

For 29 years, the 100 Black Men of Jackson have been serving young men of color



100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc.

By Othor Cain
Editor

More than 600 people showed up at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson September 21 for the annual Scholarship and Mentoring Banquet of the 100 Black Men of Jackson.

This is the 29th year for the event in the chapter’s 29-year history.

The chapter was formed in 1990 and is making a substantial impact in the lives of youth in metro Jackson and the state of Mississippi.

This year’s program featured three dynamic speakers, one current mentee and two former mentees. All three delivered exceptional speeches and highlighted their mentors with words of appreciation.

What makes this event a signature event is that the entire program showcases and features mentees; from the emcee to all presentations made on stage. “This is a unique opportunity for us to highlight what we do weekly and sometimes daily with our young men,” said Dr. Audwin Fletcher, one of the coordinators of the mentees that guide the program. “Its like they come alive and shine each year and it makes us all feel good.”

Another highlight of this pres-



Taylor

tigious event is the chapter’s President Award. This year, President Harvey Johnson bestowed two awards, one to a chapter member and one to a community member. “It is always good when we can recognize the efforts of one of our own and showcase the work of what’s happening in the community,” Johnson said. “This year’s event really captured what we’ve been doing all year and I’m grateful to every sponsor, supporter and participant.”

The President’s Award was given to Michael Williams, an attorney with the Bradley Law Group. Williams is also the recipient of the firm’s 2019 Cameron J. Miller Award for Excellence and Community Service. The award was presented June 27 to



Williams

Williams at an event in the firm’s Jackson office.

The award honors an associate who exemplifies the excellence, in and out of the law firm, of Cameron Miller, who died in June 2012 battling cancer while in his first year of practice as an attorney with Bradley. The firm established the award in conjunction with Miller’s parents, Frank and Alice Miller; his fiancée at the time of his passing, Katherine Perry; and Perry’s parents, Charlie and Sheri Perry.

“We are immensely proud of Michael’s commitment to civic work and other efforts to support and benefit our community,” said Bradley Chairman of the Board and Managing Partner Jonathan M. Skeeters. “Michael is a highly

deserving recipient of this award, following in the footsteps of other Bradley attorneys who have helped to carry on the memory of Cam through community service and legal excellence.”

The award included a donation to a charity in Miller’s memory. This year, with the support of the Miller and Perry families, the firm will make collective cash donations of \$5,000 each to 100 Black Men of Jackson (BMJ) and the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM), which are the charitable/community service organizations selected by Williams.

Williams has been a member of the organization for four years.

Johnson also gave a special award to Keymiah Jones, who works with the organization’s aquatic program. “Because of her skilled techniques, Jones saved the life of a young swimmer,” Johnson said. “We are eternally grateful for her efforts and work with us.”

Long time member Barnett Taylor received the distinguished recognition as ‘Mentor of the Year.’ Mentoring is one of the pillars of which the organization was founded.

Seven local institutions and schools each received scholarships of \$2,500 during the pre-

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1986 Callaway graduate named director of Mental Health Dept. at Georgia Tech



Troutman

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Dr. Tiffiny Hughes-Troutman was named director of the Center of Assessment, Referral and Education (CARE) at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. CARE, which opened in August, is the new single entry point for mental health for students to access mental health resources and services on campus and in the community.

After graduating from Callaway High School in Jackson, Hughes-Troutman enrolled at Xavier University in New Orleans where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. She continued her education.

Hughes-Troutman is a licensed psychologist having received both MS and Ph.D. degrees in counseling psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

When asked what was her favorite subject at Callaway she said, “I liked everything, especially science.” She said even in high school she knew she wanted to pursue the field of medicine. She eventually decided she wanted to become a psychologist.

Her father, Cordell Hughes, a resident of Jackson, is a retir-

ee from both the federal government and the state of Mississippi. He said, “I am very proud of Tiffany and what she has accomplished.”

Hughes-Troutman said she learned from her father to always build and maintain positive relationships and to serve the community politically and otherwise. She said this is what she saw her father do over the years. She said her father and mother, Mary Montcal Hughes-Sills of Vicksburg, always encouraged her to further her education and career.

Hughes-Troutman worked for eight years as the assistant director for outreach and wellness and as a staff therapist for a counseling center. She then served as director of health behavior with Health Initiatives for two years before accepting the role as care director at Georgia Tech. She also served as director of Health Behavior at Georgia Tech, and prior to that appointment, she served as assistant director of Outreach and Wellness in the Counseling Center at Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Open House for CARE September 9 for faculty, staff and students.

Bunch’s African-American museum dream fulfilled

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Dr. Lonnie Bunch III, the 14th secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, sat down for an exclusive interview with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The two discussed Bunch’s timely new book, “A Fool’s Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama and Trump.”

“I [initially] saw this journey to build a museum that could help bridge the chasms that divide us as a ‘fool’s’ errand,” Bunch said.

The book outlines the multitude of challenges Bunch faced when pursuing

the construction of the historical museum.

Those challenges included choosing the location, architect, design team, and the collection of unique pieces of African-American artifacts.

He added that the museum was “an errand worthy of the burdens.”

Available from Smithsonian Books on the organization’s website and at Amazon.com, “A Fool’s Errand” is a tour de force of Bunch’s personal and political accomplishments.

During the intimate video-taped interview inside the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the two visionaries also tackled topics that ranged from the Transatlantic Slave Trade, their shared North Carolina families’ histories, the writing legacy

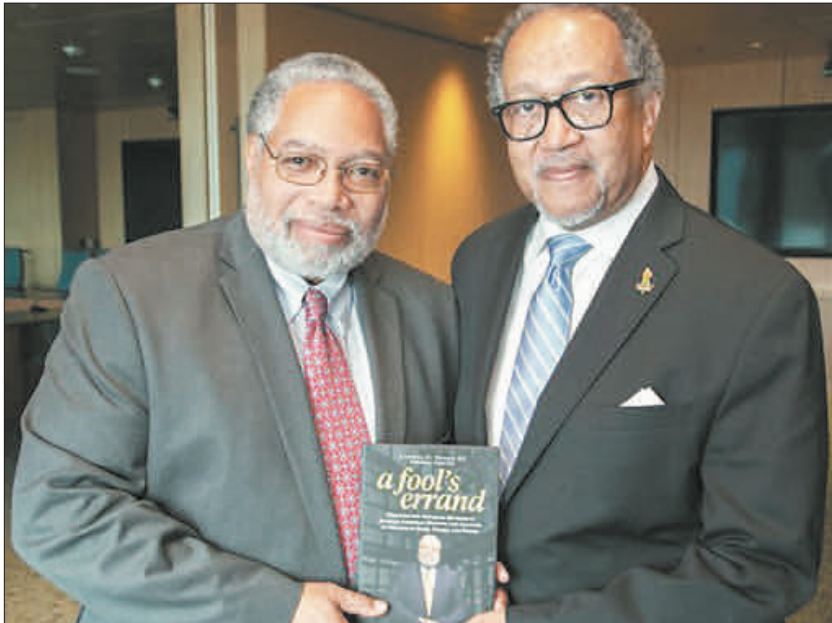
of author James Baldwin and the contemporary vitality of the Black Press of America.

“The relevance and inclusion of the Black Press in events such as this one, show the continued significance of the Black Press,” NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, said after the interview between Chavis and Bunch.

“The Black Press is alive and well, and we will continue to be the daily recorders of our history across the globe. Although we’ve seen many changes within our industry, these changes are bringing better opportunities for the Black Press,” Richards said.

“So, we are honored that Dr. Lonnie Bunch has chosen to include us as a part

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Bunch (L) shares a copy of his book “A Fool’s Errand” with Benjamin Chavis Jr.

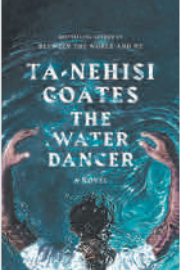
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Hinds CC Utica Campus student receives 100 Black Men scholarship

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After applying for several scholarships and getting rejected, Robert Mosely had almost given up on getting money for school until he received an email from the 100 Black Men.

That's when Mosley, of Jackson, a sophomore at Hinds Community College's Utica Campus, learned he would be the recipient of a scholarship. "I was so happy. I was going to cry because I never thought I was going to get a scholarship," he said.

Mosley heard about the 100 Black Men National Scholarship from an administrator on campus who encouraged him to apply. The 100 Black Men National Scholarship provides young African-American men across the nation with a 2.5 or better GPA the chance to further their education.

Mosley, the oldest of four children, lives with his mother, who is a single parent. He said he hopes the scholarship he received will inspire his siblings.

"It helps me set an example for my siblings. I feel like they can do the same thing once their time comes," he said.

His journey to the Utica Campus started at Jackson Public School District's Wingfield High School. Mosley said



Robert Mosley (left) and Utica Campus Vice President Sherry Franklin (right)

he chose to come to the Utica Campus to get the full experience at an HBCU (Historically Black College and University), all while getting the chance to live on his own without being too far away from home.

Right now, Mosley studies computer engineering. He said he has always loved technology. "I always had a passion for any sort of electronic sort of thing. I find it interesting. I love computers," he said.

After graduating from Hinds' Utica Campus, he plans to continue his studies at Jackson State University. He hopes to one day work for Sony or

Microsoft.

Technology is not the only thing Mosley is interested in, however. He eventually wants to return to school and study physical therapy.

"In high school I broke my ankle. Working out was rough but I found it kind of fun because I was working to get back to my normal self," he said about his love for physical therapy. He wants to eventually take that degree and work in the field of sports medicine.

Mosley said the scholarship will help him pay off any outstanding school debts and prepare for the future.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® raises \$1 million in support of HBCUs for the second consecutive year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is proud to announce that for the second consecutive year, the sorority has successfully raised \$1 million for the benefit of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as part of its HBCU Impact Day initiative.

On September 16, local chapters, private donors and corporate matching dollars from across the globe helped the 111-year old service organization reach the \$1 million fundraising goal.

"Once again this is a historic moment for Alpha Kappa Alpha, as we have raised \$1 million for HBCUs for the second year in a row," AKA International President Grenda Glover shared with excitement in a video message to sorority members.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed to this \$1 million, one-day campaign. Let's continue to support our HBCUs."

"HBCUs are critically important educational institutions. Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded at an HBCU more than 100 years ago, so it is not only befitting but necessary that AKA women are at the forefront of investing in the



Glover

future of these spaces," added Glover, who is also president of Tennessee State University and an HBCU graduate.

In February 2019, AKA gifted \$1.6 million to the first 32 of 96 HBCUs through the AKA-HBCU Endowment Fund. The second cycle, consisting of 32 more HBCUs, will be funded in 2020.

The endowment fund falls under the organization's target HBCU for Life: A Call to Ac-

tion, which aims to promote HBCUs by encouraging students to attend and matriculate through these institutions.

HBCU Impact Day is one component of a four-year \$10 million fundraising goal set by Glover, who challenged the women of AKA to lead the charge in helping to secure fiscal sustainability and success for all four-year accredited HBCUs around the country.



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Central Park Five member: Know your rights when questioned by police



The audience at the Afrikan Independent Film Festival gives a standing ovation last Saturday to Raymond Santana, center, after the screening of the documentary “The Central Park Five.” Santana, who was exonerated in the case after spending five years in prison, talked about his experience following the film. He is embraced by Todd Waldo, adviser for the film festival, while moderator Zoe Spencer, a sociology professor at Virginia State University, looks on. PHOTO: SANDRA SELLARS/RICHMOND FREE PRESS

By Ronald E. Carrington
TriceEdneyWire.com

As the credits rolled, the audience of more than 200 people fell silent with astonishment and anger after viewing “The Central Park Five,” a documentary by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon about the 1989 case in which four African-American teens and a Puerto Rican teen were wrongfully convicted in the brutal assault and rape of a white investment banker as she jogged in New York’s Central Park.



Then Raymond Santana, one of the **Exonerated Five**, entered the Richmond theater and the audience stood on their feet, giving Santana, 44, a standing ovation and thunderous cheers. Santana was in Richmond last Saturday for a screening of the documentary at the Afrikan Independent Film Festival at Virginia Commonwealth University’s Institute for Contemporary Art.

His message was clear: You have to fight the powers that be. More than a decade after their arrest and incarceration, the five men were exonerated by DNA evidence.

Santana, Yusef Salaam, Corey Wise, Kevin Richardson and Antron McCray, who were ages 14 to 16 when they were arrested, spent from five to 13 years in prison before a serial rapist confessed to the crime.

The Exonerated Five later received a \$41 million settlement in their civil suit against New York City officials for malicious prosecution.

ecution.

Santana told the audience his mission is “to educate the next generation about inequities in the criminal justice system and the importance of social justice.”

“We (the five exonerated men) have been fighting against the system for over 30 years now. It’s not that simple. And when you start to get your voice back, you start to understand you have a platform,” he said.

Burns’ two-hour documentary, released in 2012, chronicles the horrific crime, the rush to judgment by the police, a media clamoring for sensational stories without independent investigation, an outraged public and the five lives upended by the miscarriage of justice.

“In 1990 we were considered probably the most hated people on planet Earth,” Santana told the audience.

None of the five teens knew each other at the time of their arrest, he said. However, after they were exonerated, a close bond has been forged as adults. Santana lives in Atlanta, just minutes from McCray, whom he said he speaks with on the phone every day. Salaam also lives in Georgia.

