

# Mississippi voters, women AG candidates poised to make history in November

By Bobby Harrison  
*Mississippi Today*

State Treasurer Lynn Fitch took a step August 27 in becoming the first woman to serve as Mississippi attorney general when she upended Madison attorney Andy Taggart in the Republican primary runoff.

In unofficial returns, Fitch garnered 52 percent of the vote in the runoff to 48 percent for Taggart.

Of course, Fitch’s November general election opponent also is trying to make history by becoming not only the first woman to win the office, but also the first African American to serve in a statewide office in Mississippi since the 1800s. Fitch will face Democrat Jennifer Riley-Collins, former executive director of the Mississippi ACLU, in the November general election.

It will mark the third time in state history two women will be the major party nominees and vying for the same statewide office. In 2003, incumbent Republican Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck defeated state Sen. Barbara Blackmon, D-Canton, to win a second term. And then in 2011, in winning the first of two terms as state treasurer, Fitch defeated Ocean Springs Mayor Connie Moran, a Democrat, in the November general election.

After winning August 27, Fitch said on social media, “Over the next 10 weeks, we will continue to show Mississippians why my solution-driven approach and



Republican Treasurer Lynn Fitch and Democrat Jennifer Riley Collins are both poised to make history.

conservative values make me the best pick for...AG.”

Taggart said he had no regrets. “We worked as hard as we could, and the voters chose the other candidate,” he said.

“I want a Mississippi where there is no wrong side of the track – no right side, no wrong side. Just a land of opportunity for all Mississippians,” Riley-Collins, a retired Army veteran, said on her social media sites.

Fitch also is vying to become the state’s first Republican attorney general in the modern era. In recent elections, Republicans have won seven of the eight statewide offices but Democrat

Jim Hood has held onto the office of attorney general.

Hood, of course, is running for governor this year and will face Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves who won the Republican primary runoff against former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. 54 percent to 46 percent.

As expected, fewer people voted in the runoff than did on Aug. 6 in the first Republican primary. In near complete returns, more than 326,000 people voted in the governor’s runoff – about 55,000 fewer than voted on Aug. 6. Turnout normally goes down in runoff elections that are needed when no candi-

date receives a majority vote in the first primary.

Democrat De’Keither Stamps, a Jackson City Council member, defeated Dorothy Benford to capture the Democratic nomination for Central District Public Service commissioner. The Republican nominee is Brent Bailey.

And John Caldwell of DeSoto County defeated Geoffrey Yoste of Lafayette County to win the Republican nomination for Northern District Transportation commissioner. Joey Grist, a former state House member from Calhoun County, is the Democratic nominee.

## Bill Waller: ‘I am staying out of the general election’



GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Waller Jr. and his wife Charlotte Waller leave Spann Elementary after voting in the GOP runoff elections Aug. 27. ERIC J. SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY, REPORT FOR AMERICA

By Adam Ganucheau  
*Mississippi Today*

Bill Waller Jr., who garnered 46 percent of the Republican primary vote in the party’s runoff for governor last week, said he will not endorse Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, the Republican Party nominee.

Top Republican Party officials worked the phones the past week, several people close to those officials and Waller told Mississippi Today, calling Waller and his allies in efforts to lock up Waller’s endorsement of Reeves and unify the GOP electorate ahead of an anticipated tough general election bout with Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

“No endorsement,” Waller said in a text message to Mississippi Today on Tuesday afternoon. “I am staying out of the general election.”

Reeves shifted his initial primary political strategy to

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# Federal judge: ‘Mississippi violated the rights of people with mental illness’

By Larrison Campbell  
*Mississippi Today*

The state has long violated the rights of Mississippians with severe mental illness and, left to its own devices, will likely continue to do so, according to a federal judge.

In a sweeping 60-page decision issued Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves said that the state repeatedly failed to modernize its mental health system, and ordered the appointment of a “special master,” to help the state comply with federal law.

Although the state argued at trial that the U.S. couldn’t prove that anyone had actually been denied appropriate care, Reeves disagreed, using several sections of his decision to describe an old-fashioned “hospital centered” state mental health system with “major gaps in its community care.”

“The United States’ experts



U.S. District Court Judge Carlton Reeves gave the state and DOJ 30 days to come up with a list of names for the special master and a proposal for the special master's role.

provided dozens of examples of individuals who were unnecessarily hospitalized or hospitalized too long because they were

excluded from community-based services,” Reeves wrote. “Some of the persons the United States’ experts analyzed for this suit

were still hospitalized when the experts interviewed them.”

Reeves’ decision comes two months after the end of this sum-



Reeves

mer’s four-week trial, in which the U.S. Department of Justice argued that Mississippi’s reliance on antiquated state hospitals violated the Americans with Disabilities Act – a conclusion that Reeves reached as well.

Early in his decision Reeves quoted testimony from Melody Worsham, an employee of the state Department of Mental

Health who also has her own severe mental illness, to describe how the state repeatedly failed to expand community-based services.

“It’s like they stop right at that point to do the very thing that actually would make a difference. They stop. So there is a lot of talk, there is a lot of planning, but there is also a lot of people being hurt in the process,” Reeves wrote in his decision, quoting Worsham’s testimony.

Although Reeves sided with the Department of Justice, agreeing that the state had been slow and inconsistent to adopt a system of care that fit federal standards, he stopped short of outlining exactly how the state should make those changes. Instead he ordered the appointment of a “special master” who would help both the Department of Jus-

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Felecia M. Nave, PhD  
President of Alcorn State University

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Scam Me if You Can

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# Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter announces 60th debutante cotillion season

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter announces its 60th Debutante Cotillion Season beginning September 8, 2019 with a Debutante Informational Tea at the Jackson Medical Mall Center Court from 4-6 p.m.

Interested young ladies of sophomore, junior and senior high school status and first-year college students, along with their parents/guardians, are invited.

This organization has sponsored this annual debutante presentation since 1958, historically making it the longest running debutante cotillion comprised of young African-American ladies in the State of Mississippi.

Through the Zeta's distinct debutante program, highly qualified young ladies from the greater Metropolitan area will be selected by the sorority to cultivate and develop sound character, social principles and strong career aspirations.

Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter sponsors various charm clinics, community service and social events for the debutantes to ensure they become a positive impact on society as they grow into



adulthood.

Applications for the 60th debutante season are being accepted now through September 16, 2019.

For more information and to apply, contact Mercidee Curry, committee chair, at 601 366-5946 or Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter at adz@adz-1938.org. Lucille Green serves as chapter president.

About Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Al-

pha Delta Zeta Chapter is a non-profit community conscious, action oriented organization. Chartered October 14, 1938, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter is the 'oldest' Zeta Chapter in the State of Mississippi and is comprised of over 100 active members. The local chapter owns a Tutorial Complex, Stork's Nest and sponsors four auxiliary groups for community women and children.

# Ole Miss getting ready to move confederate statue

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As Ole Miss gets ready for their first football game of the season on Saturday, university officials are marching forward with plans to remove the Confederate statue near the entrance to campus.

Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks, who holds the position while the Institutions for Higher Learning searches for the next Ole Miss chancellor, said the school intends to move the statue to the Confederate cemetery, near the old Tad Smith Coliseum.

The university has submitted plans to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the IHL. Once the university receives the green light, the school hopes to have the monument relocated within 90 days.

The push for the statue's removal began to get increased attention last fall when a group known as the Students Against Social Injustice staged a protest and issued demands of the administration, something that is now common practice among left-wing campus organizations.

According to SASI, the university must remove the Confederate statue from campus and speech codes must be implemented to "protect students from the racist violence we experience on campus." And, the next chancellor "must" meet with this group to discuss their



demands.

Last spring, the Associated Student Body voted to relocate the statue, as did three other governing bodies.

SASI, which includes students and liberal professors, has since been putting their own markers on the statue marking the number of

days since the ASB vote.

Before the SASI push to move the statue, the university placed plaques on various locations on the campus, including the statue. This was done in early 2018 as part of a years-long process. These plaques are designed to "contextualize" names or objects on campus.



## Waller

Continued from page 1

spend the three-week runoff blasting Waller and his positions, likening the former chief justice in official campaign advertisements to national Democrats such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton.

As recently as the day of the Aug. 27 runoff, the Reeves campaign aired television advertisements across the state slamming Waller as a liberal and someone who “would fold to what (liberals) want to do.”

Later that night when the runoff was called for Reeves, the lieutenant governor faced cameras and supporters at his watch party in downtown Jackson and spoke of Waller with respect.

“I would like to say a word of congratulations to Justice Bill Waller,” Reeves said from the stage Aug. 27. “He was a worthy opponent and he has earned our congratulations on a race well run. Let’s give Bill a hand.”

Reeves continued: “I have always respected Judge Waller, Miss Charlotte Waller, and their entire family. I respect everyone who voted for him today. A lot of good people voted for him today. What I want to say to you is this: I heard you, and I’m determined to bring this party together to win in November.”

The Reeves campaign did not immediately respond Tuesday afternoon to Mississippi Today’s request for comment.

Reeves’ chief challenge ahead of the November general election is unifying the party after the bitter primary. Several prominent leaders of the Republican Party sided with Waller over Reeves in the primary, tossing around personal insults of Reeves and criticizing his leadership style.

Hood, who is regarded by political operatives on both sides of the aisle as the Democratic Party’s best shot at the Governor’s Mansion in at least 16 years, has courted several of those

Republicans the past few days after Reeves cemented the GOP nomination.

The day after the GOP runoff, Hood said of Waller: “Certainly, I would love to see him endorse me. He did not endorse Tate Reeves, and I suspect he will not do that and I don’t blame him. Tate Reeves was just throwing out labels, knowing full well that Judge Waller wasn’t any liberal. I don’t blame Judge Waller for not endorsing him. I think a lot of Judge Waller’s voters will come over to us and support us this fall.”

Waller defeated Reeves in several suburban areas, including Hinds, Rankin and Madison counties, as well as counties that include the populated cities of Hattiesburg, Tupelo, Oxford and Starkville.

Reeves won the election on the backs of rural Mississippians and residents of the Gulf Coast. He won 71 percent of the Republican votes in Jackson County, 69 percent in Hancock County and 66 percent in Harrison County.

Hood is spending Tuesday and Wednesday on the Gulf Coast to announce his plans to study the economic effects of the decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to open the Bonnet Carre Spillway into the Mississippi Sound earlier this year. The seafood industry, in particular, has taken a deep financial hit over the fresh water entering the salt waters.

Hood has also underscored his role in garnering the \$2.4 billion settlement with British Petroleum after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

State Rep. Robert Foster, who earned 18 percent of the vote in the Aug. 6 Republican primary, said last week he would endorse Reeves.

“I am a Conservative Republican, Jim Hood has never been an option for me,” Foster wrote on Facebook. “I will be supporting the Republican nominee for Governor in November.”

Contributing: Bobby Harrison

## Mental illness

Continued from page 1

tice and the state work out a remedy, a move that somewhat puts the solution back in the hands of both parties.

“The Court is hesitant to enter an Order too broad in scope or too lacking in a practical assessment of the daily needs of the system. In addition, it is possible that further changes might have been made to the system in the months since the factual cutoff...,” Reeves wrote in his statement. “The evidence at trial showed what the State needs to do. The primary question for the special master is how quickly that can be done in a manner that is practical and safe for those involved.”

In her opening statement, Deena Fox, lead attorney for the Department of Justice, said that if Reeves decided that Mississippi violated its citizens’ rights, he should order the state Department of Mental Health to create what’s called an Olmstead Plan, outlining how the state would comply with federal requirements.

“The agency knows what it needs to do and could make those changes,” Fox said in June.

Olmstead is the landmark Supreme Court case at the crux of the Department of Justice’s com-

plaint. In 1999, the Supreme Court ruled that not giving people with mental illnesses the option to receive mental health care in their own communities violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. These services can include medication assistance, crisis intervention, psychological services and housing and employment support.

