see my staff every day. But, as a shell. I don’t see people inside of them because they are broken, they’re in pain because when you lose nine people in one community in two weeks ... this ain’t right,” she said.

“We want to bring us together because we’ve got work to do. We’re glad Russell snatched up Tamika and Hasaun [Simmons’ aide] and brought them here because we’ve got work to do. This is our community, and when they talk about gun violence in New York City, they’re talking about us.”

“We want to break bread, and we want to smile and relieve some of that pain that’s heavy on our hearts. We have a funeral tomorrow, and we have another funeral next week. We still have work to do to make sure nobody else gets killed,” Ford said.

To donate to Life Camp, visit <https://7days7shootings.fun-raise.org>

# United Auto Workers strike General Motors

*TriceEdneyWire.com*

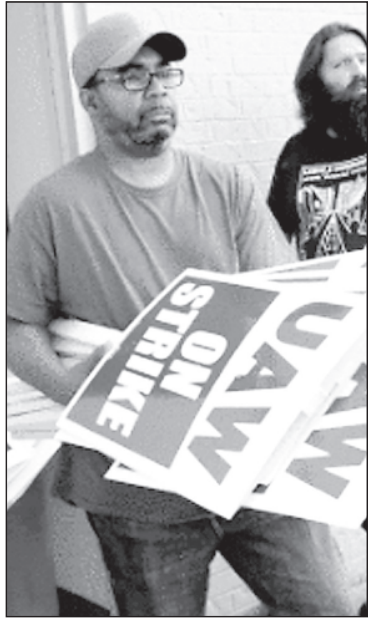
The United Auto Workers Monday morning went on strike at General Motors, the first labor walkout at the Detroit automaker since 2007.

However, both sides said they resumed negotiations Monday afternoon to end the strike. It is not known how much progress has been made.

Some 46,000 hourly workers hit the picket lines at 55 plants nationwide. The workers want better pay, better medical coverage and a larger share of the \$27.5 billion in profits the Detroit-based company has generated over a four-year period since the last UAW contract in 2015.

“We are standing up for fair wages, we are standing up for affordable, quality health care. We are standing up for our share of the profits. We are standing up for job security for our members, said UAW Vice President Terry Dittes.

In a Facebook post, GM said it is offering the UAW \$7 billion in investments and more than 5,400 jobs. The manufacturer also said



Striker

it is offering investments in eight facilities in four states. In addition, GM said it offered the UAW the opportunity to become the first union-represented battery plant in the country.

General Motors has the smallest unionized workforce behind Ford and Chrysler.

# The time is now to help prevent gun violence in urban neighborhoods



Simmons

By Russell Simmons  
*Exclusive to NNPA Newswire*

At the beginning of this summer, I wrote an Op-Ed for the National Newspaper Publishers Association. I asked for support for the anti-violence programs around the country and many of you responded. For that, I am grateful.

One of the things that I have done over the last 10 years – with the exception of 2018 – is host a dinner for the mothers of deceased children in my old hood in Queens, New York. The deceased children all died because of senseless gun violence.

The recent dinners have had mostly the same mothers because Life Camp, the program that I support, and the residents have held the violence to a minimum.

This year was very, very different.

Instead of going directly to the dinner, I was asked to stop at a church for a wake.

My brother who I grew up with, Marcellus, lost his son, Marcellus Jr., who was on his way to college in just two days.

Marcellus Jr. was one of the 13 that were shot, and of the nine who were murdered, in the last 10 days. I went to the church and saw

Marcellus Sr. and I thought of images of him in our childhood.

We hugged the same way I hugged the brothers, the sisters and the mother of his son. Only with him, I started to cry. I was home. It was my Hollis family and we were hurting.

They, especially the father and the uncle, helped the whole thing to hit home harder. The way it should.

It reminded me that this wake was not business as usual, but instead it was critical for my own spiritual survival and growth.

We had planned the dinner over a month ago, but the murders and the funerals we couldn’t have predicted.

At the dinner, we recommitted to work on lifting our community.

We reaffirmed our love for each other and our work.

Today, I am asking for all my Queens Congress members, City Council members, rappers and hip-hop success stories to join me in helping Life Camp expand their good work.

I promise to donate more and support more than I have in the past. The time is now, what will you do?

With great love, all things are possible.

# National Minority Supplier Development Council announces 2020 policy and issues forum

By Hazel Trice Edney  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*

Recently, the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) announced that it would host its first policy and issues forum. With over 12,000 certified minority-owned businesses representing millions of consumers, NMSDC is the largest and most successful non-profit advocating for minority entrepreneurs in this country.

The forum will be held on October 16, in Atlanta, Ga. the final day of NMSDC’s annual National Conference and Business Exchange. The conference draws over 6,000 minority-business owners and corporate partners from around the nation.

“Economic inclusion is one of the most urgent issues we face to ensure opportunity and prosperity for all Americans,” said Adrienne Trimble,

president of NMSDC. “Our numbers prove our success in this area. In 2018, we executed \$400 billion in revenue for minority-owned businesses. Some \$1.6 million US jobs were created, resulting in \$96 billion in wages earned.”

**Who:** National Minority Supplier Development Council

**NMSDC President:** Adrienne C. Trimble

**What:** 2020 Policy and Is-

sues Forum

**Where:** Atlanta, GA Georgia World Congress Center

**When:** October 16, 2019 9:00am – 11:30am

**Why:** Economic inclusion for all Americans is one of the most critical issues of our time.

**Media Avail:** To speak with NMSDC President Adrienne Trimble, contact Dee Dee Bass Wilbon at 703 888-9421 or email [media@basspublicaffairs.com](mailto:media@basspublicaffairs.com).



# Dealing with discouragement

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



How can a Christian become discouraged? We find that when we live faithfully to God and tell

the message to an apostate generation, to people who are letting down, and to people who have rejected the truth, we may experience times of discouragement.