The five maintain a brotherhood to help overcome the trauma they experienced being incarcerated as youths.

Wise, who was the oldest at 16, was imprisoned in an adult facility.

They are not afraid to tell their stories in depth because they want young people and their parents to understand their rights, including Miranda Rights, and the need for a lawyer when being questioned by the police. Santana noted that police

often abuse young people and coerce them into confessions after an arrest, as was the case with the Exonerated Five.

One of the contemporary tools Santana uses to get that the truth out is social media. At the time of their arrest, he said, daily newspapers, TV news broadcasts and courtroom sketches, which he said darkened their features, made them look guilty.

Now a fuller story of what happened to them is gaining wider public attention through Burns’ documentary and the Netflix series, “When They See Us,” which was co-written and directed by Ava DuVernay.

“Even though I question the man upstairs, I didn’t really lose faith. It just gets tested,” Santana said. “I think I received blessings from the man upstairs. My daughter was one of them. After having her, I made a pact with Him to follow whatever direction my life would take.”

Tina Barr, who earned a master’s degree from VCU and now is a Ph.D. candidate in social work at the University of Minnesota who studies wrongful conviction, said she was glad Santana gave the after-story that was not in the documentary.

“I think everyone needs to hear these stories of injustice, which could happen to teenagers even today,” Barr said following the program. “If younger people understand what’s happening in the justice system, they can be instrumental in making it such that those types of injustices will not happen to other people. They will be social justice activists, not just bystanders.”

Museum

Continued from page 1

of this important national media event,” she said.

While in graduate school, Bunch desired to write a dissertation about the Black Press. However, naysayers told him the Black Press was unimportant. He said that theory was quickly proven wrong.

“I knew it was,” Bunch said. “I think the Black Press has always been the guardian of our community. It’s always been the place where facts are found that are not told in other places. It’s a place where you can understand the richness of the community.

“What I love about the Black Press today is that it’s a place that reminds people of the power of the African-American community... the Black Press is critically important.

“What [The Black Press] does is it reminds us that there are many different lenses to understand a story. If you don’t have the lens to the African-American community, where are you going to find your story? For me, the Black Press is crucial not for the past, but for the future,” Bunch said.

The Smithsonian national leader also marveled over the enduring legacy of Baldwin, whose works explored racial, sexual and class distinctions in North America.

“As a 17-year-old freshman at Howard, the first book I picked up was ‘Go Tell It on the Mountain,’” Bunch said.

“I was so moved by [Baldwin’s] writings. I read everything that he wrote because, in some ways, what Baldwin did is that he captured the trueness of the community in an unvarnished way. He also inspired us to demand fairness,” he said.

Bunch said he sought out to obtain a building that would reference the spirituality, resilience and hope that have been key elements within the African-American community; elements he said that have shaped America’s identity in ways most Americans do not understand.

He said the revolution in South Africa reinforced his belief that history is an effective tool to change a country by embracing the truth of a painful past.

The museum opened three years ago to much fanfare, with former presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, among others, in attendance.

“To some, visiting the museum allows them to find hope ... that the current poisonous political partisanship and racial antipathy will one day be overcome,” Bunch said.

A historian, author, educator and curator, Bunch has enjoyed a career of near unparalleled success.

Bunch has held numerous teaching positions, including American University in Washington, D.C. (Bunch’s Alma Mater), the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Bunch was elected in 2017 to become a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He’s also the recipient of the President’s Award from the NAACP, and the Impact Leader Award from the Greater Washington Urban League.

Last year, the Phi Beta Kappa Society presented Bunch with the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities and the National Education Association honored him with the Award for Distinguished Service to Education.

Earlier this year, Bunch was appointed secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the first African American to hold that position in the organization’s 173-year history.

He oversees 19 museums, 21 libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers and several education units and centers.

Now, with “A Fool’s Errand,” Bunch said he has a simple message to convey.

“History matters,” he told Chavis.

“You can’t understand yourself or the future without looking back. History is an amazing tool to live your life. More than anything else, it challenges you to be accurate.”

Watch the full interview between Dr. Chavis and Dr. Bunch here at BlackPressUSA.com.

To purchase Dr. Bunch’s “A Fool’s Errand,” visit Amazon.com.

100 Black Men

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miere event that included Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Tougaloo College, Rust College, Hinds Community College and Piney Woods Country Life School.

For more information about the 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc. please visit <https://www.100blackmenjackson.org>.

See additional story on page 2 and photos on page 16.

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Copiah County native honored as nation's first female federal trial judge

Mississippi Link Newswire

Burnita Shelton Matthews' brothers were lawyers, but her father wanted her to be a musician. There were no women lawyers or judges in Copiah County, or in Mississippi 100 years ago.

On Sept. 16, Circuit Judge Tomika Harris-Irving, the first woman and first African-American judge of Mississippi's 22nd Circuit Court District, greeted a crowd of more than 100 who gathered in the courtroom in Hazlehurst to celebrate the historic career of Matthews.

Irving invoked the soaring aspirations of astronaut Mae Jemison, who said, "Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination."

Matthews "was ahead of her time and a trailblazer," said Judge Royce C. Lamberth, former Chief United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, who knew her well.

Matthews became the first female federal trial court judge in the nation when President Harry S. Truman appointed her to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Oct. 21, 1949.

The state of Mississippi would wait another 58 years to see the first female federal district judge preside in a Mississippi courtroom. Chief U. S. District Judge Sharion Aycock of Fulton was nominated by President George W. Bush March 19, 2007, and confirmed by Congress Oct. 4, 2007. She became chief judge of the Northern District of Mississippi – the first woman chief judge of the federal district court in Mississippi – June 2, 2014.

Aycock said that she learned of Matthews after joining the federal bench. "Her story is incredible and so inspiring," Aycock said.

Among the crowd that gathered to honor Matthews' legacy were about a dozen women judges, including some whose careers marked milestones for women in the judiciary. U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Anderson of Jackson is the first female magistrate and the first African-American magistrate of the Southern District of Mississippi. Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Katharine Samson of Gulfport is the first woman bankruptcy judge in Mississippi and the first female chief bankruptcy judge in the state. Justice Dawn Beam of Sumrall is the only woman currently serving on the Mississippi Supreme Court. Mississippi Court of Appeals Chief Judge Donna Barnes of Tupelo is the state's first female Court of Appeals Chief Judge.

All four of the female state Court of Appeals judges attended: Chief Judge Barnes, Presiding Judge Virginia C. Carlton of Jackson, Court of Appeals Judge Latrice Westbrook of Lexington, and Court of Appeals Judge Deborah McDonald of Fayette.

Judge James E. Graves Jr. of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was the ranking member of a federal judiciary in attendance. Other guests included Judge Daniel Jordan of Jackson, Chief Judge of the Southern District of Mississippi; U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves of Jackson; Senior Judges David Bramlette III of Natchez, Louis Guirola Jr. of Gulfport and Tom S. Lee of Forest; U.S. Magistrate Judge



Supreme Court Presiding Justice Jim Kitchens of Crystal Springs is pictured with, left to right, Mississippi College School of Law Dean Patricia Bennett, Mississippi Court of Appeals Chief Judge Donna Barnes and U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Anderson.



Chancery Clerk Steve Amos and Judge Royce Lamberth stand beside a portrait of Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews after the ceremony.



Pictured after the ceremony are, left to right, Judge James E. Graves Jr. of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 22nd District Circuit Judge Tomika Irving, and Mississippi Court of Appeals Judges Deborah McDonald and Latrice Westbrook.

Robert Walker of Gulfport; U.S. District Court Clerk Arthur Johnston; and U.S. Bankruptcy Court Clerk Danny L. Miller.

Matthews as a teenager may have sat in the courtroom in Hazlehurst where the ceremony was held. The Copiah County Courthouse would have been new then. Construction was completed in 1903.

Matthews was interested in law from an early age. Her father, Burnell Shelton, was Copiah County chancery clerk and tax collector. Matthews worked in the Chancery Clerk's office upon occasion, but her father wanted her to pursue music rather than law, said Lamberth.

After a brief career teaching music in Fayette, Texas and Georgia, Matthews, a Cincinnati Conservatory of Music graduate, moved to Washington, D.C. There she could get into law school, something not possible then in Mississippi. When she earned her second law degree in 1920, no firm or agency would hire her – not even the Veterans Administration, where she had worked by day as a clerk while attending classes at night. So she formed her own successful law firm and joined the women's movement.

As a member of the National Woman's Party, Matthews participated in silent pickets outside the White House as women sought the right to vote. She would later recount that she never spoke during the pickets, as anyone who spoke was at risk of being arrested, and an arrest on her record could have

prevented her from being able to practice law.

Matthews served as counsel to the National Woman's Party 1921-1934. The National Woman's Party was a leading force for passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which in 1920 granted women the right to vote. Matthews also worked on unsuccessful efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Lamberth said that one of her goals was to see adoption of the proposed amendment before she died. Congress adopted the ERA in 1972, but the measure failed to gain ratification in three-fourths of state legislatures. Mississippi did not ratify the amendment.

Matthews also left her mark on Washington, D.C., as a real estate lawyer. The U.S. Supreme Court sits on the site which was once the office of the National Woman's Party. William Howard Taft wanted the property to build a courthouse for the Supreme Court, which at that time heard cases in the Capitol.

Taft, who was chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court after he served as president, prevailed in acquiring the property, but at a steeper price than the government wanted to pay. The National Woman's Party lost at condemnations proceedings that took the property, but Matthews negotiated a settlement of almost \$300,000 for the building, a huge sum for that time. The Woman's Party moved to a spot nearby.

Lamberth noted that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg considered Matthews a trailblazer and in-

spiration.

President Harry S. Truman appointed Matthews as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Oct. 21, 1949. It was a recess appointment to a newly created seat on the court. Truman nominated Matthews to the same position Jan. 5, 1950. Matthews was confirmed by the U.S. Senate April 4, 1950, and received her commission April 7, 1950.

Matthews' commission, signed by the president, and her portrait were displayed at the front of the courtroom during the Sept. 16 ceremony. Courthouse maintenance supervisor Stanley Martin hung the historic document and portrait on the courtroom wall as guests went across the street for a reception.

Lamberth noted that Matthews hired only women as her law clerks. She believed in providing opportunities to capable women in the male dominated field. Her former clerks were high achievers, including one who became a judge and two who became assistant U.S. attorneys.

As a federal district judge, Matthews presided over trials for murder, rape, robbery and other crimes. Among famous defendants was Jimmy Hoffa, then vice-president of the teamsters union. A jury acquitted him of bribery.

Matthews took senior status from the federal trial bench March 1, 1968, but continued to hear cases for 10 more years. In addition to presiding over trials, she sat on appellate panels of the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. One of her notable cases was a 1971 U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that said disabled people receiving Social Security benefits were entitled to hearings before benefits were terminated. She also heard cases before the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals. She had earned a master's degree in patent law in 1920 from the National University School of Law, now George Washington University Law School. She earned an LL.B in 1919.

Lamberth said that one of the highlights of his 1987 investiture was that Matthews attended and wished him well. She died the following year in Washington at age 93.

Lamberth knew Matthews before he went on the bench, from his time as chief of the Civil Division of the D.C. District Court. He recalled many conversations about her efforts as a suffragist. She was particularly interested in later policies regarding demonstrations. Lamberth, as chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, was the point person coordinating with law enforcement regarding demonstrations around the Capital.

Shelton, 89, said that he never met his cousin. He's named after her brother. Shelton beamed as he sat on the front row with about a dozen relatives during the ceremony, and happily sat for pictures alongside the judge's portrait.

Samuel Shelton's niece, Bessie Shelton Trovato, lives near the Shelton Cemetery where Matthews is buried. She

said the event will help people across the state learn of the judge's contributions, especially in advancing the role of women.

Supreme Court Presiding Justice Jim Kitchens grew up in Crystal Springs and still lives there. "The incredible, uplifting saga of Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews was news to me. I've known of the Shelton Cemetery for a long time, but had no idea that a person of such historic importance is buried there. Judge Shelton's extraordinary life and her achievements – all highly unlikely during the times in which she lived – provide another good reason for me to be proud to be a Mississippian, and, in particular, a Copiah Countian. My only regret is that I didn't know her."

One of the happiest people in the room appeared to be Copiah County Chancery Clerk Steve Amos, who organized the ceremony. Amos, an avid historian, devotes considerable energy to historic preservation. He called Matthews' history "one of the American dreams," as her father didn't want her to pursue law.

Matthews was the third woman in the nation to serve at any level of the federal judiciary. In 1928, President Calvin Coolidge nominated Genevieve Rose Cline of Ohio to the U.S. Customs Court, now known as the Court of International Trade. In 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt named Judge Florence Allen of Ohio to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

In 1953, three years after Matthews was appointed to the federal bench in Washington, Mississippi Gov. Hugh White appointed Mississippi's first female judge, Zelma Wells Price of Greenville, to the Washington County Court. Price put women on juries when state law didn't permit women to serve.

Today, almost a third of state court judges are women: 50 of 150 judges, not including justice court and municipal judges. Copiah County's two justice court judges are women. Thirty percent of the lawyers licensed to practice in Mississippi are woman: 2,752 of 9,033 in active practice. The president of the Mississippi Bar and the deans of both law schools are women. Nationwide, there are 363 female federal trial and appellate judges, including three U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Women make up one-third of the active federal court judges in the country.