Reeves acknowledged that Mississippi had years to comply with this shift and standards, and left to its own devices, consistently failed to do so. In 2011, the Department of Justice sent Mississippi a letter concluding that Mississippi was “unnecessarily institutionalizing persons with mental illness” in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. But even before that, in 2008, Mississippi’s legislative review committee found that Mississippi’s institutional system had not kept up with national changes in treatment.

Reeves gave the Department of Justice and the state 30 days to come up with a list of names for the special master and a proposal for the special master’s role and ordered each side to confer before the hearing to see if they could find common ground.

# Student Roundtable on Lee Friedlander



**Let Us March On**  
**Lee Friedlander and the**  
**Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom**

CIVIL RIGHTS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT  
Student Roundtable



William Kelly, 2019 graduate  
Media Journalism, JSU



April Blevins, PhD candidate  
Public History, MTSU



Juan McFarland, MA candidate  
History, JSU

**JOHNSON HALL ART GALLERY**  
6 PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

**Mississippi Humanities**

**Margaret Walker Center** **JSU JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

Join us Tuesday, September 10, at 6 p.m. in the Johnson Hall Art Gallery on the campus of Jackson State University for a student roundtable on the civil rights photography exhibit Let Us March On: Lee Friedlander and the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom.

Juan McFarland, a MA candidate in the Department of History at JSU will join April Blevins, a PhD candidate in Public History at Middle Ten-

nessee State University and William Kelly, a 2019 Jackson State graduate in Media Journalism, to discuss their experience installing the exhibition and their perspectives on what it means to them.

This program, as well as our future discussion and gallery talk, is free and open to the public and is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Panel Discussion features:

Monique Davis, director, CAPE, Mississippi Museum of Art

Jimmy Mumford, chair, Department of Art, JSU

Mark Geil, associate professor, Department of Art, JSU.

Johnson Hall Art Gallery 6 p.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2019

### Gallery Talk

Eric Etheridge, photographer Johnson Hall Art Gallery 6 p.m., Tuesday, October 29, 2019.



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# Women's Foundation of Mississippi announces 2019 Women of Vision

**2019  
Honorees**

**Betsy Bradley**

**Rita Brent**

**Oleta Fitzgerald**

**Holly Lange**

#### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Women's Foundation of Mississippi is the only grant making and advocacy organization in the state entirely dedicated to funding programs that improve the lives of women and girls statewide. On October 21, we will hold our "Women of Vision" event and honor four outstanding women who have been true innovators and visionaries in their respective fields:

**Betsy Bradley** – Bradley has served as director of the Mississippi Museum of Art since 2001. Previously she served in the same role of the Mississippi Arts Commission. She has also taught English and literature at Millsaps College. Bradley has served on the boards of Americans for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the Southern Arts Federation.

**Rita Brent** – Brent is a comedienne, musician and military veteran based in Jackson, Mis-

issippi. She was recognized by Thrillist as The Best Undiscovered Comedian in Mississippi, and tours as a feature act with her mentor, Rickey Smiley. Recently Brent proudly represented Mississippi as the headlining comedian at the historic Apollo Theater in New York.

**Oleta Fitzgerald** – Fitzgerald is the director of the Children's Defense Fund-Southern Region and a longtime community activist. She was appointed by President Clinton to serve as White House liaison and executive assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. She serves on the boards of the Mississippi Low Income Child-care Initiative, Operation Shoe-string, Excel by 5 and the Mississippi Head Start Association.

**Holly Lange** – Lange serves as executive director for the Mississippi Book Festival. She has years of experience in event management, fundraising, volunteer coordination and public relations. She has worked on

unique, Mississippi projects such as the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Mississippi History Museum, the B.B. King Museum and the Crossroads Film Festival.

Our mission is economic security for women. By cultivating social change, the Women's Foundation of Mississippi is committed to helping women and girls transcend our state's dire social and economic barriers – because when women are economically secure, safe and healthy, then families and communities are economically secure, safe and healthy.

At our event October 21, meet past Women of Vision and current board members as we mix and mingle while learning more about the important work of the Women's Foundation.

For online ticket purchase or sponsorship information, please visit <http://womensfoundationms.org>. Event Tickets are \$75 and Young Professional Tickets (35 & under) are \$50.



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# Four JPS educators join MDE Teacher Council



McConnell



Price



Stocks



Straughter

## Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education announced in August that it has added nearly 200 experienced and highly regarded professionals to serve on the Mississippi Teacher Council (MTC). Among them are four teachers from JPS elementary schools. Tamora McConnell of Power APAC, Margaret Price of Galloway, Doris Stocks of Isable and Dorothy Straughter of Van Winkle joined the MTC in 2019-2020.

McConnell is a product of JPS and a graduate of Murrah High School. She is in her ninth year of teaching. Having served the first five years of her career in other districts, she is celebrating her fourth year in JPS. She has taught every subject in fourth grade and spent the past four years as a fifth-grade English

language arts and social studies teacher at Power APAC.

Like McConnell, Price is a graduate of Murrah High School in JPS. She earned a master's degree in education from Mississippi College. She has been a National Board Certified teacher since 2003. For the last year, she served on JPS Superintendent Errick Greene's Teacher Advisory Committee. In 2018-2019, she was named the Galloway Elementary Teacher of the Year and was selected by the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce as a Metro Area outstanding educator.

Stocks has a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, a Master of Arts degree in administration and supervision and a Doctorate degree in early childhood education. She completed all three degrees at Jackson

State University. She has been an educator for 20-plus years and has taught first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

Straughter is a fifth-grade math teacher at Van Winkle Elementary. She began her career as an assistant at G.N. Smith Elementary before becoming a teacher at Galloway Elementary where she taught for more than 10 years. She completed Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages degrees from Mississippi College. Among her many accomplishments, Straughter was named a Teach Plus Mississippi Teaching Policy fellow in 2018.

Formed in 2016, the MTC now has 381 members representing schools across the state. This council provides

feedback to Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, on the initiatives of the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi State Board of Education and the Mississippi State Legislature. Wright meets with teachers quarterly in different regions of the state. The MTC aims to empower teachers to discuss topics critical to their success in the classroom and how MDE can assist.