There were times when I had high hopes that some people were going to come along and be true to God, but they did not, and the human side of me became discouraged. James 5:17 tells us, “Elias was a man subject to like passions just like us.” What he went through, we have to face and work through. I have heard people say, “I am so holy; it doesn’t bother me.” Well, I am looking for that place because sometimes things still hurt me and bother me. How

do we work through those things?

Every person who has been true to God should have hopes, dreams and goals. We ought to have a purpose that we are working for, living for and pushing toward. We must have those goals to keep going for God. You may say, “We do not need goals.” Paul had them, and we read in Philippians 3:13-14: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” No matter what his circumstances, the Apostle Paul never settled for the past. We too, must “press on” with the mindset that there is always something more to be found in Christ.

We need to have goals. We will never reach them until we are ready to go home. If

we have reached our goals, then God will take us home. While we are here, we must still keep pressing and reaching. We have goals, and we have a purpose.

We should dream of the lost being saved. We should dream of the family of God getting together. We ought to have those kinds of dreams, and we ought to purpose to do what God wants us to do.

We have goals, dreams and purposes that are unaccomplished, and they can be shattered. We can become affected by circumstances. You may ask, “What do you mean?” Well, let me put it this way. We may pray, we may preach and we may do everything we can to win a soul. However, when we labor and work to do it and suddenly a person rejects it that can be discouraging. If we are not careful, it will do more to us than we think. We can be hurt on the inside. The Prophet Elijah was hurt on the inside.

God had just done some marvelous things, but defeat was after him.

Discouragement does not have to spell defeat. Some people may think, “Well, I have become discouraged, and I am defeated.” No, we do not have to be defeated just because we are discouraged. Sometimes God may allow us to become discouraged to get us to dig a little deeper, to get us to lean on Him a little stronger, and to get us to trust in Him in a greater way. If we do not turn away from truth, do not turn away from God and do not let God down in our living. God will do anything He can to try to help and to encourage us. God does not condemn a person for becoming discouraged.

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

# The real answer I need

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say “Here I am.” – Isaiah 58:9

A few years ago, I went through a series of annoying emails with a co-worker. It started with her having a few questions about a specific aspect of my job. Having those answers, I quickly responded to her email. She then sent me back an email with more questions.... even questions about the questions that she asked that she didn’t think I’d answered completely. Scratching my head at her continued confusion, I sent her another email with greater clarity (at least I thought) on those questions. I sent the email satisfied that the dialogue was over and that she had the information she wanted.

Two days later, she sent me another email saying that I still hadn’t answered the questions to her satisfaction. Now, she was starting to get on my nerves with her persistence. I was also irritated because I was distracted by her emails. I prayed for greater insight into what she wanted as I reread her emails and my responses to her emails and her responses to my emails. One thing became clear: I didn’t have answers to her questions.

Once I got this revelation, I sent her back an email that stated simply that I did not have an answer for her and that another staff member would probably best respond. She then sent me an email saying that she wanted an answer from ME. Since she was not my boss, my response was to remind her that I didn’t have an answer... and that was MY final answer.

I felt such a great peace of mind when I sent the email. I had

a feeling that she would send me another email reminding me that I still didn’t answer her question (which she did). I realized that me not having an answer bothered her more than it bothered me that I didn’t have an answer.

Later that same day, I chuckled because this was a sign that I’d matured both emotionally and spiritually. I used to get frustrated at not having answers for people because I thought I should always have an answer....and that people should have an answer for me.

I also chuckled because I realize I unknowingly do the same thing in my relationship with God. It seemed that if I went to the all-knowing and all-seeing God, I’d get my answer. I think I spent unnecessary emotional and spiritual energy trying to get God to respond to certain questions without realizing that I’d gotten my answer (silence). Like my co-worker, it wasn’t the answer I wanted, so I persisted in asking questions that had already been answered.

Once I accepted God’s answer, peace replaced my frustration. When I accepted God’s answer to some nagging questions, I was able to enjoy the fact that I now had a more intimate fellowship with him. Even though I wasn’t getting what I thought I wanted, I was getting what I needed... and my real answer to all of my questions was being able to hear him with crystal clear clarity as well as a closer walk with him.

*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.*

## REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENT

Please accept this special invitation to celebrate Pastor Willie F. Mitchell and Lady Belinda K. Mitchell’s 11th anniversary, Sunday, September 22, at Shady Grove MB Church, 3030 Thomas Road, Crystal Springs MS 39059 Time: 2 p.m. Guest speaker will be Pastor Michael Taylor of Bethlehem MB Church, Edwards MS. For more information, please contact Sister Cynthia Neal, church secretary, at 601 307-6506 or Pastor Willie F. Mitchell at 601 540-3802.

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# What does a just America look like?

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



Sometimes I allow myself to imagine a world with justice for all – not just in words, but by deeds. Before I go around the world with what I would like to see I want the best there is for everybody no matter where they live.

Maybe to some what I wish for seems far-fetched, and is if we're not willing to work for something better for all. Here's what I think a just America would look like.

First, we should always refuse to return hate with hate, but always be concerned about every human being's well-being. In a just America, all of us would have a livable wage. We'd always have a high-quality health plan that prevents illnesses rather than a mediocre and unnecessarily high priced one that only treats us after we're sick when the prices of health care make us even sicker when we see the bill!

In a just America, all of our children would have access to a high quality and useable education. Everyone would live in a safe and comfortable home they can afford.

We'd be able to vote without wondering if our votes would count without having computer breakdowns as happened when I ran for office or hearing that the Russians were allowed to manipulate our vote. We could register to vote at will having assurance our names wouldn't be wiped off the rolls without just cause to enable someone else to win when we actually received the greatest number of votes. I'm sure Secretary Hillary Clinton would back me up on that, as would Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum. I might even add Beto O'Rourke as another recent example.

In a just America, racism would disappear and would never be rewarded. We'd have a Commission on the Elimination of Racism. Another commission that actually mandates reparations for black people and our community would go a long way toward proving America has suddenly become fair and just to all.