Job fair in Cleveland draws more than 500 applicants

Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 500 people lined up at a church gymnasium in Cleveland to apply for jobs as FedEx Ground package handlers during a Sept. 19 job fair organized by state, local and non-profit groups.

The parking lot was full and people began to fill the bleachers at the United Family Life Center by 9:30 a.m., half an hour before the job fair was scheduled to start. By 2:30 p.m., 515 people had signed up, said Pam Chatman, steering committee chair for the Family First Initiative in Bolivar County.

“There is a great need,” Bolivar County District 5 Supervisor Larry King said as he watched people filling out applications and waiting to be interviewed. “This is a really positive thing that’s going on here today. People need jobs to build a better life for themselves and cut down on crime and social ills.” By the size of the crowd, “it says to me that young people want to work. They want a job.”

Chatman, who has spearheaded organization of three job fairs in the past 10 months, said, “My number one focus is to show the state of Mississippi that the Mississippi Delta has a work force.... We have a workforce that wants to work.”

Last December, the retired television broadcaster set to work to recruit potential employers to



hold job fairs for residents of the Delta. The first to come was FedEx Express, headquartered in Memphis. Chatman said that the company hired local people and now provides two buses during the day and three buses at night to transport workers.

Representative from Toyota’s Blue Springs plant held a job fair in Cleveland in August, attracting nearly 500 people. Applicants are waiting to see if they will be hired.

FedEx Ground, a separate entity, sent a human resources team to Cleveland Sept. 19 to accept applications and conduct interviews for jobs as package handlers at its Olive Branch facility.

“We heard that there was a need,” said FedEx Ground Senior Human Resources Business

Partner Chris Jones. “We have a need at our Olive Branch hub for full-time and part-time employees.”

Brenda Williams-Ford, 54, of Cleveland, came to the job fair hoping to land one of those jobs. She has been looking for a job since the compounding pharmacy where she had worked closed last spring. “My hope is that I get a job and let my work speak for itself. I’m a dedicated hard worker and a team player,” she said after her work interview.

Tamia Fleming, 18, of Cleveland, applied for part-time work. She is a student at Holmes Community College in Goodman. “Hopefully, I get hired.”

Applicants came from all over the Delta and beyond.

Darius Walker, 20, of Mem-

phis, has a semester of college in criminal justice. “There aren’t many jobs in this area so in order to find better work, you have to venture out,” he said.

Rundell James III, 21, of Mound Bayou balanced his one-year old son on his hip while filling out a form at the sign-in table. With a year of community college credit, he had applied for a job at a fast-food restaurant the day before. He saw a Facebook post about the job fair and came with hopes of better work. “I was trying to be here early, 10 on the dot, and it looks like I’m late,” he said, resigning himself to a wait for an interview.

Sharkey County Chancery and Circuit Clerk Murinda Williams heard about the job fair and arranged for a church van to trans-

port local residents. “We brought a van with eight or nine people. People need jobs. We are trying to give them an opportunity.”

Veterans Administration Employment Coordinator Jennifer James and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Yoshekia Wilson came to the job fair to ask about possible openings for their clients. They assist veterans with disabilities in finding suitable employment.

Government and non-profit partners in the job fair included the Department of Human Services Division of Work Force Development, the Department of Employment Security, the Family Resource Center of North Mississippi and the Mississippi Family First Initiative.

Bolivar County is among

eight counties in which Family First Initiative pilot programs were created a year ago to assist families in need. The 24-member local steering committee, with Chatman as chair, identified employment and transportation among their priorities for change, along with education, crime, substance abuse treatment and domestic violence prevention.

The Mississippi Family First Initiative was created by the Commission on Children’s Justice. The initiative works to address the needs of struggling families by directing those families to services and resources that will strengthen families, improve family stability and create safer home environments for children.



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JPS accountability rating improves one letter grade

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School District improved the results during its September 19 Board meeting. Accountability grades are based on the results of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) for English language

arts and Mathematics. MAAP assessments were administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and in high school during the 2018-2019 school year. These tests are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards and are used to assess students statewide.

According to the Accountability rating, JPS earned 504 points which is only 32 points from being a C. Four schools increased from F status when compared to the 2017-2018 school year.

Much of the gains can be attributed to the district's ability to identify and support students in need of interventions early on in their academic careers.

"We expect to continue to see growth in the accountability model," said Superintendent Errick L. Greene, Ed.D. "We are developing a culture here in Jackson Public Schools that allows everyone to contribute to our progress, and our growth and outcomes. Together, we will see the fruits of their labor."



JPS improved from an F to a D rating in 2018-2019.

Former Tennis Pro Lindsey Nelson scores points as MC Law student

Mississippi Link Newswire

Lindsey Nelson ranked 424th best in the world in singles with the Women's Tennis Association. As a ten-year tennis pro, her WTA rating of 347 in doubles was equally impressive.

These days, the former tennis pro from California remains focused on hitting the books at the Mississippi College Law School.

There are similarities to intense competition on the tennis court, and her journey to becoming a lawyer.

The former University of Southern California tennis star sees the benefits of playing her favorite sport with passion.

Fierce competition on the tennis court, says the first-year law student, involves problem solving and "working under pressure. You must be mentally tough," Nelson said. "It transfers well to law school and the legal profession."

Why MC Law for the California native?

Family reasons played a big part. Her husband, Patrick, is a huge Mississippi State football fan from Amory. The couple lived in Nashville before the move to Jackson. Coming along for the ride to the Mississippi capital city were their two children, Lola, 1, and Tripp, 2.

Getting top grades at MC Law is something Lindsey strives for, just like racking up tennis triumphs.

For the new member of the Class of 2022 her dream job is to enter the legal profession in Mississippi as an advocate for the underserved community.

MC Law Dean Patricia Bennett is delighted to welcome Lindsey aboard with 126 other first-year students. She's delighted the 33-year-old native of Orange County, California will put down



Nelson

roots in the Magnolia State.

"We are pleased when students come to MC Law to get a legal education and see what Mississippi has to offer and decide to stay here," Bennett said. "I'm confident that this generation of future lawyers will make Mississippi a better place for all."

Nelson comes from a family noted for public service. Her mom is a public school teacher and her dad is a small business owner. Her aunt serves as a nun.

She's a firm believer in making a difference on the planet. MC Law's commitment to Mission First legal aid made the school near the Capitol a perfect fit. The legal aid office operates in Jackson with staff members and more than 300 volunteer attorneys, while serving 1,200 clients annually. Lawyers across the Magnolia State donate their time to help those in need.

On the University of Southern California tennis team from 2004 to 2008, Lindsey shined as a student-athlete. She was a two-time NCAA Division I singles tennis finalist in Spring 2006 and Spring

2007. She was named the PAC-Ten Division I Athlete of the Year for her sport in 2006-2007. She excelled in the classroom as an English and Creative Writing major at USC in Los Angeles.

During her pro career, Nelson competed in the U.S. Open Tennis Championship in 2007. She was the doubles champ at the USTA professional tennis tournament in Atlanta in 2009, among many highlights. Her favorite player growing up was Monica Seles, the former No. 1-ranked women's tennis player with nine Grand Slam titles.

Today, Monica is an author and speaker following her 2008 retirement.

While she still plays the game, Lindsey continues to energize MC Law students this Fall.

Classmate Kathy Wagner, 60, a first-year student, says Lindsey's competitive nature brings out the best in them. And she calls Lindsey a source of inspiration.

"I have seen how disciplined she is and how her positive nature and fearless attitude helps make all those around her a better version of themselves," Wagner says. A former mechanical engineer and Gulfport mother of six grown children, Wagner herself proves inspirational to MC Law classmates.

In classrooms, Nelson will be slammed with her studies in torts, contracts, property, civil procedure and constitutional law. "I've been an athlete my whole life," Lindsey says. "This pushes me out of my comfort zone."

One of life's lessons learned on the tennis court is moving on after losing a point or contesting a close call. "You can't let the little things get to you." That gritty attitude should help elevate her law career.

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Vicksburg WIN Job Center opens officially at Hinds CC Vicksburg-Warren Campus

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Job seekers in Vicksburg and surrounding communities can now seek employment plus a whole lot more at the newly-opened WIN Job Center on the grounds of Hinds Community College Vicksburg-Warren Campus.

College officials and others representing partnering entities that made the center's new location inside the Blackburn-May Building a reality marked the occasion with a formal program Sept. 19.

"We're dedicated to make a seamless entry for employers and citizens in the Vicksburg area," said Jackie Turner, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. We implore the public and business community to use resources provided by the state agency to help people find gainful employment.

"We're all in partnership in the WIN Job Center. Use the facilities and online MDES services here. We help Mississippians find jobs."

The college assumed operations of the local office for Mississippi's primary employment services functions last fall. The ceremony completes a move from the center's longtime previous location on Monroe Street, near downtown Vicksburg.

The center's new digs offer office space for staff, a computer lab for searching employment opportunities and additional room for busi-



From left, Vicksburg-Warren Campus Vice President Marvin Moak, State Sen. Briggs Hopson III, Hinds President Dr. Clyde Muse, Mary Powers, workforce director for CMPDD, Jackie Turner, executive director for MDES, State Rep. Oscar Denton (Hinds Community College/Tammi Bowles)

ness and industry to utilize to attract employees. Sharing space on campus puts job-seekers within easy access to career and technical training opportunities through Hinds and social services already on campus, such as Single Stop.

"This building will afford us more space, is newly-renovated and gives the staff a pleasant atmosphere to work in, right here on the public transportation route," said Mary Powers, workforce director for Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. "It will afford the citizens of Vicksburg, Warren County and Claiborne County a chance to be served more efficiently. Spread the word – we are here, open for business, and here to help you."

Hinds President Clyde Muse credited Powers and CMPDD

as a longtime guiding force in the state's workforce development efforts, and the Vicksburg office in particular.

"She has been influential in helping us with the concept of a place where people can go and get all the services they need when they're looking for a job," Muse said. "Bringing it on our campus means that when a person needs help in terms of employment, they'll get additional help in education and training if they need it."

Representing the Warren County Board of Supervisors on the program was District 3 Supervisor Charles Selmon. Playing off the title of the center, Selmon called the employment center's arrival to Hinds a "win-win" for the community.

"When the opportunity

came to partner with Hinds and move the job center here from where it was, it was an opportunity that didn't take much to think about," Selmon said.

Hinds officials touted the success of the job center's new space in the first three days of being open officially.

"We already have a handful of people who came in looking for jobs. They have their financial aid application done and are working toward getting enrolled in the college," said Robin Parker, district dean of Community and Economic Development. "Imagine where we're going to be next year."

For more information on services offered by the center, contact 601 619-2841 or visit <https://mdes.ms.gov/win-job-centers/vicksburg-win-job-center/>

Mississippi Second Congressional District 2019 Academy Day

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02) to host Mississippi Second Congressional District Academy Day in conjunction with his Annual College & Career Fair Friday, October 11, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Washington County Convention Center located at 1040 S. Raceway Road, Greenville, MS.

Interested students, parents and JROTC instructors are encouraged to come out and meet representatives from the five service academies to learn firsthand what it takes to be enrolled at a service academy.

There will be representatives from the Military (West Point), Naval, Air Force, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Academy.

The United States Service Academies offers students a tuition free, four-year undergraduate education. Upon



Thompson

graduation, service academy graduates are commissioned as officers in the active or reserve components of the armed services for a minimum of five years.

If you have questions about the upcoming Academy Day, call Cedric Watkins in Mound Bayou at 1 662-741-9003.

Mississippi Public Universities prepare workforce for logistics industry

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As the logistics, transportation and supply chain management industries grow, Mississippi Public Universities prepare the workforce to keep those industries running smoothly. Marshall County has been selected by both Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Corelle Brands LLC and Nike to house distribution centers. The Cooper Tire site will be its largest distribution center in the United States. The Corelle Brands operation will include manufacturing and distribution, creating 400 jobs by June 2020. Last month, sports apparel company Nike announced plans to join them by bringing a distribution facility to Marshall County, creating 250 logistics and supply chain jobs by Spring 2020.

The increase in just-in-time manufacturing, online retail shopping, and same-day home delivery from grocery store and big box chains has created a demand for an expanded workforce and increased expertise in logistics.

Mississippi Public Universities have several academic programs that prepare students to enter the logistics workforce and help it to evolve over time to meet the rapidly changing needs of manufacturers and consumers.

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) offers undergraduate, graduate and certification programs designed to meet the growing demands of logistics transportation and supply chain management-related careers found nationally, internationally, and in particular, across the Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

The Master of Science in Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (MS LTT) is a one-year program available in a variety of formats, comprised of courses such as logistics, supply chain management, global trade and economic develop-

ment, and business.

USM also offers students at Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC) the opportunity to pursue careers in logistics, through an Applied Technology Pathway between USM and NTCC. The pathway supports workforce needs of local, state and regional industry partners by preparing NTCC students with the technical leadership skills needed by organizations to compete in today's global economy. NTCC students who participate in the pathway will work toward a Bachelor of Science in applied technology degree from USM.

Delta State University is the only university in Mississippi to offer undergraduate and graduate aviation programs. The department offers a bachelor of commercial aviation, with concentrations in flight operations, aviation management and logistics; it also offers a master of commercial aviation. Students are prepared for a variety of careers – from single- and multi-engine pilot to supply-chain management and more – with airlines, aircraft manufacturing, airport management, air traffic control, military aviation, aerospace and logistics.