"We have representation from urban and rural districts in every region of the state, and I look forward to hearing teachers' invaluable insights that could improve MDE initiatives. Additionally, the MTC will provide a venue for teachers to become advocates for their students and their profession through input into the decision-making process," Wright said.

# School-aged children Compulsory School Attendance law requirements



## Mississippi Link Newswire

As the new school year begins, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement would like to remind area parents about the law governing school attendance.

Based on the Compulsory School Attendance law, a compulsory-school-age child means a child who has reached the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not reached the age of 17 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of 5 years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program.

Parents interested in providing educational services to their child/children at home are required to complete a certificate of enrollment, which includes a simple description of the educational services. Certificate of enrollment must be submitted to the School Attendance Officer by September 15 of each year.

Failure to comply with the Compulsory School Attendance law may result in the parent, guardian or custodian being fined up to \$1,000, serving a year in jail or both.

For additional information, please contact the local school district or the School Attendance Officer in your county.

Source: MDE Compulsory School Attendance Law Requirements for School-Aged Children

# JPS football livestream schedule

Jackson Public Schools will livestream select football games during the 2019-2020 season. The games will be available on the District's YouTube and Facebook channels as scheduled below.

Date	Game	Location	Time
Friday, September 6	Provine vs Murrah	South Jackson Field	7 p.m.
Friday, September 20	Provine vs Forest Hill	South Jackson Field	7 p.m.
Friday, September 27	Jefferson County vs Lanier	Hughes Field	7 p.m.
Thursday, October 3	Forest Hill vs Jim Hill	Hughes Field	7 p.m.
Friday, October 18	Jim Hill vs Wingfield	Hughes Field	7 p.m.
Thursday, October 31	Vicksburg vs Callaway	South Jackson Field	7 p.m.



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# Felecia M. Nave, PhD president of ASU

## AWIS Magazine

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) had the opportunity to connect with AWIS Member Felecia M. Nave, PhD, soon after being named president of Alcorn State University.

An Alcorn State alumna, Nave received a Bachelor of Chemistry in 1996 and is the first woman president in the university's 148-year history. She took the helm July 1. She received both a Master and Doctorate of chemical engineering from the University of Toledo.

Nave has been widely published in scholarly journals on topics related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and minority students. She holds memberships in several professional organizations, including the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and American Society for Engineering Education. Nave is also an AWIS member.

Alcorn is the oldest public historically black land-grant institution in the United States and the second-oldest state-supported institution of higher learning in Mississippi.

**AWIS:** What was your reaction when you learned about the unanimous decision to name you the next president of Alcorn State University?

**FMN:** When I learned that I was unanimously selected as the next president of Alcorn State University, I was overwhelmed with many emotions. It is truly humbling, and I am very grateful to those who contributed and participated in the process. I am very much aware of the huge responsibility that comes with being entrusted to lead such a great institution. In addition to being overjoyed, ecstatic, elated and feeling blessed beyond measure, I am very honored and proud that I have been afforded a once in a lifetime opportunity to come home and lead my alma mater, Alcorn State University. It is truly a proud moment for me, my family and countless others who have supported and encouraged me throughout my career.

**AWIS:** What do you want others to know about Alcorn State University?

**FMN:** Alcorn State University has a very rich history. Nestled on 1,700 acres, it is truly a special place that exemplifies excellence, building character and cultivating greatness in its students. For 148 years, Alcorn has continuously prepared students to excel and be transformative leaders. Alcorn offers degree programs at the associate's, bachelor's and master's level in agriculture, education, STEM, business and nursing. We are currently awaiting final approval for our first doctoral program, a doctorate of nurse practitioner. Students take classes and conduct research in state-of-the-art facilities from a dynamic faculty. Alcorn is also known for its champion athletic programs and renowned marching band, the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite with the Golden Girls.

Alcorn has alumni who are well positioned globally and are quite accomplished, particularly in STEM fields. Our alumni are accomplished inventors, political figures at all levels, academicians, scientists, actors, leading sports figures, lawyers, doctors, law enforcement, to name a few. We don't just prepare our students to succeed, we prepare them to excel. You will find Alcornites all across the globe, and we carry the spirit of Alcorn wherever we go. We are a family.



Nave

**AWIS:** What's been your criteria to achieving success in academia?

**FMN:** Throughout my academic career, I've used a number of strategies to achieve success. It is important to have some flexibility in your style because the environment is dynamic and everchanging. Additionally, the people you encounter along the way have different approaches and styles, etc.; thus, having discernment and a core value system is a must. What I will say is that there were core beliefs and values that guided my success.

AWIS is a forward-thinking organization that supports the development and professional success of women. As a member, I am part of a great network of professional women who I can look to for mentorship, guidance and support.

Failure is not an option.

Always strive for excellence.

Run your own course and not someone else's.

Keep the important things close to keep you grounded — faith and family.

Treat people with kindness and appreciation.

Help others along the way and create opportunities for others to excel.

I strongly believe that I am blessed and that I have consistently had people all along the way who believed in me. They looked out for me, gave me sage advice and helped position me for success. I try to always listen to the wisdom of others. I don't think I know everything, and I take advice, even when the advance is a critique of me. I view the critique as an opportunity to be introspective and improve.

Additionally, I have worked hard, prepared, been a person of integrity, getting jobs done while not being afraid to take chances and take chances on other people, surrounded myself with smart people, built meaningful relationships and networks and made sacrifices.

Finally, having a strong support system in my husband and children, and I include them as part of my success. I married well. Tracie and I have similar goals and outlook on life and success. He is my #1 cheerleader, celebrating my/our success yet pushing me when needed. This is important because you need that support.

**AWIS:** It's no secret of the challenges, obstacles and barriers that women in STEM, especially women of color, are facing in all sectors of the STEM industry? What needs to happen to change this?

**FMN:** I don't know that we will ever completely eradicate these challenges; however, as women continue to make great strides and break ceilings,

changes will occur. But once women arrive, we must be willing to reach back and pull other women up into the club unapologetically. It is important that we are intentional in our efforts and contribute in a meaningful way to programs and initiatives that demystify STEM, not just to the students but the parents as well. We must, in plain spoken ways, articulate the benefits and joys of pursuing careers in STEM fields. [We must also] continue to support the broadening of STEM education and provide diverse and innovative programming that introduces girls to STEM fields and pathways for success. It is important for us to be more vocal and visible about women role models, particularly women of color, and to point to those who have successful professional and personal lives across so many different fields.