There're a few things we'd need to do, too. We'd spend our money only with those who respect us and not those who oppress us. We'd spend most of our money with our own people, and when we own the businesses, we would pay our people fair wages, and charge our people fair prices. In return, we who do business with our own, we'd treat those businesses as our own.

We would never feel the need to use white people as our standard for what we should be.

Once we have prepared ourselves for a job or a business, we would walk out of an interview with confidence we'd have a fair chance at getting the job or if in business, we would walk out of the bank feeling confident we would get the loan if we had filled all of the requirements that others are asked to fill.

Once we apply for a school or university admission, we could be confident that we would be admitted on our merits – especially when our merits exceed those of our competitors and not because our parents could afford to buy a slot for admission.

In a just America, non-white children would see themselves in the people on the news with the good they are doing on a regular basis. They would hear the stories of people who look like them when they, too, are accomplishing great things.

As the late Barbara Jordan once said, "What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise." Black people are still waiting for America to make real that promise, and when that happens, we'd have a just America.

*Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. is national president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. She also hosts "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3.*

# How Russia exploits white supremacy in U.S.

By Marc H. Morial  
Trice Edney Newswire



It is almost amusing to see, hear and read how the U.S. press, politicians and academicians weep and wail, moan and groan and huff and puff about Russia's attempt to take propagandistic advantage of the white supremacy that has been a pivotal force in this country's life for the past 400 years.

What Russia is doing is nothing new. Back in the 1950s and 1960s, American presidents responded to white supremacist attacks on black people mainly because the Russians were using such attacks as something to be exploited during the so-called Cold War.

If there wasn't/isn't white supremacy, the Russians wouldn't have anything to exploit. Civil

and human rights changes are not the result of changes in attitude of white supremacists but result from foreign policy needs.

For instance, President Dwight D. Eisenhower reluctantly nationalized the Arkansas National Guard to protect the Little Rock Nine who were being attacked by white supremacist opponents of the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School. He reportedly acted only after photos of the attacks were published in a Russian newspaper.

President John F. Kennedy did the same when black youngsters in Birmingham, Alabama were attacked by white supremacists. Like Eisenhower, he said the federal government had no legal right to intervene.

Both eventually and reluctantly took action because of foreign policy propaganda needs.

President Lyndon Johnson also signed the civil rights bills of 1964 and 1965 because of concerns about Russia using white supremacy attacks as a propaganda weapon against the self-proclaimed "Leader of the Free World."

Black leaders such as Brother Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were well aware of the U.S. government's fear that its opponents would use the race issue against the United States. That's why Brother Malcolm was developing plans to have the U.S. condemned by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for being "either unable or unwilling to protect the lives and property of black people." That's also why King, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, spoke of the Civil Rights Movement as being similar to the liberation movements in Africa and Asia.

Even the more conservative NAACP and Urban League leaders were aware, though they would never say so publicly, that U.S. foreign policy propaganda considerations were a plus factor in the battle against overt promoters and defenders of white supremacy. This will be the case as long as the U.S. proclaims itself as a bastion of equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity, while at the same time most whites still believe that they should be the dominant force in the national and international arenas.

Finally, it must be stated that the Russians are not exploiting America's race issue for moral or humane reasons. They believe just as strongly as their fellow European-descended counterparts in America that whites are superior to all other people. Their disagreement with the U.S. is basically over which group of whites should be top dog.

# We must not normalize poverty and inequity

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



When the income and poverty data were released September 10, the commentary touted the progress that the data reflected. The poverty rate dropped by half a percentage point, down to 11.8 percent. For the first time, the poverty rate is lower than it was in 2007, before the beginning of the Great Recession. But wages only rose significantly among Asian Americans, and the poverty rates, by demographics, were 8.1 percent for whites, 20.8 percent for African Americans, 17.6 percent for Hispanics, and 10.1 percent for Asian Americans.

When we celebrate the drop in the poverty rate, we normalize the fact that African Americans have a much higher poverty rate than whites do. In simply acknowledging the poverty rate drop, without focusing on the much higher poverty rate of African Americans, we imply that high African American poverty rates are acceptable. They are not. There should be no discussion of poverty rates without an acknowledgment that economic recovery has been extremely uneven, and the distribution of poverty is uneven as well.

It is important to note that if we bemoan high poverty rates, we must acknowledge the progress that comes with lower ones. Things are indeed "better" at the microeconomic level, and better in the aggregate. "Better" for who, we might ask. When we talk about poverty prevention, it is essential to acknowledge that some communities need more help than others do, which is why we should consider targeted programs. Unfortunately, too many assert that we can't have "black" programs in a multicultural society. But if black people experience more poverty, they need more help.

While the poverty rate dropped, the proportion of people without health insurance or access to health care rose. In 2017, 7.9 percent of all people had no health insurance. By 2018, in just one year, the number jumped to 8.5 percent. At least 27.5 million Americans have no health insurance. That number is deceptive because many who have health insurance cannot afford their copayments and so only visit medical professionals when their situation is dire.

While the health data must be nuanced to reveal that the situation is worse than the numbers suggest, the simple increase in the number of folks without health insurance is alarming. If some legislators have

their way, even more people will lack access to health insurance, and with the stagnant incomes revealed from the income and poverty data, increasing numbers will be unable to manage their copayments.

Similarly, celebrations about the historic low in the black unemployment rate tend to normalize the fact that black people experience proportionately more unemployment than others. When the unemployment rate numbers were released on the first Friday of September, the overall rate was 3.7 percent; while the overall rate for black folks was 5.5 percent, and 4.4 percent for black women.

While acknowledging this historic low, it is essential to note that the overall black rate remains twice as high as the white rate. Bragging about the lower rate without acknowledging the unemployment rate gap suggests that black folks are supposed to have higher unemployment rates than others.

There are lots of problems with the unemployment rate, especially around participate rates that suggest that some are dropping out of the labor force. The unemployment rate data, just like the income and poverty data, also show stagnant wages. Too many are working, but not making a living wage, as the poverty data suggest.