DSU aviation graduates possess the skills to perform as part of flight crews and as executives with supervisory and managerial responsibilities at all levels in the aviation sector. Facilities and equipment include 19 flight training aircrafts; two hangars (approximately 12,500 square feet apiece) at the Cleveland Municipal Airport; about 5,000 square feet of classroom/office space at the hangar, which also houses two cutting-edge flight training devices; and, on campus, the 12,000-square foot Gibson-Gunn Commercial Aviation Building, which contains three state-of-the-art single-multi-engine flight training devices.

Former NFL quarterback Favre and wife speak at annual William Carey University scholarship dinner

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Father Tommy Conway, former NFL quarterback Brett Favre and his wife Deanna Favre were the guest speakers for the ninth annual William Carey University scholarship dinner Sept. 17 at Southern Oaks House and Gardens.

In addition to a question and answer session with Father Conway and the Favres, the dinner included music performed by the Carey Strings quartet, a student testimonial by Makaeya Brock and scholarship presentations. With more than 350 people in attendance, the dinner raised money to be awarded as scholarships for Carey students.

"William Carey University is truly a hidden jewel with such a loyal fan base for the university as a whole," said Lynne Houston, associate vice president for university enhancement.

"We have been given beauty for ashes as we are now completely recovered from the devastation of the tornado. I look forward to seeing the amazing future unfold for William Carey University."

Scholarship Presentations

More than 90 percent of William Carey University's students receive scholarships or financial assistance. Dean Pace, WCU annual fund director, presented endowed scholarships to eight WCU students:



Dean Pace, WCU's annual fund director and special gifts officer, center, presented endowed scholarships to eight WCU students during the dinner. They are, from left: Samuel Houston, Ca'Toria Swain, Makaeya Brock, Taytum Reid, Sarah Clark, Ashley Crum, Hailey Parish and Jonathan Watt.



Brett and Deanna Favre answer questions from Father Tommy Conway and the audience during the annual William Carey University scholarship dinner Sept. 17 at Southern Oaks House and Gardens in Hattiesburg.

Samuel Houston of Bassfield, Roger Wicker Endowed Scholarship

Ca'Toria Swain of Hattiesburg, Delbert Hosemann Endowed Scholarship

Makaeya Brock of Decatur, Phil Bryant Endowed Scholarship

Taytum Reid of Carson, William Winter Endowed Scholarship

Sarah Clark of Bay Springs, Charles Pickering Endowed Scholarship

Ashley Crum of Sumrall, John Ashcroft Endowed Scholarship

Hailey Parish of Vancleave, Trent Lott Endowed Scholarship

Jonathan Watt of Semmes, Ala., Robert Khayat Endowed Scholarship

In keeping with the tradition of creating a scholarship in honor of each year's guest speaker, an endowed scholarship will be established in the Favre's name.



Camp counselor confessions: Student receives unexpected life lessons from Catskills summer camp experience

By Rachel James-Terry
jsunews.com

On Jabaris Jefferson's first day as an intern at Iroquois Springs Summer Camp in Rockhill, New York, he was prepared to turn around and leave.

"It was two hours from New York City. I'm the only African American, so I was quiet, in defense mode, timid and nervous," he says.

The JSU senior and criminal justice major questioned if he had chosen the right internship. He planned to pursue corporate law and then become a criminal defense attorney. He also wanted to spend the latter years of his career teaching, which is why he signed up to supervise 8- and 9-year-old-boys for seven weeks at an overnight camp in the southern Catskill Mountains.

However, Jefferson was prepared just in case his ambivalence sent him packing. "I purposely saved enough money in my savings account, so I could say: 'You know. This isn't for me. I should go home,'" he says. "But they were all so welcoming. They made me feel comfortable."

The Vicksburg native also discovered that he was not the only African American or person of color working at the camp. He admits that, if he followed his first mind, he would have missed a great opportunity.

Located 90 miles outside of New York, Iroquois Springs is a traditional coed summer camp that has been offering children an extraordinary camp experience since 1931, according to their website. It is owned and directed by Mark and Laura Newfield. The camp advertises that campers "build confidence, independence, resilience and lifelong friendships."

"We went through a seven-day training of different seminars before the kids arrived. I learned things like how to handle grief, how to handle peer pressure, and apply an EpiPen if a kid has an allergic reaction," Jefferson explains. "I had no idea how to use one of those before. Some of the campers had same-gender parents. We learned how to accommodate them and not make them feel uncomfortable."

He shares that a seminar on child abuse deeply resonated with him. "They taught us how to approach those situations. It made a big difference because ignorance can be hurtful."

If a child admits to being abused and asks a counselor not to tell anyone, instead of agreeing to keep the secret, promise the child they will be OK or they will receive help, Jefferson explains.

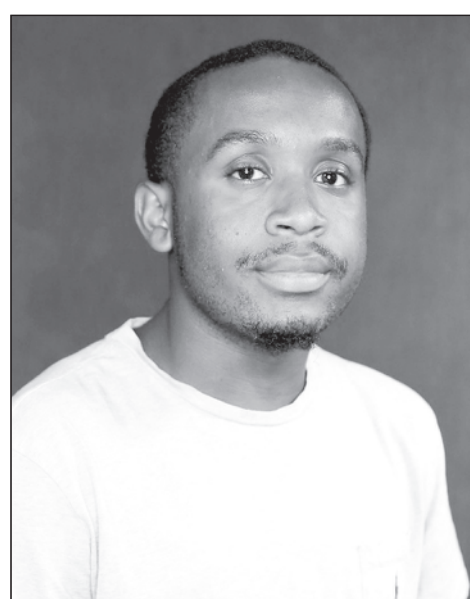
"They taught us safe words and provided better options to use because when you make a promise to a child, you can't break that promise. Kids remember that," he says.

The electronics-free policy is another aspect of the camp Jefferson says he enjoyed. All employees were required to put their phones away for the duration of their 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. workday.

"They stressed to us not to use our phones so we could focus on bonding with everyone," he says. "It was different,



Jabaris Jefferson, a senior at JSU, says he was initially hesitant about interning at Iroquois Springs Camp. However, he admits that it turned out to be a very impactful moment in his life. PHOTOS SPECIAL TO JSU



Jabaris Jefferson, a criminal justice major and Vicksburg native, says he wants to pursue corporate law, open a private practice specializing in criminal defense, and spend his latter years as an educator. (Photo by Kentrice S. Rush/University Communications)



Iroquois Springs Summer Camp is described by its website as a place where campers enjoy an extensive variety of activities and healthy challenges that allow them to find personal success.



Jabaris Jefferson, a student at JSU, hangs out with his rambunctious band of campers inside their cozy digs at Iroquois Springs Summer Camp in Rockhill, New York.

living with the same people for seven weeks. I made a strong bond with some of them, and I

miss them a lot." Jefferson says that people should take more phone-free

moments. "You get so caught up with what's going on with social media, outside problems

and life. I tell my friends now to turn off their phones and just take a moment."

Without his phone in tow, Jefferson spent a lot of time at camp playing football, kickball, "bubble" soccer, card games and getting to know his cohort.

"I would recommend that internship to anyone. It's life-changing," he says.

Coming from a predominately black institution with friends from the same ethnic background, Jefferson discloses that it was intimidating to walk into a situation where he was one of four African Americans on staff. However, he soon realized that they were not the only minorities.

"Everyone else was either from another country or New York. I wasn't the only one who initially felt uncomfortable. There were counselors there from Hungary, Wales, and London, that felt the same way."

Jefferson says camp owner Mark told him about the diversity training the year-round staff goes through, and the JSU student understood why he felt at ease.

Although it wasn't always easy sharing a cabin, equipped with bunk beds and two bathrooms, with a second counselor and nine campers, Jefferson says he had an amazing time.

A typical day at Iroquois Springs consisted of him, a second counselor and nine campers participating in a varied schedule of activities. The group would do everything from swimming, archery and woodworking, to arts and crafts, singing practice and relay races.

"They had people for everything. Snack was only 20-30 minutes of the day, and they had a lady over snacks," Jefferson says of Iroquois Springs, which roughly costs \$11,000 per child.

There was also a "camp mom" who helped children if they were having a tough time adjusting. Jefferson explains that the "mom" would come around to each cabin and do things like clip the children's fingernails or read them stories. "It was organized to a tee."

Jefferson points out one of the main goals of the camp was healthy child development. He then shares that parents would email the camp expressing their shock and awe at how their children spent their time.

"They would say, 'My kid never goes outside, and you had them outside all summer.' The parents were moved by what their children had learned," he says.

Jefferson thanks JSU for the internship opportunity and confesses that his mom, dad, stepdad and grandmother went to Alcorn. "So I applied to Jackson State. I didn't even look at an Alcorn application," he laughs then admits that he also has a love for his family's alma mater.

Etta Morgan, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, also holds a spot in his heart.

"When you get to school, sometimes you question if you made the right decision. The Department of Criminal Justice really strives to make sure we graduate with a job or going to graduate school. They make sure we're headed in the right direction. I appreciate Dr. Morgan and the department a lot."

Eight Mississippi Counties granted an Individual Assistance Federal Declaration

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant announced that President Donald Trump declared Clay, Humphreys, Issaquena, Lowndes, Monroe, Sharkey, Warren and Yazoo Counties federal disaster areas Saturday, September 20, 2019. The disaster declaration is in response to tornadoes, severe storms and flooding that affected the state in late February of this year. The declaration also covers the Yazoo-Basin backwater flooding that affected close to 500,000 acres for over six months.

“I would like to thank President Trump’s administration for the decision to provide financial assistance to our Mississippians in need,” Bryant said. “With more than 600 homes affected in the Yazoo-Basin backwater region alone, this federal assistance is critical towards helping these counties recover. Our hearts and prayers continue to be with those families that have lost their homes during the floods, and everyone who must rebuild.”

Approved in this disaster declaration:

Individual Assistance –

Grants to individuals and households.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Statewide).

Public Assistance – 29 counties were approved for this form of disaster assistance in April and June:

Alcorn, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Clay, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, LeFlore, Lowndes, Montgomery, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tishomingo, Union, Warren, Washington, Webster, Yalobusha and Yazoo Counties.

The Public Assistance categories are as follows:

Category A: Debris Removal.

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures.

Category C: Roads and Bridges.

Category D: Water Control Facilities.

Category E: Buildings and Equipment.

Category F: Utilities.

Category G: Parks, Recreational Facilities and Other Items.

“I’m so relieved to finally see this IA declaration ap-

proved for the affected counties,” said MEMA Executive Director Greg Michel. “This assistance will provide another resource to help our citizens recover. The process was long and arduous and involved effort from all of MEMA’s local and state partners. This is great news for Mississippi.”

Other services could be available and provided in disaster areas. Those include:

Community Disaster Loans

Crisis Counseling

Disaster Legal Services

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Housing Assistance

Other Needs Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households

Information about Disaster Recovery Centers opening in the declared counties will be released as soon as it becomes available but please do not wait to register for assistance whether online or by phone.

Anyone with damages in these counties may apply by going to www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1 800-621-FEMA (3362). The speech or hearing impaired may call (TTY) 1 800-462-7585.

Propane gas safety an issue following flooding in Eagle Lake Community

Safety recommendations for Eagle Lake residents with gas appliances damaged by recent flooding

The Mississippi Link Newswire

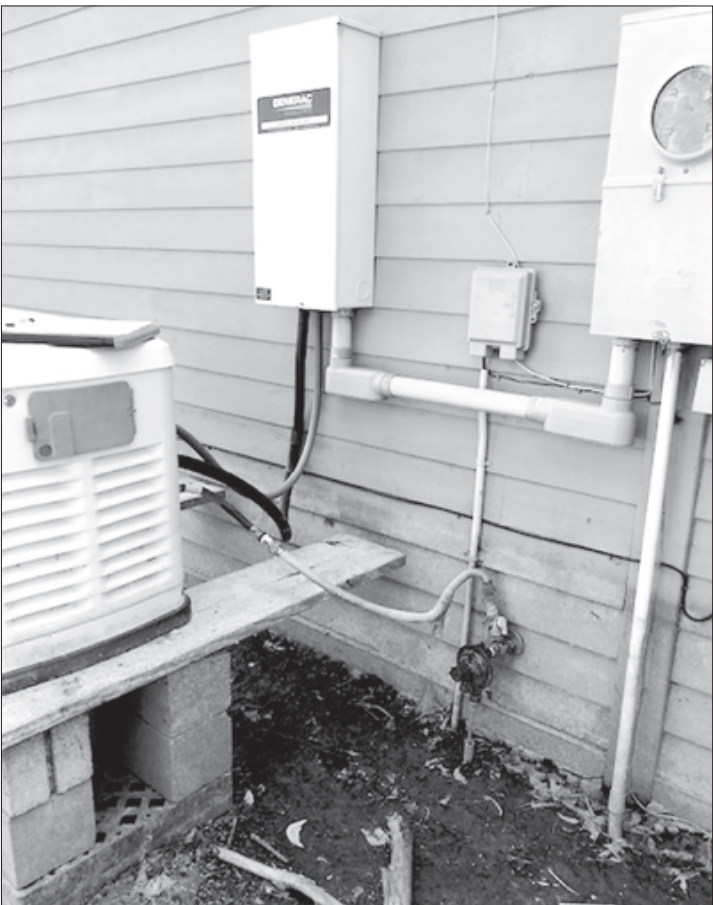
Anyone who has been affected by the flooding in Eagle Lake should make safety their number one priority when dealing with Liquefied Compressed Gas (“LC-Gas”) appliances or LC-Gas systems that may have been damaged.