This is not a journey that we can take alone. We must also have advocates and allies amongst our colleagues, fathers, brothers and friends to encourage girls to pursue STEM and excel in the workplace. They must be courageous and bold, opposing barriers when they observe it amongst their peers. I am very fortunate that I can look across multiple phases of my educational and professional career and identify men who were extremely instrumental to mentoring me, promoting my success and clearing a path for success.

**AWIS:** AWIS recently released a leadership study and found that 83 percent of STEM professionals had their judgment or expertise in their area questioned and 82 percent believe they have to work harder than others to prove themselves. The numbers are worse for women of color. What are some of the challenges you've encountered?

**FMN:** Many of the challenges I faced fall into the typical categories identified in these studies. As early as my doctoral program, I encountered a number of challenges such as questioning of knowledge, faculty and peers who were not always welcoming and being the only African-American woman in the program, it led to feelings of isolation. Over time I internalized the experience but looked for other ways to build a community that would provide the support I needed to be successful. Unfortunately, I guess you can say I expected it in some way, given our country's history.

What was more unexpected was the challenges I faced as an African-American woman faculty at an HBCU from my male colleagues and sometimes other African-American women. I was young, so this also played

into the dynamic. However, I again found myself in a situation where colleagues carried dated philosophies toward women in the workplace and in some cases flat out sexist attitudes.

I quickly learned how to read the people and the environment. Once you understand the environment and players, you can tailor your strategies to accomplish your goals. In both cases, I found ways to succeed, identified allies, worked hard, found mentors external to the university and did my thing. Remember why you are there and execute your plan.

**AWIS:** There's been some debate about the value of higher education. Many are opting to not pursue college for several reasons including the accumulation of debt, lack of employment in their specialized field or inequitable pay. As an educator in front of this narrative, why should students invest in a higher education?

**FMN:** I strongly believe a college education is still the best investment one can make in themselves. The knowledge that you acquire being in a college setting is more than just what you learn between the pages of the books but also the exposure and exchange of knowledge and experiences you have with people from varied backgrounds. It grows you and expands your worldview and understanding of diverse perspectives. Yes, it can be an expensive investment; however, there are affordable options for students today. When I graduated from high school, we had very few options, if any, to gain college credit before graduating. Today's students have several options — from AP, dual credit, credit by exam, etc. — potentially cutting the cost of a college degree. Now, access to these opportunities are not always even across the country such that urban and rural students may not have access as others, which is another topic to explore. But, generally speaking, there are avenues to explore that can make college more affordable. We've all heard the statistics that only a small percent of athletics actually make it to the big stage and their longevity is short. Likewise, I venture to suggest that the number of non-degreed billionaires are just as minimal. Thus, if you are not willing to invest in yourself, then who will?

**AWIS:** How are HBCUs preparing students to compete globally and be part of the drive for economic success, whether here in the U.S. or abroad?

**FMN:** With the ever-expanding reach of the Internet and social media, your neighbor/competitor can be across the globe. Thus, it is important that

we provide our students the opportunities to have their intellectual knowledge stimulated and broaden by having a world view. HBCUs are not new players on the international front. We are expanding our reach and building capacity and opportunities for our students through cultural immersion experiences such as study abroad, international internships or course revisions with international perspective. I encourage students to learn the world, keep their minds open and to engage in opportunities domestically and internationally. I also encourage them to participate in language immersion, culture (food, music, etc.). Many universities have developed MOUs with international institutions to support faculty and student exchanges and research partnerships.

**AWIS:** HBCUs continue to provide a solid education, but some are struggling or have closed their doors due to financial concerns including state funding or low enrollment. Throughout your academic career, you've been able to successfully fundraise. How do we address the financial crisis for some HBCUs and what role does the public and private sector need to play to support HBCUs and its students?

**FMN:** As states continue to decrease funding for higher education, institutions must identify alternative revenue streams to support operations and secure independence. Stable enrollment is a critical factor and source of institutional revenue. Additionally, we must increase alumni giving and increase our efforts to showcase the ROI of HBCUs. We are an answer to the diversity issue facing corporate America. Our graduates are diverse, have engaging and innovative mindsets and are prepared to contribute to the success of any company.

I believe it is important that we continuously assess our business operations, identify our niche and align resource expenditures with priorities and core mission. During my tenure at Prairie View A&M (PVAMU), I was able to consistently secure funding from foundations, government agencies, corporations, etc. in support of student scholarships, research and outreach programs. Funding from these agencies was critical to our efforts to increase awareness and access for students of color to STEM fields and in support of the development of faculty. To address the financial crisis, we must be more intentional in our investments and make sure we are aligning our resource allocations with our priorities. We must increase our development efforts, particularly among our

alumni.

**AWIS:** You have a celebrated and distinguished career that inspires other women. What motivates you? What inspires you every day?

**FMN:** I am motivated by being able to serve in a profession that allows me to contribute to the growth and success of others. Waking up knowing that the work you do will make a significant difference in the life outlook of a student and that the outcome of the one can change the trajectory of a whole generation. I am also motivated knowing that I am fulfilling the hopes of my grandmother and honoring her sacrifice. She did not have the opportunity to complete high school, yet she understood the importance of making sure that her children and their children would have access to a better life through education.

I am inspired by my four children who are creative beings and who keep me grounded. Throughout my journey, there have been numerous people who have mentored and supported me from K-12 teachers, church members, community, professors at Alcorn such as Troy Stewart among others, and professional supervisors like George Wright. Most importantly my family has always been a constant. I am at this place because #1 God and his favor and #2 because others believed I was worth investing in.

**AWIS:** Beyoncé (Queen Bey) gave homage to the history and culture of HBCUs in her documentary Homecoming. How do you see HBCUs continuing to shape American history and modern culture?