The minimum wage has not increased in a decade, and while many cities and states have higher minimum wages, the majority do not. The South, particularly, has been resistant to increasing wages. The South is also the region of the country with the highest poverty rate.

Our nation's policy conversation too often normalizes African-American economic disadvantage. When an 11.8 percent poverty rate is reported, and the black unemployment rate is not, it implies that the 20.8 percent rate (one in five black people) is not a matter of concern. When a 5.5 percent "historic low" unemployment rate is reported, but the unemployment rate gap is not, it implies that there is supposed to be an unemployment rate gap and black people are supposed to have higher unemployment rates than whites.

We cannot normalize inequality by only partly reporting on reality. Even as we report on economic progress, we must also report on the uneven ways growth affects black communities.

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

# NFL's Depression-era ban on black players lingers on in the owner's box

By Marc H. Morial  
Trice Edney Newswire



The National Football League season opened last week with a full slate of games. On the field, extraordinary athletes of all races and backgrounds competed with the same set of rules. Yet, it is worth noting that this has not always been the case – and that the legacy of discrimination has yet to be redressed.

In June, when the Chicago Bears announced that their

"throwback jersey" for their 100th anniversary this year would come from 1936, they were honoring a jersey that was worn in the third season of the NFL's 12-year ban on black players. In an extraordinary article for *Windy City Gridiron*, Chicago Sports historian Jack Silverstein detailed the story and background of the ban. Unlike baseball, the NFL allowed black players to play in its early years.

Black players like All Pro halfback Fritz Pollard and tackle Duke Slater were among the most honored players of the day. "What makes the NFL so unique is that

it's a full-fledged league and it starts off integrated," says professor, author and historian Louis Moore, whose work includes the podcast *The Black Athlete*.

Yet, when the Great Depression deepened, black players were suddenly banned from the league. The owners — led by George Preston Marshall, owner of the Washington Redskins and, Silverstein postulates, likely George Halas, famed owner of the Chicago Bears — clearly enforced a ban on black players that lasted from 1933 to 1945. The argument apparently was that with the Depression, black

players would be resented — the football version of last hired, first fired. The Washington owner, Marshall, writes Silverstein, was an "avowed, gleeful racist," who generally bears the onus of pushing the ban. He hoped to market the Washington team as the team of the South.

But other owners, including legends in the sport, were complicit or worse, including Chicago's Halas, Curly Lambeau of the Packers, Tim Mara of the Giants and Art Rooney of the Steelers. Mara's Giants didn't have a black player until 1948, Halas' Bears not until 1952, Lambeau's

Packers not until 1950. Marshall's Redskins were the last to integrate, doing so only in 1962 when the federal government threatened to revoke the lease on the team's stadium.

Today, NFL rosters are integrated. But there's still a dearth of blacks in the elite club of owners. Of the 32 teams in the NFL, only two principal owners are people of color — Shahid Khan of the Jaguars and Kim Pegula of the Buffalo Bills. (Of the 92 teams in baseball, basketball and football combined, there are only six majority owners that are people of color.) Ownership is a small club,

and the club owners still tend to admit only people that look like them.

The exclusion is also a legacy of the discrimination. When black players — and black owners — were banned, teams were affordable. As the league built up, many teams were inherited, gaining in value along the way. By being excluded at the start, black owners have a far harder time getting in now.

Today's integrated teams on the field serve as positive examples. Fans cheer for favorites by the color of their jerseys, not the color of their skin.



## E-cigarettes may be leading to lung disease epidemic

By Trudy Lieberman  
Rural Health News Service

Are e-cigarettes becoming the next public health hazard?

Increasingly, health officials seem to think so, and in early September the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that Americans stop vaping until health officials know more about an epidemic of lung disease that has made some 450 people sick and caused three deaths.

A study just published found that more than 80 percent of the patients said they used THC, the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana, but more than half also used nicotine, the culprit in conventional cigarettes.

Although no one device, product or substance has been linked to all these cases, CDC official Dana Meany-Delman warned, “While this investigation is ongoing, people should consider not using e-cigarette products” and should not buy products off the street or modify them in any way.

There is still much that is not known about e-cigarettes. The New York State Department of Health just identified Vitamin E acetate, an oil found in some marijuana-based vaping products, as the likely cause of the recent outbreak of vaping-related lung disease. But many other questions remain.

Health agencies, regulators and anti-smoking groups are worried that more Americans – especially teenagers – will be enticed into a long-term smoking habit by the thousands of flavors such as gummy bear, cherry and cinnamon that make vaping so popular.

A study reported in the *British Medical Journal* noted that by early 2014 buyers could choose from 466 brands and more than 7,000 unique flavors of e-cigarettes. The newer brands were more likely to claim they were healthier and cheaper than cigarettes and were good substitutes where smoking was banned.

If you tire of gummy bear and cherry, there are always new flavors to hook you to the smoking habit. And that may be what the e-cigarette industry is banking on.

With such a yummy edge, it’s not hard to see why these products have become a marketing success story, especially among young people trying tobacco for the first time.

In New York City, where I live, and in my neighborhood near the New York University campus, e-cigarette smoking is so prevalent on the sidewalks it reminds me of the old days when use of old-fashioned cigarettes was in vogue and smokers were everywhere.

“A long and tragic history has taught us that nicotine addiction often begins as a pediatric disease,” former FDA Commissioner David Kessler recently wrote in a *New York Times* op-ed. Kessler was the commissioner in the 1990s and found deficiencies in America’s regulation of tobacco products. Congress eventually gave the FDA authority to regulate both traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

Twenty-five years ago, Kessler’s FDA investigated the tobacco industry to better understand nicotine. He argues that if the co-founder of Juul Labs (the maker of e-cigarettes) is serious that the company has no incentive to see minors use its products as it claims, then it needs to change the e-cigarette’s design, and if it doesn’t, the FDA should reject it as a new product.