“Our inspectors have recently found instances where generators were under water and pipes are corroded,” said State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney. “There are a number of safety issues happening in this area which was devastated by flooding and homeowners need to take precautions.”

Using damaged appliances could lead to a fire, serious injuries or worse.

Inspectors have found people using generators for their main source of electricity where the generator was not properly maintained. In one instance, the generator was under about 6 inches of water. Other hazards include pipes that are not sealed and generators being too close to a home.

In general, owner’s and installation manuals provide that appliances must be replaced if they have been under water. Even gas pressure regulators might need to be replaced if damaged by flooding in order to ensure effective gas pressure regulation.



The National Fire Protection Association recommends the following appliance and installation procedures:

- Inspect the appliances for signs that the appliance may have been damaged by flooding.
- Signs of flooding include a visible water submerge line on the appliance housing, excessive surface or component rust,

deposited debris on internal components, and mildew – like odor.

- All flood-damaged plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical appliances should be replaced.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact the LC-Gas Division of the State Fire Marshal’s Office at 601 359-1061.

Mississippi allocates \$1 million to help high school students earn career certification, college credits

The Mississippi Link Newswire

School districts will receive state funds, on a reimbursement basis, this school year to help pay for a national career readiness certification exam and advanced courses that lead to college credits. The Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$1 million for the program, which will allocate funds to districts based on last year’s enrollment for grades 9-12.

Districts may use the money to pay for the ACT WorkKeys exam to earn the National Career Readiness Certificate, dual credit courses taken at in-state institutions and Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge course and exam fees.

“This grant program will increase access to advanced and specialized courses, particularly career and technical education and AP classes, and will help students earn nationally-recognized credentials,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education.

Students who take additional, advanced classes beyond the minimum graduation requirements may earn an academic, distinguished academic or career and technical education endorsement with their high school diploma. Students who earn an academic or distinguished academic diploma endorsement from a public high school will be accepted into

any of the state’s public universities.

The advanced courses provide other benefits to students’ college and career goals. Mississippi public universities and community colleges now award students at least three college credits for each AP exam score of 3 or higher. Many Mississippi employers value the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate when considering job candidates.

The Mississippi State Board of Education approved the methodology to reimburse districts, up to their allocated amount, for the exam and course fees.

Districts are to first use the grant funds to offer all career and technical education (CTE) program completers from the prior school year the ACT WorkKeys exam. Then, districts may offer other students the opportunity to take ACT WorkKeys. Districts are to use the remaining funds to pay for current fiscal year expenditures associated with dual credit courses and AP, IB and Cambridge courses and exams, based on district priority.

“The Mississippi Economic Council appreciates both the Legislature and the Mississippi Department of Education for providing an additional focus on career and technical education,” said Scott Waller, president and CEO of MEC. “This

is another example of the importance of making sure our students have the tools necessary to help them make career decisions that can lead to long-term success right here in Mississippi. The ACT WorkKeys assessment is being used more and more by businesses across the state and provides our students a great pathway to a successful career.”

School districts must submit documentation of current fiscal year expenditures for the specialized courses and exams to be reimbursed for the expenditures. Charter schools, which are considered public school districts, are also eligible to receive the grant funds.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will begin accepting reimbursement requests from districts November 1. All documentation of expenditures and requests for reimbursement for the 2019-20 school year must be received by June 12, 2020. The MDE will send districts detailed guidelines about the reimbursement process.

“We are pleased to partner with MEC to get our students ready for the workforce,” Wright said. “Every student deserves a high school experience that will prepare them for their chosen career path, whether that is college, postsecondary training, the military or direct entry into the workforce.”

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Congressional Black Caucus: Reflecting on 1619, Preparing For 2020

By Barrington M. Salmon
TriceEdneyWire.com

Thousands of black community activists, organizational leaders and political observers descended on the Walter E. Washington Convention Center last week to dive into the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference.

The mood was a mélange of reflection and contemplation about the past and excitement and trepidation about the future. This year’s theme, “400 Years: Our Legacy, Our Possibilities,” suffused throughout the public policy forums, panel discussions and conversations in the convention hallways and corners as registrants, lawmakers, thought leaders and millennials delved into a range of issues and concerns.

“I’m feeling the weight of pride and joy of our struggle on how to make what was professed real in the United States,” said Virginia State Sen. Jennifer McClellan, who won a special election in 2017 held to fill the vacancy left by now Democratic U.S. Rep. Donald McEachin. “The foundation of democracy and all systems we have today was built on the power structure of serving white men. I feel pride, frustration and sadness with how far we’ve come and how far we have yet to go.”

McClelland was a panelist at the National Town Hall, an event attended by several hundred people, which is viewed as the official opening of the annual legislative conference. Moderated by Johnnetta Cole, chair and seventh president of the National Council of Negro Women, panelists had a vigorous debate that touched on slavery, resistance, reparations, the vital importance of voter mobilization and participation, predatory capitalism and keys to success in the future.

National Urban League President/CEO Marc H. Morial said African Americans face an existential crisis generated by a man in the White House who continually adds fuel to a racially toxic environment, utters vile anti-black racist rhetoric, denigrates African Americans and people of color and is implement-



Rev. Al Sharpton receives the Harold Washington Award during the CBC-ALC Phoenix Awards dinner. Looking on is the presenter, U. S. Rep. Frederica Wilson. PHOTO: DON BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

ing policies that are antithetical to black people.

Morial said while blacks are right to be alarmed, their concerns about the retrenchment of civil rights by the Trump administration and Republican lawmakers must be met with resistance and the use of the ballot box, among a variety of other tools, to effect change.

“Today our progress is under vicious attack as this administration rolls back gains. It is most extreme and potentially dangerous,” he said. “It is an intentional, malicious and diabolic plan taking place in state legislatures. They have had great success implementing voter ID restrictions and closing polling stations.”

Morial pointed to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in 2013 to strike down a key provision of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“Shelby (v Holder) is our Plessy, our Dred Scott,” Morial said, referring to the landmark 1896 Supreme Court rul-

ing that codified that racial segregation in public facilities was constitutional under the “separate but equal” doctrine. It also declared that African Americans were not and could never be citizens of the United States. “They trick, deceive and thwart our efforts to participate. We have to be ‘woke,’ not tricked and bamboozled.”

Noted economist, columnist and educator Julianne Malveaux agreed.

“Betsy Devoid just gave for-profit colleges a gift (by eliminating rules that protected students from financial abuse). We’re seeing a regulation rollback,” Malveaux said of Education Secretary DeVos. “This man is eliminating regulations by the minute. He’s normalized poverty and hardship, and we have these melanin-infused buffoons who support him. We need your pushback ...”

Derek Johnson, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, echoed Morial who

said he’s tired of talk and that it’s time for action.

“We have to move past rhetoric to action,” Johnson told the audience. “During Freedom Summer, Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses and others focused on getting access to healthcare (for African Americans), voting rights and education. They renewed the fight to leverage the vote. In a democracy, the vote is our currency.”

Johnson reiterated that organizing and mobilizing the black vote is imperative if blacks hope to blunt the racist agenda embraced, advocated and codified by Donald Trump. And mobilizing low-frequency voters takes on added importance because the outcome for president will be determined by one or two percent, he added.

Dr. Patrice A. Harris spent much of her time warning about a number of health issues that African Americans face.

“Black people are more likely to be unwell,” said Dr. Harris, a psychiatrist and the first African-American woman to head the American Medical Association. “African Americans are sicker, dying at a younger age and dying more of heart disease. There are increasing incidences of suicide and we’re not talking about gun violence. We need to raise conversations about health,” she said. “We have to more fully integrate mental health.”

Dr. Harris also addressed the rash of racist-inspired gun violence against Latinos, African Americans, Muslims and others, perpetrated by young white men and fueled by the Trump Administration.

“Anger and hate are not mental illnesses,” Dr. Harris asserted.

Rev. Al Sharpton, once a presidential candidate himself, received the Harold Washington Award during the CBC-ALC Phoenix Awards dinner. He told the audience that America is now “at a crossroad” with the upcoming 2020 election. He called on voters to “stop this back biting and infighting and jealousy and win this battle once and for all.”

Shantella Sherman told a Trice Edney Newswire reporter that while the planners and organizers did a fabulous job

this year as they have in the past, her frustration is that she wants to see more.

“I think for folks who’re uninitiated to the CBC Foundation and this event are excited. I’m always excited by new blood and new energy that comes every year, but as a reporter and attendee for the past 20 years, I’m less inspired. I want the rubber to hit the road,” said Sherman, a eugenics and race historian and founder and publisher of *ACUMEN Magazine*, a historical magazine that fuses history and journalism. “I don’t want to see you talking about the same thing year after year.”

She added, “Everything at CBCF is amazing. But I need an action plan. I didn’t see anything about ‘this is what we’re going to do about this.’ There were far too many extremely intelligent, high-falutin folks with 15 degrees and a home on the hill but can you get your hands dirty to ensure that your kids can vote and that we can hold onto the gains we’ve made?”

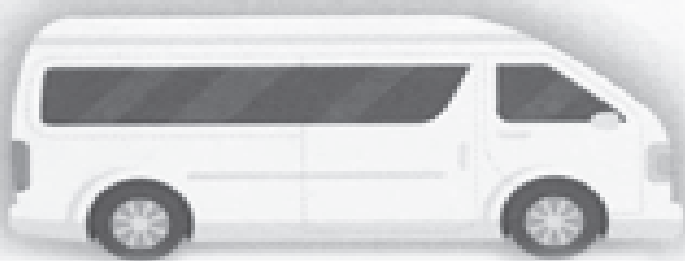
Sherman talked about the Gary Plan, which was conceived by original members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It was an action plan calling on the federal government to support a multi-billion program for black business and economic support, education and housing because CBC members understood that this was a marathon.

“Dr. King was assassinated, other leaders were killed and they wanted to ensure that even if the head was gone, these programs would go on unhindered,” said Sherman, a former editor with *The Washington Informer* and *Philadelphia Tribune* newspapers, and the Round Lake News Service.

Educator and Journalist A. Peter Bailey concurred with Sherman.

“I only come these days for a few events,” said Bailey, an associate of Malcolm X, founding member of the Organization of African-American Unity and a pallbearer at Minister Malcolm’s funeral. “They’ve gotta start telling people some hard truths. We just recreate horror stories without discussing ways to promote and protect our interests in this world.”

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Be submissive and keep growing

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



We read in John 1:1-14 these words, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

The Word had to become flesh in order to become plain and more powerful in man’s sight. It was not the wisdom of men that the Word became flesh, but this was God’s way. God’s Word was in the beginning, but it never became flesh until Christ. The Word becoming flesh means that God translated the Bible. We call the Bible the Word, and we learn from the Bible how God wants us to live and how to be like Him. So the Word becoming flesh means that God brought it to life.

The Apostle Paul helped to explain this in Colossians 1:12-13, which reads: “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

We are in the kingdom of His dear Son. We are in the church, and we have been translated by the Word of God. The Word of God became flesh in our own lives. Peter talked about himself being translated in a

greater word of prophesy. He saw Jesus being translated before his eyes when Jesus communed with him. In 2 Peter 1:19 Peter said, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy.” Peter had been redeemed. His eyes, spiritually speaking, had been opened in an understanding of God, and he became a new creature in Christ Jesus. God puts His spirit within us. Ezekiel prophesied in Ezekiel 11:19-20, “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”

Thank God, He puts His Word in us. The Word puts the flesh and blood in our hearts and in our lives so that we can prove to the world that the Word of God is true and so that we can live the Word of God.

We have a lot of negative thinkers and negative people in the world who want to belittle the power of God and the Word of God. They actually tell you that you cannot live by the Word of God; on the contrary, you can live by the Word of God. In 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, Paul wrote to the church, say-

ing: “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God; not in tables of stones, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

We are a Living bible, living epistles, walking and living by the Word of God in our hearts. I thank God. It is not just written with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God in our hearts.

I am reminded of Job. The Book of Job tells of when Satan went before God with the sons of men. Have you read the question that God asked Satan? Job 1:8 tells us, “And the Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and shun evil?” Perfect and upright denotes that Job’s integrity and way of life corresponded to God’s expectations, not that he was sinless.

Next week, Part II, Be submissive and keep growing.

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

P R E S E R V E D

Perfected in the process

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. — Psalm 18:32

A few weeks ago, I celebrated my 15th year teaching English at Tarrant County College. Now I can chuckle when I remember how nervous I was when I first started teaching. I loved writing but wasn’t sure how to get others to love it too. Part of my teaching strategy was to get my students to love English as much as I do.

One student, in particular, told me about her difficulty in getting started writing a paper. She didn’t want to write anything wrong and wanted it to be right the first time. I chuckled when I heard her say this because she reminded me of myself and others who struggle with perfectionism.

Because we want everything to be “perfect” the first time and hate having to redo anything, we appear to be slow getting started. In some instances, if it appears too difficult, we never start at all, and just move onto something else.

I told her that she’d have to let go of some of those perfectionistic ways if she wanted to be a successful writer. The key was to just start writing something and not to judge herself so harshly because she had a hard time getting started. Because writing is a process, the results would not only be the finished product, it would also be going through the process.