**FMN:** HBCUs, without question, have contributed to the history and culture of our nation and the world. We continue to develop and nurture creative minds that contribute to the continued advancement of society. We continue to be at the forefront of providing access to higher education for many students who would be left out. HBCUs provide an educational environment where students can come, grow and feel celebrated for their potential. We take diamonds in the rough, polish the roughness and develop them into future leaders. It would truly be a loss to this country and to higher education if HBCUs [did not exist].

**AWIS:** What is your vision for the future of women in STEM?

**FMN:** My vision is that we will continue to promote and significantly increase the number of girls excited about STEM and who ultimately pursue and excel in STEM-related careers. I envision that we will continue to break glass ceilings and lead innovatively.



Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Magazine staff. The magazine is written by and for women in STEM and allies. It is a record of women's contributions to the STEM enterprise and their impact on society.

He continued, "This Fortune 500 company has afforded opportunities for students and the community around our center. That was our impetus for seeking this grant, and we are thankful and thrilled to be chosen as a recipient."

## Brown named Employee of the Month at Mississippi State Hospital



Brown

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Laura Brown has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Edwards native Brown is a staffing coordinator for Jaquith Nursing Home, working on Adams Inn. Brown has been employed at MSH for almost 22 years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

## Employees honored for service at Mississippi State Hospital



Front row (left to right): Kierra Smith (Jackson, 1 year), Polly Ross (Canton, 1 year), Jalonda Quinn (Brandon, 1 year). Back row (l-r): Brittany Thrash (Morton, 1 year), Jackie Fleming (Jackson, 35 years), Jennifer Giambrone (Clinton, 20 years), John Dawson (Madison, 1)

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with August anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital.

Service awards are given to MSH

employees in the month of their date of hire, beginning with one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year.

Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award

Pin.

The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health,

was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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*The person that sends us the most referrals will  
receive a \$200.00 referral fee.*

## Mississippi Lottery Corporation selects gaming and instant ticket vendor

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Lottery Corporation (MLC) has selected a world-renowned vendor to provide two major lottery gaming services: a central gaming system that will generate tickets for computerized draw games and the printing service for instant scratch-off tickets. This is a major operational milestone for the MLC.

The MLC Board of Directors recently approved entering into a contractual agreement with IGT Global Solutions Corporation (IGT). IGT will provide a central gaming system, telecommunications, retailer terminals, peripherals and other related

services. In addition, they will design instant games, print tickets, provide warehousing, distribution and other related services.

The selection of IGT is a pivotal step in the MLC moving forward to provide instant tickets and online drawing games such as Powerball and Mega Millions. The MLC anticipates sales for instant ticket games to begin no later than December 1, 2019, and online drawing games to begin in the first quarter of 2020.

"We are thrilled to have IGT on board with the MLC," said MLC President Tom Shaheen. "Every lottery relies on vendors to provide their ex-

pertise and the necessary infrastructure to provide lottery products to the public. We look forward to partnering with them in our effort as we pursue our mission of raising funds for roads and bridges throughout Mississippi."

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

The MLC is a legislatively created corporation.

Visit online at [www.mslothteryhome.com](http://www.mslothteryhome.com).

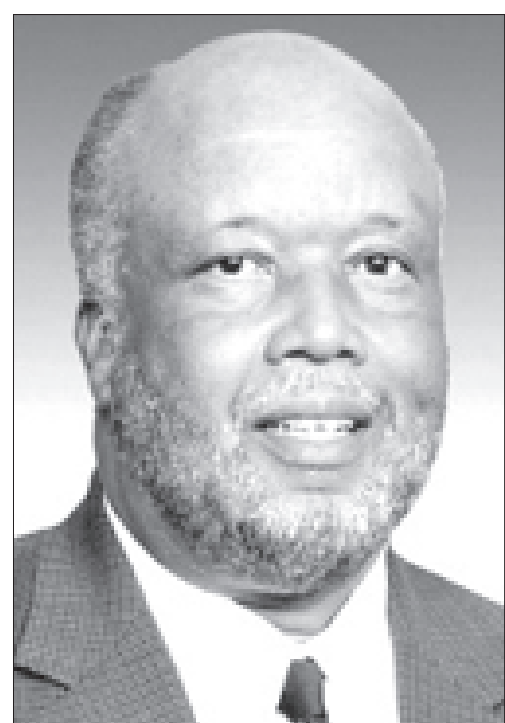
## Congressman Thompson announces \$10,139,000 to the Mississippi Department of Transportation

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Recently, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the United States Department of Transportation has awarded \$10,139,000 in Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) funds for bridge replacements in Tal-lahatchie, Yalobusha and Attala Counties.

This project will improve the overall condition of the transportation infrastructure and maintain access to life services for residents.

It will benefit the region's economic activities by improving access to rural Mississippi.



Thompson

# Surviving the journey

*Thousands gather in a weekend of reflection and healing to remember, honor the first Africans brought as captives to English North America 400 years ago*

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As day broke last Saturday, August 24, tides of people of all ages and colors flowed down the promenade at Hampton's Buckroe Beach.

Some were dressed for a day at the shore in shorts and T-shirts, with windbreakers or sweats. Others, all of them black people, were clad in white — gowns over skirts and dresses for many of the women; shirts and loose pants for the men.

The line of people gave their names to two black women sitting at a table, the last step before they would begin the African cleansing ritual and name ceremony for which they had registered long before this day.

A few yards away, three black men in colorful ceremonial robes stood silently on the beach, something they and every black person gathered there would not have been able to do a little more than 50 years ago because Buckroe was, by law, for Whites Only.

Another robed man, Ancestral Master Drummer Joseph Ngwa from the central African nation of Cameroon, beat his drum to bring together the milling crowd, now in the hundreds. He then blew a horn to signal the pouring of a libation that would summon the ancestors.

Professional photographers and videographers jockeyed for position with observers wielding their cellphone cameras. Then everyone settled in place, encircling the robed chiefs.

Chief Asam Asam Eyong of Cameroon's Bamoun people led the ritual, pouring liquid from a cow horn onto the sand, then bowing deeply onto a tortoise shell and animal pelt he laid on the ground.