Whether the company will make any changes or whether the CDC’s warning will tamp down sales is anyone’s guess right now.

State and local governments are also pushing back. More than 200 jurisdictions have put limits on selling flavored e-cigarettes. Several states have raised the age at which tobacco products can be purchased. The aim, of course, is to discourage teen vaping.

A newly enacted San Francisco city ordinance bans all sales of e-cigarettes, including online purchases delivered to city addresses, until the products go through an FDA review.

Juul seems to want it both ways. It is supporting efforts to raise the minimum age to buy its products but is fighting local laws to curb the marketing of such products, including the flavored e-cigarettes. In San Francisco it is financing a proposed ballot initiative that would push back the city’s ban. It’s also proposing a new system that would continue to allow vaping products on the market.

It has been sponsoring full-page newspaper ads that present a good-guy image for the public – like the ad that says the company is cracking down on underage sales with its 2,000 secret shoppers keeping tabs on retailers.

In the meantime, let’s hope the CDC’s latest warning about e-cigarettes will carry the same weight as the warning from Dr. Luther Terry, the U.S. surgeon general in 1964, whose ground-breaking report linked tobacco use to lung cancer and heart disease and dissuaded millions of Americans from ever smoking.

*How should e-cigarettes be regulated? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).*

## Dyslexia Conference set for Mississippi College

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Up to 43 million Americans struggle with dyslexia, a learning disability making it difficult to read, write and spell.

Experts in the field will visit Mississippi College for a conference to discuss research, strategies and ways for young people to better cope with dyslexia.

Leaders of the Mississippi College Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center will orchestrate the September 27-28 meetings on the Clinton campus.

The MC center is teaming with the School of Education and the Mississippi chapter of the Academic Language Therapy Association to sponsor the event. As many as 300 dyslexia therapists, parents, teachers, school administrators and students are expected to attend.

“This will offer participants a chance to hear from nationally recognized experts in the field,” says Jan Hankins, the center’s director.

Instead of two dyslexia conferences hosted each year at the Christian university, there will be one program in 2019. The upcoming conference will be expanded and extend over two days.

“We hope everyone will



take advantage of this unique training opportunity,” Hankins said.

Dyslexia is a huge issue. An estimated 80 percent of American students with learning disabilities have dyslexia. The International Dyslexia Association estimates that 15 to 20 percent of the American population has some of the symptoms of the learning disorder. It impacts many children as well as millions of adults.

The keynote speaker on Friday is educator Rick Lavoie, an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since

1972.

A consultant on learning disabilities, Lavoie has lectured at schools such as Harvard, Syracuse, Alabama and Georgetown. He’s appeared on news programs like ABC’s “Good Morning America.” Rick has delivered his message to more than 500,000 parents and professionals across the USA.

The keynote speaker Saturday is Jennings Miller, a fellow at the Academy of Orton Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. She runs a private reading therapy practice and trains teachers.

Other conference speakers include Mississippi College math professor Melinda Gann. She’s the secondary mathematics education coordinator on the Clinton campus. Kathy Henley, an evaluator at the MC dyslexia center, will also conduct one of the breakout sessions.

Cost of the conference is \$75 per day or \$130 to cover both days. The Fall conference begins with registration and check-in from 7:15 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. September 27.

Contact Shirley Tipton at [tipton@mc.edu](mailto:tipton@mc.edu) or 601-925-7667 for more details.

## Our world before and after vaccines

By Glenn Ellis  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*



It’s that time of the year when, between back-to-school and flu season, the conversations for and against vaccine really heat up.

Let me be clear at the outset, the purpose of this column is not to advocate one or the other (even though I do have my own personal opinion). This column is simply to bring a broader context of facts into the discourse.

To begin with, let’s look at vaccines, their history and their purpose.

According to data from the CDC, “at the beginning of the 20th century, infectious diseases were widely prevalent in the United States and exacted an enormous toll on the population. For example, in 1900, 21,064 smallpox cases were reported, and 894 patients died. In 1920, 469,924 measles cases were reported, and 7575 patients died; 147,991 diphtheria cases were reported, and 13,170 patients died. In 1922, 107,473 pertussis cases were reported, and 5099 patients died.”

Keep in mind that in 1900, the leading cause of death was infections, in large part due to the lack of public sanitation and hygiene. As infectious disease continued to spread during this period, few effective treatment and preventive measures existed. Thus, the death rates from infectious diseases continued to skyrocket.

Since 1900, vaccines have been developed or licensed against 21 other diseases. It is important to mention that ten of these vaccines are recommended for use only in selected populations at high risk because of the area where they live, their age, their medical condition, or certain high-risk behaviors.

Today, one of the most controversial topics in medicine and healthcare is vaccines. Doctors, nurses, parents, politicians, activists and the young and the old – everybody is on one side or the other of the argument.

But I believe it’s time to remember what our society was like before vaccines.

As of this writing, Vaccine Nation, the

organizer of the World Vaccine Congress, released a list of 10 most important infections with no licensed vaccine. Most of these infections belong to a category known as neglected tropical diseases, or “NTDs,” which disproportionately affect the poorest people living in resource poor countries. For the most part, living in the United States, we are relatively unlikely to ever encounter any of these.

Granted, there are some infectious diseases that there is no vaccine in existence to treat them with, but there are quite a few which exist that have made the world a healthier and better place.

It’s hard to convince a parent to give their child a polio or a measles vaccination if they have no idea what these diseases can do to the human body. So, let me offer a brief review of just a few of those that are treatable with vaccines:

The #1 culprit was Polio, a crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease that is caused by poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person and can invade an infected person’s brain and spinal cord, causing paralysis. Polio reached epidemic proportions in the early 1900s. Because of widespread vaccination, polio was eliminated from the Western Hemisphere in 1994. I, personally, am old enough to remember public campaigns showing wards filled with children in mechanical tubes, called “ironlungs,” just to be able to breathe, and others with braces on their crippled legs in order to walk. There was little effort required to have students at schools to stand in line and be administered a sugar cube with the polio vaccine on it.