Like my student told me that she just didn’t feel like she was really ready or prepared to write, I’d told God the same thing...and


more. Because I still was struggling with some of the more painful parts of the rejection, I didn’t feel at all like I was the best person to write about love and relationships. In fact, I remember telling God once in prayer that he was making a mistake by trying to use me since I’d had so many failures with my personal, romantic relationships. I wanted to wait until I was through with my emotional roller coaster before I started writing anything about relationships.

But looking back, I see how God used what I considered my imperfections to “perfect” my walk with him. The process of stepping out in faith and obedience has changed my life.

Seeing my book Love Hangover doing so well was wonderful and a confirmation that God was pleased with my efforts. In fact, even though the book was published in 2003, I still get emails and social media messages from people about how that book has impacted their lives.

However, my biggest success is in knowing that as I worked out my own “issues” while writing the book, what God really wanted to happen did. He didn’t want or expect me to be “perfect” when I started. He wanted me to learn that getting “perfect” results is an admirable goal, but the most important thing is successfully completing the process that perfects us.

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




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Why are we excluded?

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire

Many years ago I moved to the District of Columbia and became aware that people in D.C. were not accorded voting representation in the House or Senate. I wondered how this could be when we're American citizens. The right to representation is sacred. I asked a lot of question about our being denied to have representation. The most popular response was simply that we wouldn't get statehood until a black person (meaning Marion Barry) was no longer at the head of our city and we were no longer a predominantly black city.

Well, those two requirements have been fulfilled. and we're still not recognized as a state. I wonder what the holdup is. There seems to be a problem about being a majority Democratic city. Republicans didn't want to allow the Democrats to get two more Democratic Senators who would most likely vote in favor of statehood for Washington, D.C. I am mindful that we couldn't get the bill passed under either Republican or Democratic leaders. What's next?

On Sept. 19, the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Reform held a historic hearing on D.C. statehood, – H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act. This is the first vote taken on statehood in over 25 years.

H.R. 51 has Democratic leadership support with 220 co-sponsors. That's still not a majority of the House, not even a majority of the Democrats.

From the beginning, many members of Congress opposed D.C. having statehood. Some directly, others indirectly, said that D.C. was incapable of governing itself. Congress decided to treat us like slaves.

In the 1870's a senator from Alabama said that it had been done (stripping D.C. of our local governance rights) "to burn down the barn to get rid of the rats – the rats being us and the barn being the government of the District of Columbia." About 100 years later, D.C. was more than 70 percent black. Rep. John Rarick from Louisiana said that D.C. was a "sinkhole, rat infested, the laughing stock of the free and Communist world." He wasn't finished. He said that allowing the District to govern itself could result in a Black Muslim "takeover" of the capital....

It seems that we have much of the same rhetoric today, but here's what witnesses had to say at the recent hearing:

Eleanor Holmes Norton said, "There's no doubt that the Washington, D.C. Admission Act is constitutional and the state would meet all of its financial, economic and other obligations. The 700,000 Americans living in the District of Columbia would be made whole. The next step is to mark up H.R. 51 and move it to the House floor."

"D.C. residents are American citizens. They fight honorably to protect our nation.... They pay taxes. Not many people know this, but D.C. pays more in total federal taxes than 22 states. It pays more per capita than any state in the nation. D.C. residents have all the responsibilities of citizenship, but they have no congressional voting rights and only limited self-government," said Rep. Elijah E. Cummings.

"Finally, there's but one conclusion – that D.C. military veterans have a fundamental right and earned benefit to have a voice in the election of those representatives who make our laws. Congress must now do the only right thing and stand up for our D.C. military veterans who have stood up for you," said Kerwin E. Miller a D.C. retired Naval Reserve commander.

There are plans to mark up the bill in the coming months. You can help by ensuring that your member of Congress is voting "Yes" on HR. 51.

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

Passing of Juanita Abernathy inspires gratitude and inspiration

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



"I started when there were no cameras and no newspapers writing nice things about you, instead they were writing all sorts of ugly things. But we kept going. It wasn't about us. It wasn't about me. It has always been about right and righteousness. Justice and equality. Not just for me and my family, but for all of God's children." – Juanita Jones Abernathy

In this digital age, we can organize a protest march, urge a boycott or raise awareness about social issues with a click of a mouse.

In the dark and dangerous days of Jim Crow, half a century ago, civil rights activism was more labor intensive. And nothing embodies the boots-on-the-ground labor that was involved more than the image of Juanita Jones Abernathy, pounding away at her typewriter, creating fliers for the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

"She said that if she typed with a heavy hand, she could make seven copies at once," her son Kwame Abernathy told the *New York Times*.

And the image of the Abernathys' firebombed home illustrates the danger of such work.

Juanita Abernathy, who passed



Abernathy

away last week, was not only a stalwart of the 20th Century Civil Rights Movement, she was a champion for marginalized people, a brilliant businesswoman and a dedicated community servant.

Her husband, Ralph Abernathy, who died in 1990, was known as Martin Luther King Jr.'s close friend and collaborator. She, like most of the women of the Civil Rights Movement didn't receive their due recognition at the time, as Mrs. Abernathy would be the first to tell you.

"The men ran the movement, but we were the actual bodies that made it happen," she once told an interviewer.

Mrs. Abernathy worked in the Alabama chapter of the NAACP

when Rosa Parks was arrested, sparking the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott. In addition to typing up flyers, she organized a transit plan to get people to work without patronizing the buses, arranging intricate car pools using extra cars lent by a local funeral home.

A few weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Browder v. Gayle*, that bus segregation was unconstitutional, a pregnant Mrs. Abernathy was at home with her toddler daughter. Her husband was away with Dr. King, organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Ku Klux Klan members, enraged by the desegregation ruling, firebombed her house and First Baptist Church, where Ralph Abernathy served as pastor.

She and her daughter escaped the house unharmed. The church was destroyed. The white supremacist terrorists who confessed to the bombings were acquitted by an all-white jury.

Her grace, determination and bravery in the face of life-threatening danger remain overwhelmingly inspirational.

Mrs. Abernathy was the youngest of eight children born into a farming family designated by Tuskegee Institute as the most successful black farmers in the Black Belt in the 1940s. She earned a bachelor of science degree in busi-

ness education from Tennessee State University in Nashville and married Rev. Abernathy in 1952.

In 1961, the family left Montgomery for Atlanta, where she worked to integrate the public schools and fought for the creation of the Food Stamp program and a National Free Meal Program for public school children.

She stepped back from the Civil Rights Movement following the assassination of Dr. King, and became a successful saleswoman for the Mary Kay cosmetics company, eventually rising to national sales director and proudly piloting a series of pink Cadillacs, the company's signature high-sales award.

Her activism continued, however, as she traveled the world on peace missions, risking her life in Northern Ireland in 1972.

She fittingly occupied a place of honor at President Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009.

Mrs. Abernathy's passing touches me personally, as she was a contemporary of my parents – also NAACP members during those turbulent years, and who also faced death threats as a result of their work. She, like they, have my eternal gratitude and continue to inspire not just myself but everyone in the Urban League Movement.

Marc Morial is president/CEO of the National Urban League.

Can America break its gun addiction?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



After mass shootings in Southaven, Mississippi, Dayton, Ohio, and Midland, El Paso and Odessa, Texas, public demand for sensible gun reform once more soared. And once more, Republican politicians, led by President Donald Trump, were intimidated into inaction by the gun lobby, led by the National Rifle Association.

Remarkably, it was America's largest retailer – Walmart – that exhibited the courage politicians lacked. It was in a Walmart store in El Paso where a gunman armed with an assault-style rifle, roused by the hate-filled rhetoric about a Latino "invasion" of our country, shot 48 people, killing 22. Walmart CEO Doug McMillon, a lifelong hunter, realized that they had to take action to protect workers and customers in their stores. Walmart announced that it would ban open carry of guns in its stores.

In addition, it would discontinue selling handgun ammunition and ammunition that can be used in large-capacity clips on assault-style weapons. This was no small step. The NRA and other gun lobbies immediately called on members to boycott Walmart. Walmart itself projected that it would lose about half of its ammunition sales with this decision and also called on the federal government to act to "strengthen background checks" and to consider "reauthorization of the Assault Weapons ban."

Walmart's action moved other retailers to act, as Kroger, the nation's largest grocery chain, CVS, Walgreens and Wegmans also announced bans on open carry. (Other chains like Target, Starbucks and Chipotle have had policies against open carry for years).

The laws on open carry and concealed carry of handguns vary from state to state, but open carry is legal in most states, often without any requirement for a permit.

Walmart's example should now lead to a broader nonviolent

movement to limit the carrying of guns, even as citizens push for legislative reforms at the state and national level.

In many states, like Texas, open carry is legal in churches. Churches across the country should follow Walmart's lead and post signs banning the carrying of guns – open or concealed – on church property. On university campuses, states' laws vary dramatically, but most allow institutions to limit open or concealed carry. Students across the country should ensure that their university has acted to limit guns to the extent the laws allow. At athletic events, again laws vary. Generally, it is illegal to carry guns into professional athletic events from the NFL to the MLB.

Most states also ban guns from high school or interscholastic sporting events. But at a college level, laws vary. In many states, concealed carry is legal unless the university posts signs banning guns. Surely every campus should act to keep guns out of the stands at athletic events.

If more retailers follow Walmart, and if churches and universities and concert halls and movie theaters act to ban weapons from their premises, a movement for common sense gun regulation can continue to build.

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called America the "most violent nation on earth," he was widely condemned, but he was right.

No other nation suffers the level of gun violence that we endure. No other nation fights in as many wars on as many continents as we do. Other nations savaged by civil war or outside invasion may suffer greater casualties in a conflict, but we have made violence – and victims of violence – routine.

King argued that we have a choice in the end between nonviolence and nonexistence. The only hope for sensible gun regulation is to challenge the corruption represented by the NRA by nonviolent demonstrations and action, enlisting the overwhelming majority of Americans in a movement for change.

Workers are asking, whose side are you on?

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition



More than 2,200 nurses at the University of Chicago Medical Center went out on strike last week, but they are not alone. American workers are waking up and walking out. On Sept. 15, 46,000 hourly General Motors' United Auto Workers employees went on strike, the first time in 12 years. Striking British Airways pilots grounded 1,700 planes. In Republican states like Oklahoma and West Virginia, teachers shut down schools to demand that state legislatures reverse the deep cuts exacted from public

education. Marriott hotels were hit with the largest hotel strike in U.S. history, a walkout of 6,000 hotel workers in four states.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a soaring number of workers went on strike or stopped work in 2018 – 485,000 – the most since 1986. The rising number of strikes reflect the reality of Trump's economy: Despite all his boasting about the "economic miracle," most workers aren't experiencing it.

Trump's tax scam went largely to the rich and the corporations. Corporate promises of wage and investment hikes were largely discarded, with CEOs using the tax breaks mostly to buy back stocks. Gilded age inequality is combined with rising insecurity for working

people.

Even now, wages have finally begun to rise, but still are not catching up to soaring costs in basics like health care and education. Just 22 percent of workers have a pension plan of any kind at work. Forty percent of Americans say they would be forced to borrow or sell something to cover a \$400 emergency.

The GM strike comes after workers sacrificed big-time to help GM out of bankruptcy during the Great Recession. Now GM's profits are up, CEO bonuses are up, but workers who shared the pain haven't shared in the gain.

They are striking for decency, for higher wages, for strong health care plans, for turning more temporary workers – who get no

benefits – into permanent workers with pensions, health care and vacations.

The strike wave last year was led by teachers in deep red states. In each state, Republican legislatures had slashed spending on education during the Great Recession and cut taxes on the wealthy. When the economy turned around, they didn't restore the spending cuts.

Teachers sick of futile negotiations with local school boards walked off the job and took their case directly to the legislatures. They demanded not only higher salaries, but in many cases, smaller classes and greater spending on their students. They got massive support from parents and the community. In each case, right-wing

state legislators were forced to respond by increasing spending, although not to the levels sought by the striking teachers.

The wave of strikes is increasingly propelled by younger workers. Fight for \$15, the movement to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, was led by young workers in fast-food restaurants and other service industries.

Young people, often burdened with college debt, entering workplaces characterized by wages and benefits that don't keep up with costs, are particularly aware of how the economy has been rigged against them. Large majorities think CEOs are greedy and irresponsible. Large majorities think politicians have been corrupted by entrenched interests and big

money. They are driving the demand for change. Smart business leaders are waking up to the fact that they are losing the support of Americans, particularly the young.

The Business Roundtable, a gathering of some of the most powerful CEOs in the country, recently called on corporations to move beyond a single focus on "shareholder value," but also invest in their workers, protect the environment and deal ethically with suppliers and customers. Whether this is anything beyond a public relations gambit remains to be seen, but the fact that the CEOs thought it necessary to publicly release that statement likely suggests that they know they have gone too far. These stirrings are beginning to be reflected in our politics.

Continental sponsors health and wellness program to JPS elementary schools

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi implemented their Just Have a Ball® program September 18, at GN Smith Elementary School and September 20 at Bates Elementary School. The purpose of the Just Have a Ball® program is to educate elementary school children on the advantages of play as a way to be physically active.

The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi’s Health and Wellness staff, as well as volunteers from the audience, demonstrated several movements with a playground ball for the children. The most exciting part of the assembly for the students is when they received a playground ball to take home. Approximately 300 balls were given away last week.