Chief Eyong and the other chiefs then led the assembly in a call and response:

"Africa must rise! Africa must rise again!"

With Ngwa beating his drum, women dressed in white robes and head wraps, known as the African-American queen mothers from the Institute of Whole Life Healing in Lexington, Ky., led the crowd to the water's edge.

There, with water from a calabash, pairs of queen mothers anointed the heads of the white-clad men and women who came to them one at a time. One of the queen mothers would gesture, pulling apart her fists as if ripping a cloth.

She was breaking the chains of slavery.

The solemn, yet emotional ceremony at Buckroe Beach was among the most powerful events of the "First African Landing Commemorative Weekend," four days of speeches, panel discussions, ceremonies and performances marking the 400th anniversary of the 1619 arrival of the first captive Africans in English-occupied North America.

With the exception of Saturday's daybreak cleansing ceremony at Buckroe Beach and a few others, most events took place at Fort Monroe in Hampton, where "20 and odd Negroes" aboard an English pirate ship, the White Lion, were traded in 1619 for food and provisions at what was then known as Point Comfort.

It, essentially, was the beginning of the slave trade in English North America, a barbaric inhumane practice that would last for centuries, its evil legacy persisting today. By the mid-1800s, more than 12 million Africans had been captured, sold and transported across the



Queen mothers from the Institute of Whole Life Healing in Kentucky anoint participants at a sunrise cleansing and healing ceremony at Buckroe Beach in Hampton as part of the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first Africans landing in English North America. PHOTO: BRIAN PALMER

Atlantic to the Americas and the Caribbean.

Some who participated in Saturday's beach ritual beamed, while others stood silent and reflective.

Wendell Shannon of Baltimore sighed and paused when asked about the ceremony's significance.

"It connects me to the painful experience of the trans-Atlantic slave trade — the bowels of the ships, the jumping off the ships and suicides. Now it's time for liberation and reconnection to our mother Africa," Shannon said.

Jermaine Nelson, a young man also from Maryland, said he was looking for his roots and for a more profound connection to Africa. As part of the ceremony that accompanied the anointing, he received a new name, "Guiawang," drawn from the Tikar people of Cameroon.

"I'm looking for home," he said.

Organizer Ada Adagho Brown of the African heritage group Roots to Glory said afterward that it was important the morning was planned and executed by Africans and African-Americans. So much of the schedule didn't appear to be geared to either group, ostensibly the focus of the weekend.

"I didn't feel us in here," Brown said. "I actually felt that there were two different events. One for them" — white people — "what they want the world to know, what they want the world to see. And one for us."

The weekend was organized under the flag "American Evolution" by state and federal commemoration commissions, the Fort Monroe Authority, the National Park Service, the City of Hampton and Project 1619, a black-led nonprofit.

But at times, it seemed politicians — many of whom were white people — sought to hijack the big events attended by several thousand people that also featured African drumming and dancing, spoken word and other presentations by youths, a long line of educational exhibits and vendors along the Fort Monroe waterfront and a ceremony where flower petals were dropped into the Chesapeake Bay in remembrance of the first Africans and other ancestors.

Saturday's main event, the "2019 African Landing Commemorative Ceremony," featured 17 speakers, while Sunday's ceremony, "HealingDay," featured 11 speakers, including Gov. Ralph S. Northam, who used the podium on both days to continue his post-blackface rehabilitation.

Northam announced Saturday that he has set up a commission to study how the African-American experience is taught in Virginia and a separate commission to examine racial inequity in law. He also announced that sculptor-painter Brian R. Owens, an award-win-

ning artist based in Florida, has been selected after a national search to lead the \$500,000 First African Landing public art project at Fort Monroe. Owens is African-American.

In his address Saturday, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine spoke about Oliver W. Hill Sr., the pioneering civil rights attorney from Richmond, who was pivotal in the lawsuit that led to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education outlawing the "separate but equal" doctrine in public education.

Kaine, an attorney, said before his speech that he was well aware that slavery in the "New World" didn't begin in 1619. It started long before in Spanish-occupied North America. But what the English gave the young colony of Virginia, he said, was its legal system — a framework that white male colonists tailored to construct the brutal system of American chattel slavery.

"It wasn't destined by God. It wasn't destined by the crown. We had to create it," Kaine said.

He then spoke about the Declaration of Independence, which Virginians helped to write. "What does it say about Virginians — Americans — all are created equal? This is like Virginia's greatest gift to the world, and at the same time the people who were signing that document were creating the architecture of slavery and secession and then Massive Resistance."

Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax spoke during Saturday's and Sunday's ceremony about his family history and the manumission of his great-great-great grandfather, Simon Fairfax, in 1798.

He also recounted the story of 1619 African captives Anthony and Isabella, who gave birth to William Tucker in 1624, the first documented African-American child born in English North America. Many of the Tucker descendants participated in the weekend's events and also hosted a reflection and commemoration ceremony on Friday morning at the Tucker Family Cemetery, tucked in a residential area of Hampton.

Former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the grandson of slaves and the nation's first African-American elected governor, was noticeably absent from Saturday's and Sunday's events at Fort Monroe. He had been invited to serve as an honorary chair of the commemoration, but was openly critical last month, saying his invitation "was only a polite inclusion."

"I learned that it was more ceremonial than actual in terms of what I was asked to do," he told the audience Friday, where he was the main attraction at a luncheon panel at the Hampton Convention Center. The luncheon, "African-American Political Pioneers," also featured Congressman Robert C. "Bob-

by" Scott of Newport News and other politicians whose elections were "firsts" in their communities.

Scott is the first African-American to be elected to Congress from Virginia since the post-Reconstruction-era election of John Mercer Langston. Before his election in 1888, Langston, an attorney, educator and diplomat, helped create Howard University's law school and became its first dean. He also had served as the first president of what became Virginia State University.

Although politicians dominated the weekend program, they did not have the last word.

"I came here today to honor you and all of those warriors that came before you, who have literally made the way for all of us," Chief G. Anne Richardson, a Rappahannock woman and the first woman to lead a Native American tribe in Virginia since the 18th century, said to the largely African-American crowd of several thousand on Sunday, the final day of the commemoration.