Tetanus (or Lockjaw) is a disease of the nervous system caused by bacteria called *Clostridium tetani*. Generally, between 10% and 20% of tetanus cases result in death, though fatalities are more likely among patients older than 60 years of age, and among unimmunized individuals. After approximately eight days (ranging from three to 21 days), it begins to short-circuit nerve signals and block the relaxation of muscles. This results in sustained muscle contractions, notably the lockjaw for which tetanus is nicknamed. Spasms

of the jaw or facial muscles may follow, spreading to the hands, arms, legs and back and blocking the ability to breathe. Spasms are often precipitated by noise or touch. Once tetanus has spread, the mortality rate is approximately 30%, even with modern medical facilities.

Rounding out the top three is the flu (Influenza). This is a respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that infects the nose, throat and lungs. The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world’s population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States. The CDC estimates that since 2010, flu-related hospitalizations among children younger than 5 years have ranged from 7,000 to 26,000 in the United States. Each year, health researchers update the seasonal vaccine to include the most current influenza virus strains that are infecting people worldwide. The fact that influenza viral genes continually change is one of the reasons people must get a flu vaccine every year.

Bottom line: The world before vaccines is a world we can’t afford to forget. Without vaccines, just as we are seeing with measles, epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases would return.

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

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

9/12/2019, 9/19/2019

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9/12/2019, 9/19/2019

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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

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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 probation 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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# Lee Daniels’ helmed “The United States Vs. Billie Holiday” to star Andra Day, Trevante Rhodes, Garrett Hedlund And Natasha Lyonne



Daniels



Day



Rhodes



Lyonne



Hedlund

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

Beginning production in early October in Montreal, Lee Daniels will direct and produce The United States Vs. Billy Holiday, a new feature film about the legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday. In 2010, Daniels received an Academy Award nomination for Best Director and was the first African American to receive a Director’s Guild of America Nomination for Best Director for his critically acclaimed film Precious. Daniels also helmed the global box-office hit, The Butler in 2013, grossing over \$175M worldwide.

Multiple Grammy and NAACP Image Award nominee Andra Day (Marshall) will lead a diverse cast as the iconic Billie Holiday, alongside co-stars NAACP Image Award nominee Trevante Rhodes (Bird Box And Moonlight), SAG Award nominee Garrett Hedlund (Mudbound And Triple Frontier), and Emmy Award nominee Natasha Lyonne (Russian Doll And Orange Is The New Black).

The script is written by Suzan-Lori Parks. Parks was the first African-American woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize for her play Topdog/Underdog and later went on to script Native

Son in 2019.

The film is inspired by the critically acclaimed and widely beloved 2015 *New York Time’s* Bestseller “Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs” written by Johann Hari. “Chasing the Scream” is a non-fiction examination of the history and impact of drug criminalization, otherwise known as “The War on Drugs.”

The film is being produced by New Slate Ventures, Lee Daniels Entertainment, Roth Kirschenbaum Films with Jordan Fudge, Lee Daniels, Pamela Oas Williams and

Tucker Tooley. Executive producers include Hilary Shor, George Parra, Mark Bombback and Dennis Stratton. BAFTA nominated composer Christopher YOUNG (La Vie En Rose) will come out of retirement to design the original score, while Grammy nominated Salaam Remi (Amy Winehouse) is on board as executive music producer.

Quote from LD: “It is an extraordinary responsibility to tell the story of the iconic Billie Holiday. Her story is very personal to me and I hope to do justice when bringing to light this profound and complicated soul – a

great artist and an unsung civil rights warrior.”

Logline: The legendary Billie Holiday, one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time, spent much of her career being adored by fans across the globe, all while the Federal Department of Narcotics targeted her with an undercover sting operation led by black Federal Agent Jimmy Fletcher, with whom she had a tumultuous affair. Inspired by her life story, The United States Vs. Billie Holiday intimately examines her struggles with addiction, fame and heartbreaking love.

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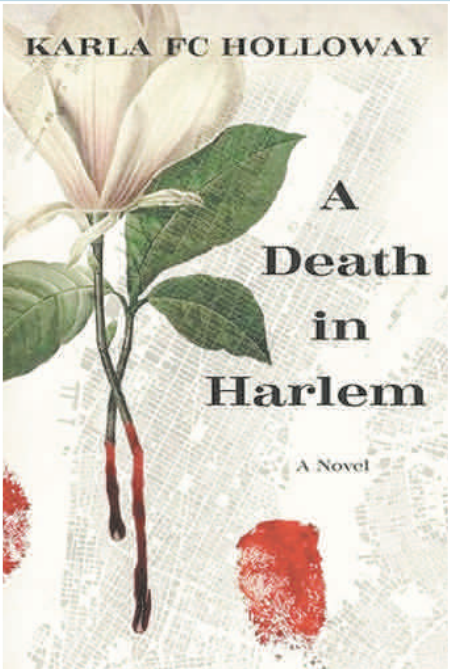


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# BOOK REVIEW: “A DEATH IN HARLEM”

BY **KARLA FC HOLLOWAY**  
**C.2019, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS**  
**\$18.95 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 248 PAGES**

By **Terri Schlichenmeyer**  
*Columnist*

With a book in your hands, you can do almost anything.

Grab a cookbook and make a meal. Pick up a how-to book and fix a toilet. Take a trip to the past or the future, learn to knit, meet a new friend, you can do it with a book. Or, with a book like “A Death in Harlem” by Karla FC Holloway, you might solve a crime.

It was a rare day when Officer Weldon Thomas didn’t have reading material with him.

Even on assignment as Har-

lem’s first and only “colored” policeman, he carried a book because his assignments were light and he never knew when there’d be time to read. And that’s exactly what he was doing on that midwinter night in 1927 when guests at the Ninth Annual Opportunity Awards Banquet, an event he was policing, came screaming down the stairs of the Hotel Theresa.