This program for Jackson Public Schools was funded through a sponsorship from Continental. The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi’s Just Have a Ball® program will be implemented in elementary schools throughout JPS. This sponsorship will give over 700 school children a playground ball to promote active living. “This collaboration with Continental is one that will allow us to reach children throughout the Jackson Public School system.”

We are very honored that Continental has chosen to sponsor the Just Have a Ball® program,” said Sandra Shelton, executive director of the Partnership. “Having a regionally-recognized, well-respected brand sponsor the Just Have a Ball program allows us to continue to implement Just Have a Ball across the state and positively affect the health of our children.”

“The Just Have a Ball® program educates and energizes the youth about healthy living,” said Michael Egner, Clinton plant manager. “It encourages them to become more active in a way that is fun and leads to a lifetime of healthier choices. We are proud to be a part of this exciting program.”

Two young philanthropists, Wilson and Hartwell Furr of Jackson, started the Just Have a Ball® program. The program was a huge success in the early years and grew to be so demanding that the Furrs decided to turn the program over to the Partnership to run the day-to-day operations. The program continues to flourish and has been expanded into other areas of childhood obesity prevention under the direction of the Partnership.

To date, the program has distributed more than 32,000 balls to children across the State of Mississippi.

New health study validates popular diet app’s cash payout paradigm

The Mississippi Link Newswire

According to new study findings published by *JAMA Internal Medicine*, behavioral economics-based gamification led to “significantly” increased physical activity among overweight and obese Americans. In this particular study, pairing a step tracking device with social incentives led to sustained, long-term behavior change – prompting participants to take more steps then with a step tracking device, alone.

While the report explains that “gamification, the use of game design elements in nongame contexts, is increasingly being used in workplace wellness programs and digital health applications,” it further underscores that “the best way to design social incentives in gamification interventions has not been well examined,” which is what makes this study particularly noteworthy. It determined that “gamification interventions significantly increased physical activity during the 24-week intervention,” with competition being the “most effective.”

That’s something the founders of HealthyWage – the world’s leading purveyor of financially-induced wellness contests for individuals and corporate/team-based weight loss challenges – has seen play out since launching its weight-loss gamification platform in 2009. HealthyWage is, in fact, founded on earlier substantive research and “double-incentivization” methodology that proves competition and rewards – especially the cash variety – can as much as triple the effectiveness of weight loss programs.

As case-in-point, view a few notable HealthyWager success stories (both female and male) here, including Tessa Easterling who lost 87 lbs. and won a whopping \$5,610 for her efforts; and Cody Smith who lost 75 lbs. and won \$2,040 for his own slimdown success. Further exemplifying the power and efficacy of its offerings, HealthyWage recently revealed notable milestones that included the company’s membership in 2018 base grew more than a staggering 300% over the year prior, with more than 900,000 current program participants (approximately 20% business/corporate and 80% individual participants).

“Beyond the new findings reported this month, other studies show that monetary incentives serve to enhance the effectiveness of, and duly complement, weight-loss programs of any and all sorts, especially when paid out quickly like our various programs,” said HealthyWage co-founder David Roddenberry. “The average HealthyWager participant more



than doubles their investment if they are successful at achieving their goal. The financial upside potential is impressive.”

“Loss Aversion is a powerful dynamic and the reality of having ‘skin in the game’ can propel the results of a gamified weight loss initiative,” notes Roddenberry. “Indeed, a key element for the success of a gamification program is giving participants something to lose if they fail to meet their goal – whether tangible or intangible. In this particular study, it was just points at stake but even this effected behavior change. There are actually throngs of studies demonstrated that the threat of losing something of value is much more effective than the opportunity to win something of equal value. That’s precisely why we advocate that program participants ‘pay to play’ and make an investment out of their own pocket in order to win rewards – in our case large cash prizes – for losing weight and getting more active in the program.”

HealthyWage programs apply these principles:

1. HealthyWager Challenge: participants commit to a weight loss goal and an upfront financial payment and get their money back plus a financial return if they accomplish their weight loss goal. The average participant loses 40.7 pounds and gets paid \$1,245.
2. HealthyWage Step Challenge: participants commit money and agree to increase their steps by 25% over 60-days. If they achieve their goal they get their money back plus the money from

those who don’t hit their goal.

Upholding the new findings while also further validating HealthyWage’s well-honed approach, an additional study published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine* continue to prove that money is an effective motivator to “increase both the magnitude and duration of weight loss.” The same hold true in business for staff wellness initiatives. Results from one study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* indicated that “Loss Incentive’ Motivates Employees to Take More Steps,” finding that financial incentives framed as a loss were most effective for achieving physical activity goals.

As a prolific corporate and group wellness purveyor, since 2009, HealthyWage has worked with an array of hi-caliber participants on workplace and staff wellness initiatives, including Old Dominion Freight, ConocoPhillips, and more than 25% of the largest school districts in the country. HealthyWage has, in fact, formally created competitive, cash-fueled programs for more than 700 Fortune 500 and other public and private companies, hospitals, health systems, insurers, school systems, municipal governments and other organizations throughout the U.S., and their program has been more informally run at more than 3,000 companies and organizations seeking to bolster staff health and well-being and boost bottom lines in kind.

Those interested in learning more may do so online at www.HealthyWage.com

Depression and poor health for African Americans

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Are you, like millions of Americans, in a rut of being unhealthy, rundown, overweight, unmotivated, and can’t seem to break the cycle? It could be depression.

Depression is a serious mental health condition which causes extreme sadness and can have a negative effect on your motivation, behavior, health and quality of life. It is an illness and not a sign of weakness – depression can affect anybody and people can experience it at any point in their lives.

We see it every day; in ourselves; our families; in our friends; and in our communities. More than in other populations, African Americans are plagued with the chronic conditions resulting from the effects of chronic stress, material hardship, racial discrimination and lack of physical activity.

People often need professional treatment and therapy to fully overcome their depression. Seeking help can be daunting, but it’s the most important step

you can take to reduce your symptoms and return to the healthy and happy life you deserve.

Many of us are struggling to make ends meet and feel that the stress of it all leads us to depression and anxiety.

Actually, studies are finding that poor mental health leads to unhealthy behaviors in low-income adults – not the other way around. One study in particular, from the Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine at The Miriam Hospital, found that binge drinking, smoking and illegal drug use may be used to cope with depression and anxiety.

We all know that any one of these bad behaviors leads to poor health, and in most cases chronic conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer, among other things.

If we could connect the imaginary dots, between theses health conditions and the behaviors that contribute to them, we would probably find that health-compromising behaviors, including substance use, unprotected sex, poor diet and insufficient or excessive sleep are directly linked.

Sadly, like most other things in this country, “when America gets a cold, black people get pneumonia.”

Its no secret that as a result of 400 years of enslavement, racism, discrimination, marginalization, abuse and exclusion, PTSD is rampant in Black America.

Make no mistake, it crosses the socio-economic classes for us. As a result, poor health outcomes associated with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) reflects our engagement in unhealthy behaviors that increase morbidity risk and disengagement in healthy behaviors that decrease morbidity risk.

We must acknowledge this reality in order to begin to become health as a collective community.

A study published in the May 2018 issue of *Preventive Medicine* shows that African Americans and Latinos are significantly more likely to experience serious depression than whites. The same study also found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely to have higher levels of chronic stress and more unhealthy behaviors.

Most black Americans live

in chronically precarious and difficult environments. These environments produce stressful living conditions, and often the most easily accessible options for addressing stress are the various unhealthy behaviors mentioned earlier.

Historical adversity, which includes slavery, sharecropping and race-based exclusion from health, educational, social and economic resources, translates into socioeconomic disparities experienced by African Americans today.

Despite progress made over the years, racism continues to have an impact on the mental health of black/African Americans. Negative stereotypes and attitudes of rejection have decreased, but continue to occur with measurable, adverse consequences. Historical and contemporary instances of negative treatment have led to a mistrust of authorities, many of whom are not seen as having the best interests of black/African Americans in mind. This includes our mistrust of doctors and others who provide our healthcare.

All of this is meant to encourage you not to feel hopeless, if you have a gym membership or

have repeatedly made failed efforts to quit smoking, or to try to eat healthier. The answer could lie in addressing lingering mental/behavioral health issues.

I know it sounds easier said than done.

For many of us, stigma and judgment prevents us from seeking treatment for mental illnesses. It is commonly felt that many black/African Americans believe that mild depression or anxiety would be considered “crazy” in their social circles. Furthermore, many of us believe that discussions about mental illness would not be appropriate even among family.

Even getting help and professional support is not easy. Less than 2 percent of American Psychological Association members are black/African American. This leads some of us to worry that mental health care practitioners are not culturally competent enough to treat our specific issues. This is further compounded by the fact that some black/African-American patients have reported experiencing racism and microaggression from therapists. But we have to be diligent in protecting our right to live healthy

and productive lives.

We are dying needlessly and it doesn’t have to be. Reach out and ask for the help you deserve. Always keep in mind, “you’re only as sick as your secrets.”

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

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

Glenn Ellis, is 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

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR AN
INVESTMENT MANAGER SERVICES
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 8100-001-19
September 25, 2019

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Proposals ("Proposal") for a Investment Manager Services to work closely with the JMAA to achieve their investment objectives of the JMAA's investment policy.

JMAA will receive Proposals at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 PM on November 1, 2019. (the "Deadline").

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Calloway, JMAA's Manager of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Calloway, Manager of Procurement
Telephone No.: (601) 360-8616
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rcalloway@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter negotiations to provide the Services. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA will not hold a pre-submission conference for this project. JMAA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

9/26/2019 10/3/2019

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Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3104 Hardy Middle School Windows and Doors Replacement

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) October 23, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Hardy Middle School Window and Door Replacement will be held at Hardy Middle School, 545 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, MS on October 4, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is mandatory. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.ipsdmsprojects.com. A \$150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601-713-1128 or Email: kl@duvalldecker.com.

9/26/2019, 10/3/2019

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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 5th day of September, 2019.


Stephanie Nelson, Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

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



Notary

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS**
1. Choose
4. Rushes
10. Fashion
11. Foretaste
12. Accountant
13. Frail
14. People from Asia
16. MGM's Lion
17. Orange peel
18. Military policeman (abbr.)
20. Mythical city
22. Andor
26. Pack
29. Timely (2 wds.)
31. Puzzle
33. Rival
34. Cleans thoroughly
35. Terminate
36. Inguinal ____
37. Distress call
- DOWN**
1. Award
2. Cola
3. Author Mark
4. Bridge
5. Rainbow maker
6. Snake like fish
7. Diabolic
8. Natural sand pile
9. Sego lily's bulb
15. Hoopla
19. Touch an animal
21. The living dead
23. What a cat has nine of
24. Type of acid
25. Wants
26. Tulle
27. One time
28. Vigor
30. Space ship builders
32. Bullet shooter

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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Crossword Solution

O	P	T	S	P	E	E	D	S
S	E	W	P	R	E	V	U	E
C	P	A	A	I	L	I	N	G
A	S	I	A	N	S	L	E	O
R	I	N	D	M	P			
			O	Z		E	L	A
M	O	B		O	N	T	I	M
E	N	I	G	M	A		V	I
S	C	R	U	B	S		E	N
H	E	R	N	I	A		S	O

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DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
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104 Terry Rd
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3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
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Jackson Medical Mall
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MURPHY USA
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716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
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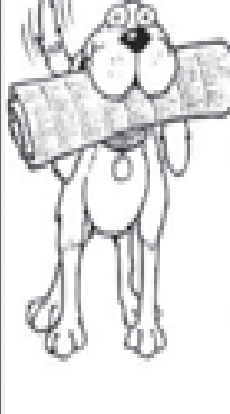
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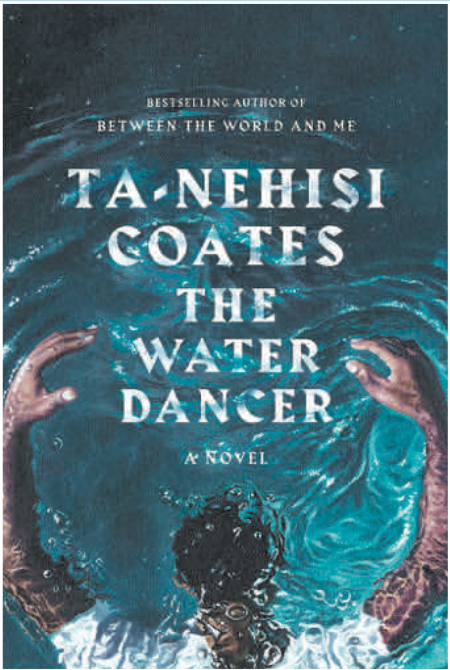
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BOOK REVIEW: “THE WATER DANCER”

BY TA-NEHISI COATES
C.2019, ONE WORLD
\$28.00 / \$37.00 CANADA • 416 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You can’t breathe. There’s really no describing the panic when that happens. Your ribs struggle to rise, your chest feels like it’s being stomped, you’re on fire and your brain screams. Your arms flail. Your hands grasp at nothing, and then – ahhhhh, you gasp. And in the new novel, “The Water Dancer” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, nothing’s better than the first breath of freedom’s air. Hiram was drowning.