It didn’t take long for him to understand the problem. He saw for himself, right outside the hotel’s door: beautiful storywriter Olivia Frelon lay on

her back on the sidewalk, her red gown spilling around her as red blood spilled from her head. She was obviously dead, but what happened to make her fall from one of the hotel’s windows?

In the days following that night, everyone talked and most of them talked about Vera Scott. She and Olivia had been best friends; they did everything together and were like two halves of a whole although Olivia, with her light skin, could pass for a white woman. Was Vera jealous of that, or

was the rumor true that Vera’s husband was sleeping with Vera’s best friend?

Was that why everybody thought Vera pushed Olivia out the window?

New York’s finest wanted to get to the bottom of what looked like a crime, and since Thomas expected his department’s overwhelmingly white officers to need him on this case, he was determined to help. He’d spent his whole life reading detective books from the Harlem Library.

If Sherlock Holmes could

solve crimes, Thomas could, too...

Consisting of a basically wonderful little mystery and some delightfully sly winks at fans who love the genre, “A Death in Harlem” can present a bit of a struggle.

It begins on the story’s first page, with language that’s often more fit for academia but that’s mixed with jazz-age slang, stereotypical inner-city patter, and today’s modern terms, sometimes all in the same scene. If that doesn’t raise one eyebrow for you, this will: it seems as

though half of Harlem 1927 is in this story, a populousness that feels particularly excessive when characters are referred to inconsistently.

Author Karla FC Holloway tells a truly great story, but it’s told in a way that may make you scratch your head sometimes.

The best thing to do here, perhaps, then, is to give yourself time with this book; it would be a shame to miss the twisty-fun of “A Death in Harlem.” If you can lend it some patience, get it in your hands.

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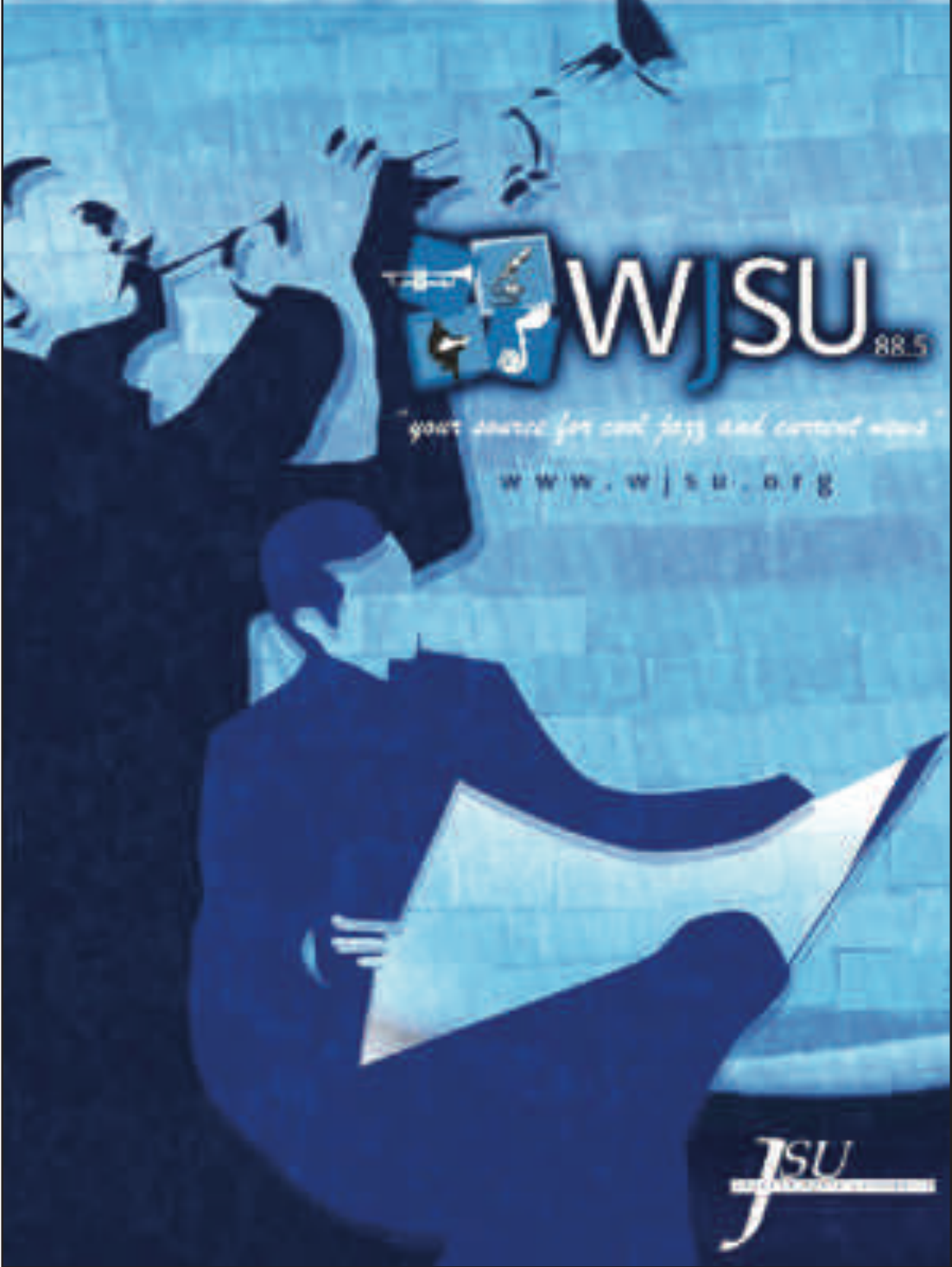


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# 2019 Toyota Avalon Hybrid

By Frank S. Washington  
*Car Reviewer*

The 2019 Toyota Avalon Hybrid is an awfully good midsize sedan. The brand’s flagship car was given a complete makeover that didn’t get that much attention in a world dominated by utility vehicles.

Still, it should be noted that the 2019 Avalon Hybrid went from a fairly boring design to soothing akin to a snazzy design.

The car had a new wide grille that was dominant. Overall the new Avalon was longer, lower and wider. That really gave it a sleek appearance, especially in dark colors. Our test vehicle was opulent amber. It looked black until that sun caught it.

New stamping methods allowed for deep draw panels that expressed distinguishable sculpted forms. Complex surfaces could now be shaped, like the at Avalon’s door handles that coincided with its profile’s robust character line. A distinct, carved lower rocker panel behind the front wheels visually exemplified the benefits of its new global platform.

We had the Limited Avalon Hybrid. It was the top-of-the-line and had all the bells and whistles as they say. There were slim LED headlights, three dimensional surfaces, an aluminum hood with longitudinal lines and the new grille had tangential vents at its lower portion for passing air across the front tires.

Horizontal character lines were across the back, at the top, center and lower portions of the car. The Avalon’s 72.8-in. width, in effect, was highlighted by the distinct sectioning. Connected LED tail lamps shaped in a three-dimensional, “aero fin” style differentiated the back from the last generation Avalon. They integrated the backup, stop and turn lights into a single harmonious, fluid form. In short, the 2019 Avalon Hybrid looked good.

The Avalon was what Toyota called a premium midsize sedan. But it looked full size. However, it didn’t handle like a big car.

A new 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine was more fuel efficient, ran cleaner, and was more powerful than previous iterations. The four-cylinder was married to an all-new Toyota Hybrid System II powertrain that was engineered for both spirited driving and fuel consciousness. The hybrid system’s net power output was 215 horsepower – up 15 horsepower versus the outgoing version.

THS II used two electric motors – MG1 and MG2 – to supplement the charging of the hybrid system’s Nickel-Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) battery pack, while MG2 assists the engine. It was mated to an electric variable transmission, or ECVT.

Mileage was an impressive 43 mpg across the board. In other words, it got 43 mpg in the city, 43 mpg on the highway and 43 mpg combined.

The car was nowhere near as sluggish as some hybrids. Acceleration was good, of course, there were strong-grip regenerative brakes and the battery is now under the rear seat instead of in the trunk. That created a



cavernous cargo space in back.

In addition to the LED headlights, the test car had LED daytime running lights as well. There were adaptive

cornering lights, turn signals on the outside mirrors which had the blind side monitoring alert. It also had 18-inch alloy wheels.

We thought the power tilt and telescoping steering wheel was a nice touch. That was just the beginning of a stand out interior. It was domi-

nated by a 10-inch infotainment touchscreen that looked like a once piece tablet affixed to the dash. Fit and finish which has always been a Toyota strong point was outstanding. That made the screen even more dominant.

There were heated and cooled front seats and heated rear seats. The interior was a three tone motif. It was burnt orange, brown and black. It sounds garish but it was nicely done. The leather wrapped steering felt good in our hands.

The doors and seats had quilted leather. And seating surfaces were perforated. There was authentic aluminum pieces and Yamaha-sourced wood trim around the arm rests, center console and instrument panels.

The 2019 Toyota Avalon Hybrid had a smart key for the locks and the ignition. There were full power windows all round and a head up display. The steering wheel was heated and there was a moonroof. We always appreciate overhead cameras which this car had as well as automatic high beams.

The climate controls were beneath the infotainment screen and there was a 12V plug beneath them. Three USB jacks were inside of the center console. This Avalon Hybrid had three drive modes: eco, normal and sport. There was also an EV mode. Oh, almost forgot, there was a compartment for the wireless charger for a compatible smartphone.

We climbed in the back and found those seats spacious. There were two more USB jacks on the back of the center console. Although there was plenty of head space, three people would probably be a bit uncomfortable because of the fairly pronounced tunnel.

And it gets a little close around the C pillar because the headliner is thick. Still, there was plenty of space. The Toyota Avalon Hybrid was a comfortable sedan from stem to stern.

Toyota boasted that it used soft-touch materials throughout – around the flowing, low-profile center console decorated in piano black trim; on the slim tiered instrument panel leading into the doors; in the rear compartment, where doors and console mirror the impressive craftsmanship seen in the front cockpit.

We agree. Take off the badging and we think anyone would be hard pressed to know that the car was a Toyota. The material and finish made it seem like a luxury car. To call the Avalon Hybrid a premium car is not an overstatement.

Behind the steering wheel, a 7-inch Multi-Information Display showed vehicle information, turn-by-turn navigation, and various vehicle settings (including those pertaining to Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist, Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection, available Intelligent Clearance Sonar, Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Cross-Traffic Alert and Head-Up Display).

Of course, there was satellite radio, voice controls and Bluetooth.

For \$45,118, the 2019 Toyota Hybrid Limited deserves a look for those shopping for a mid-sized fuel efficient car.

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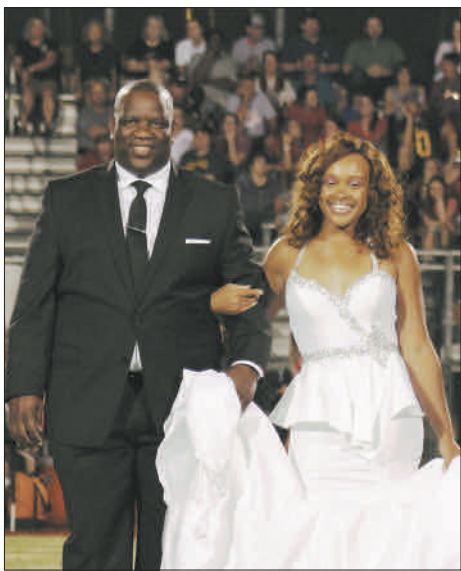
# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## Homecoming Game Highlights



## Homecoming Court Highlights



Homecoming Queen, Akemi Ward



Football Queen, Jada McNairy