One minute, he was in the carriage and the next, he and the horse were struggling in the water. Oddly, though, the lack of breath, seeing his half-brother float away, tasting mud on the riverbanks, none of that bothered him. He thought he saw his mother dancing on the bridge, but she was sold away years ago; the water felt familiar but everything did, all the time. Hi grew up knowing he had a gift that allowed him to see his ancestors and to remember everything, and this drowning was one of those things.

He woke up in a bed wearing fresh clothes that belonged to his half-brother, Maynard. Hi’s father – the man who owned him – was weeping because Maynard was lost, and Hi realized then that whatever relationship he’d had with his white father was over. His life at the great house on Virginia’s Lockless Plantation, over. That his father looked the other way when Hiram showed interest in Sophia, a housegirl Hi delivered every weekend to his father’s brother for reasons Hi preferred not to think

about... done. His whole life was spent as a Tasker for people who owned him, toiling for Quality folk and thinking that if he did the right things, he’d be rewarded with some sort of equality or freedom or.... Or he’d been fooling himself. He’d never be equal to the Quality. He’d never love who he wanted to love, or know for certain that he’d never be sold Natchez-way. And that meant just one thing. It was time to run. Hunched over. That’s what you’ll be with “The Water

Dancer”: hunched over as you read, to protect your heart from this story and because the anticipation of what’s to come is too much to handle if you’re upright. Using a little magic, the full meaning of which may not become totally clear until nearly the end of this tale, author Ta-Nehisi Coates captivates readers with language rich and reminiscent of poetry or song. The beauty of those words is calming-not-calming, like lying on a fresh-smelling, springy bed of moss on the edge of quiet

woods, waiting to hear heavy footsteps you know are coming. Cue the ominous music, but don’t think that this is a horror novel. No, it’s more of an escape-novel-thriller-love-story-drama-history with a cast of characters that couldn’t seem more real. One of them, in fact, was real so look for her and don’t worry if the plot of this book doesn’t make sense at first; it will soon enough. Just settle, let the words wash in, and “The Water Dancer” will knock the breath out of you.

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News reporter to chronicle HCCSD for 1 year

Mississippi Link Newswire

Free-lance journalist Casey Parks is shadowing Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson in monthly visits during the 2019-2020 school year to learn about the district and the turnaround process of one of Mississippi's lowest-rated school systems.

Raised in a small Louisiana town, Parks knows firsthand about rural poverty and the mixed bag of outcomes for young people educated in such an environment. Until she graduated from college, her family had never had a college graduate and several family members had been incarcerated. She said she used to wonder how her late mother's life would have been different if she'd been able to leave Louisiana.

The Spencer Fellowship for Education from Columbia University will fund her year of study as she audits education classes and conducts research on rural school districts. Parks said she chose Holmes County Consolidated School District after seeing its website and all the newness: new superintendent, newly consolidated district, new credit recovery program, new



Reporter Casey Parks (right) observes Dr. Henderson's Chat-n-Chew with Durant Elementary School staff.

teacher recruitment initiative, etc. She said, "Mississippi's rural districts are ranked worst in the nation, but is that always true? Are there things you can do to turn around a district?" She wants to know what it's like to run a rural school district and how an F-rated district can improve.

Parks said "a good story has tension. New people coming into a district, such as the superintendent and his team could create tension; change can create tension – which makes for a good story." She will spend some time each month through

May 2020 visiting HCCSD to learn about the district and to write about things that happen.

She is also working on other stories about education and one on gun violence, as well as writing a non-fiction book about a small town in Louisiana.

Parks has a list of awards for her journalism dating back to 2006, among them the Hechinger Award for Education Writing, Society for Professional Journalism, Association of Health Care Journalists and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Award. Her feature-length articles have been published by *The New Yorker*, *USA Today*, and *The Oregonian*.

Parks is not a stranger to Mississippi; she earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College and she worked for the *Jackson Free Press* before moving to Portland, Oregon and working for *The Oregonian* for 12 years. She earned a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and has worked as a free-lance writer. She's living in New York City this year.

More information about Park's work can be found at caseyparks.com.

Music Line-up announced for 36th WellsFest Saturday, Sept. 28



Mississippi Link Newswire

The 36th WellsFest, Saturday, Sept. 28, promises to live up to its legacy as "Jackson's Original Music Festival," again packing the stage with non-stop local musical talent from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"This year's WellsFest is one of the most musically diverse and eclectic ever," said Raphael Semmes, music coordinator for the festival. "From Latin rhythms to stone cold blues and bluegrass to rock and roll, there will surely be music to suit your taste and perhaps expand your musical palate.

"The lineup includes both familiar and brand new faces and voices who have donated their talent and energy to support this year's beneficiary – Extra Table and its mission to feed the hungry."

WellsFest is considered one of Mississippi's most family-friendly events. Alcohol and drug free, the outdoor festival has no admission charge or parking fee and includes: a 5K run and walk and one-mile fun run at 8 a.m., a pet parade at 9:30 a.m., children's activities, non-stop music from some of the best bands in Mississippi, food, a plant sale and a silent auction. The event is held at Jamie Fowler Boyll Park at 1200 Lakeland Drive next to Smith-Wills Stadium in Jackson.

Two pre-WellsFest events that also will raised funds for Extra Table were WellsFest Art Night on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Duling Hall in Fondren and the WellsFest Golf Tournament Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 25, at Whisper Lake Golf Club in Madison.

2019 WellsFest Music Schedule

10-10:15 a.m. BOB GATES ON THE WEST STAGE

Traditional WellsFest Opener

10:15-10:45 a.m. MAHLON MCADAMS ON THE EAST STAGE

Country Blues and R&B 10:45-11:15 a.m. BALLOU & COMPANY ON THE WEST STAGE

Rock and Blues 11:15-11:45 a.m. ANDERSON ENSEMBLE ON THE EAST STAGE

Traditional and Contemporary Gospel Singing 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. GENA STEELE ON THE WEST STAGE

Solo Pop, Country and R&B 12:15-12:45 p.m. STEVE CHESTER ON THE EAST STAGE

Perennial WellsFest Favorite sings blues and country 12:45-1:15 p.m. BILL AND TEMPERANCE ON THE WEST STAGE

Country, Bluegrass and Americana (with Jeff Perkins) 1:15-2 p.m. JACKSON GYPSIES ON THE EAST STAGE

Metro's New, Hot Latin Pop and Gypsy Jazz Band 2-2:45 p.m. BLUE MONDAY BAND ON THE WEST STAGE

As Seen at Hal and Mal's with Special Guest Jewel Bass 2:45-3:30 p.m. JASON TURNER BAND ON THE EAST STAGE

Award-Winning Singer-Songwriter / Rockin' Band 3:30-4:15 p.m. RAPHAEL SEMMES JAZZ ON THE WEST STAGE

Quartet Plays Bebop, Straight Ahead and Funk Jazz 4:15-5 p.m. PATRICK HARKINS BAND ON THE EAST STAGE

Fondren Flamethrower Rockin' Party Band

To volunteer, donate or learn more about WellsFest, please call 601353-0658 or visit www.wellsfest.org.

To learn more about the efficient and effective way Extra Table works to feed the hungry, call 601 264-0672 or visit www.extratatable.org.

"Pink Sofa Series" celebrating Historically Black College Week

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Relevance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities consistently take center stage in the arena of Higher Education. Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. joined with other chapters of the sorority nationwide in celebrating the rich history of these institutions during HBCU week, September 15-21.

This week is set aside specifically to celebrate the history of excellence that these institutions continually produce. The experience of having had attended an HBCU is priceless and has been credited with developing and shaping the lives of those that attend. Graduates of these universities are among the top leaders in their respective fields world-wide. Lack of resources has not hindered the sustainable excellence in the accomplishments of these institutions.

With events scheduled through-out the week, Rho Lambda Omega Chapter introduced it's "Pink Couch Sofa Series" where some of Mississippi's notable HBCU



Walters

graduates such as Carmen Walters, Xavier University and president of Tougaloo College; Jerry Young, Rust College and president of the National Baptist Convention; and Juanita Sims-Doty, Jackson State University and 23rd South Eastern regional director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

They are among a selective few who were invited to sit on RLO's "Pink Sofa." They shared their HBCU experience, why they support and always recommend HBCUs to this generation of high school students and others who are considering college.



Young

The premier of the "Pink Couch Sofa Series" was held during the dinner hour in the Renaissance Room of Johnny T's Bistro in the Historic Farish Street District where members of the sorority and the public viewed pre-filmed segments which were posted on social media sites.

Others interviewed include Kimberly Smith Russ, Alcorn State University and president of the Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Ryshonda Harper-Beecham, Jackson State University and mayor of Pelahatchie, Mississippi); Carolyn Upkins, Mississippi Valley State University and former president of Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Melanie Sanders, Spelman College and owner of LuxLife PR Firm.



Doty

olyn Upkins, Mississippi Valley State University and former president of Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Melanie Sanders, Spelman College and owner of LuxLife PR Firm.

The series which proved to be a dynamic undertaking by chairpersons Shana Cox and Melanie Sanders can be found on the chapter's You Tube channel: RLOAKA 1908 (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_5remvrefkKO1rsKYYK_Xw) where the chapter will also post other media related information of interest to the general public.



\$12,693 raised by Jackson firefighters during 2019 Fill the Boot campaign to strengthen MDA

The Mississippi Link Newswire

During the 2019 MDA Fill the Boot campaign, the dedicated members of the Jackson Fire Department took to the streets or store fronts and continued a 65-year tradition of giving strength to the MDA community.

“The fire fighters Jackson have once again gone above and beyond for MDA’s families during this year’s Fill the Boot campaign,” said Ellie Denman, MDA development director. “We are so grateful for their dedication and for the generosity of those in the Jackson community who have helped to raise critical funds to help transform the lives of kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases.

In addition to Fill the Boot drives, fire fighter contributions from year-round local events, including the Backdraft Classic Golf Tournament help support MDA’s efforts to raise awareness and provide professional and public education about neuromuscular diseases.

Funds raised through Jackson Fill the Boot events help MDA save lives and lift those up in need, by providing the MDA with vital resources to advance their mission of driving innovations in science and



care for the neuromuscular community.

Contributions have helped fund groundbreaking research and life-enhancing programs such as state-of-the-art support groups and Care Centers, including the MDA Care Center at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

They also help send more than 50 local kids to “the best week of the year” at MDA summer camp at Camp Starlite and Camp Widgiwagon – all at no cost to their families.

Today the IAFF/MDA partnership is finding new ways to save lives by working to expand newborn screenings in the U.S. with Pompe disease or Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), so that they can be immediately eligible for lifesaving and life changing therapies.

Retired educators jump starts fall session with mixed emotions

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Several individuals renewed their membership or joined the almost ninety that were present for the first Jackson Metropolitan Retired Education Personnel Association (JMREPA) meeting of the fall semester held September 17 at the Golden Key Community Center located in Jackson. According to treasurer Frank Yates, a total of 40 members paid dues for the new year.

Using the theme, “Jump Starting Our New Year,” members met with mixed emotions. The ambiance was reminiscent of the organization’s late president Gwendolyn Bishop Chambliss, who died just four weeks earlier. Chambliss’ tenure as president began in 2017. Under her leadership, membership grew at an unprecedented rate and for the first time, JMREPA was able to award four \$1,000.00 scholarships to college freshmen, committed to careers in education.

Bright colors filled the meeting room, reflecting the attitude and personality of Chambliss. The 2019-2020 yearbook distributed at the meeting was dedicated to the memory of Chambliss and JMREPA secretary Garnette Galloway, who also died earlier this year.

Retired JPD officer Perry Martin, also known as ‘Officer Friendly’, shared an inspirational message which challenged educators to continue impacting the lives of youth and others in an environment filled with hate and violence and in need of so much love and care.

The scholarship committee reminded members of the estab-



Retired JPD Officer Perry Martin addresses educators with inspirational message for this school year.

lishment of the Gwendolyn B. Chambliss Endowed Scholarship Fund established to support Jackson State University students studying communicative disorders. Contributions may be made through the Jackson State University Development Foundation at JSU.

The next meeting of JMREPA is scheduled for October 22, 2 p.m., at 3450 Albermarle Road, Jackson, MS. The organization welcomes retired education personnel from all levels.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District's tenth annual Teen Summit

The summit was hosted by the HCSD Dropout Prevention Team in collaboration with BankPlus-Jackson, United Way-Jackson Area, Star Services, Inc., and Dollar Tree-Byram. The theme for this year’s summit was “Acting for Impact – 212 the Extra Degree.”

Teen Summit Highlights



Superintendent Delesicia Martin welcomed and spoke to teens about the importance of graduation.



Pam Confer and students perform the song "Mississippi Beautiful"



Pam Confer, motivational speaker, jazz artist and author of the song, "Mississippi Beautiful" talked with students about "Go Get Your Confidence"



Hinds Community College Raymond Campus



Holmes Community College



United Way of the Capital Area



United States Census Bureau 2020



JSU National Alumni Association Byram-Terry Chapter



Jobs for Mississippi grads



Hinds Community College Utica Campus



Lincoln Tech – Nashville Auto Diesel College



RHS students sign the banner pledging to graduate.



Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center



Daniela Griffin, assistant director and college counselor with Get2college addressed students on How to Plan, Prepare and Pay for College.



Seniors from THS



Army National Guard



Demarco Fomby, motivational speaker talked with students about Leadership, Moving from Impact to Influence.



THS students sign the banner pledging to graduate.