The Sunday ceremony followed a symbolic four-minute ringing of bells at Fort Monroe and national parks and churches across the country — one minute for each 100 years of African presence in the nation.

Sunday's keynote speaker, Georgetown University professor, author, preacher and radio host Michael Eric Dyson, didn't mince words in a blistering, irreverent and thought-provoking speech about what black people have faced during the course of 400 years in America.

He started, however, by addressing Northam's blackface scandal that rocked Virginia earlier this year.

"I saw the governor in the back," Dyson said with a preacher's timing. "I wanted to tell him to his face what I had said behind his back. And that is, 'Ain't nothing better than a white boy who knows he messed up, who stays in office to fix it up.'"

The crowd roared.

He then gave a history lesson, highlighting in 100-year increments the brutalities and injustices inflicted on African Americans.

"When America says the worst act of terror happened on 9-11, you're wrong," he said. It was 1619 and what followed for black people, he said.

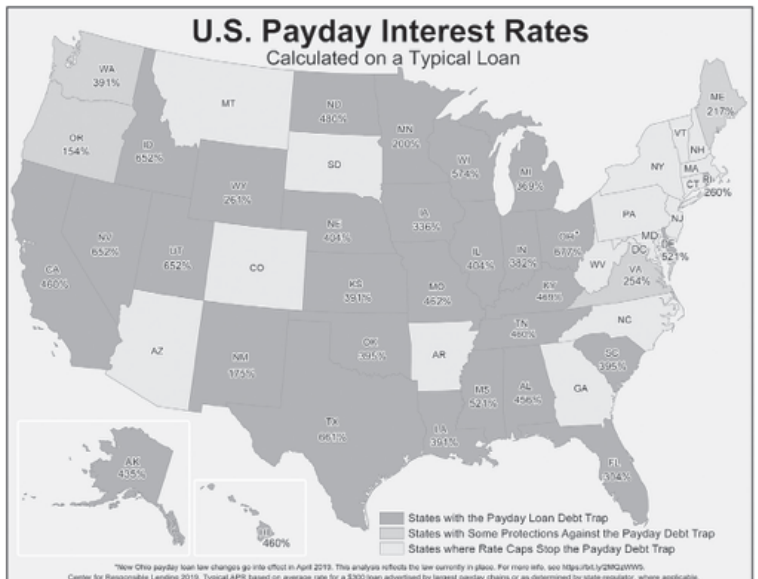
Dyson took on colorism among black people, a damaging legacy of enslavement that he said needs to stop.

"We better realize that we're all in the same boat. I don't care how light or dark you are, you still a n - - - r in America."

He also went after President Trump, calling him "an orange apparition," "bigot-in-chief," and a "white supremacist."

For all the painful truths he told, Dyson ended by calling on black people to love ourselves — and to vote.

# 102 House members rebuke delay of payday loan rule Waters led effort supported by CBC members



By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Anyone who struggles with the rising costs of living knows all too well how hard it is to try stretching dollars when there's more month than money in the household. Predatory lending, like payday and car-title loans, worsen financial stress with triple-digit interest rates that deepen the debt owed with each renewal.

The irony is that many payday loan borrowers who needed just a few hundred dollars wind up owing thousands. And any loan whose accrued interest exceeds the principal borrowed, is truly predatory.

In recent days, more than 100 Members of Congress stood in support of consumer protections against these debt trap loans. The effort, led by House Financial Services Chairwoman and California Representative Maxine Waters, called upon the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to do two things: stop delaying the current rule from taking effect and preserve the existing rule's requirement that lenders only make loans to consumers whom could afford repayment.

The August 23 letter to CFPB minced no words.

"Experts have noted that payday loans often target communities of color, military servicemembers, and seniors," wrote the members, "charging billions of dollars a year in unaffordable loans to borrowers with an average annual income of \$25,000 to \$30,000."

"The Consumer Bureau's proposal represents a betrayal of its statutory purpose and objectives to put consumers, rather than lenders, first," continued the members. "Moreover, the bureau has offered no new evidence and no rational basis to remove the ability to repay provisions. We think you should immediately rescind the harmful proposal to roll back the 2017 payday rule."

These direct rebukes were reactions to CFPB's 15-month delay of a long-awaited consumer-friendly rule that was scheduled to take effect on August 19.

In today's contentious Washington, getting strong support for any pro-consumer issue seems particularly difficult. Even so, the August letter to CFPB Director Kathleen Kraninger included representatives from 31 states, including those with some of the highest annual percentage rates found across the country. For example, the typical payday loan in California comes with 460% interest and the largest number of state signatories also came from California: 15.

Although no other state's signatories were that numerous, the clear expression of genuine consumer protection against this heinous predatory loan in other areas with rates near or exceeding 400% is noteworthy: Texas (661%), Wisconsin (574%), Missouri (462%),



Waters

and Illinois (404%).

Yet a closer examination of the signatories reveals that despite sizeable support expressed in the letter, there are still 435 officials in the House of Representatives. The recent letter represents about 23% of the entire House. That small percentage signals that many more members of Congress need to make clear that they stand on the side of the people — and not with payday lenders' 400% interest rates.

Across the country, communities of color are where payday and car-title loan stores are the most prevalent. Among Congressional Black Caucus members serving in the House, 58% added their names and support to this important letter.

New research on the nation's wealth gap by McKinsey & Company found that 65% of black America lives in one of 16 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Among these 16 states, only Arkansas, Georgia and North Carolina have enacted 36% or less payday loan rate caps. The remaining 13 states have typical triple-digit payday loan interest rates that range from a low of 304% in Florida to a high of 521% in Mississippi. Multiple CBC members also represent districts in these states.

Speaking at a House Financial Services subcommittee hearing held April 30, Diane Staendert, an EVP and director of State Policy with the Center for Responsible Lending testified of the rippling reasons that payday loans need regulation.

"Allowing the 2017 rule to go into effect as planned is the bare minimum that the CFPB should do," said Staendert. "It is absurd that we should even have to make such a straightforward request of an agency whose charge is to protect consumers from unfair, deceptive and abusive financial practices."

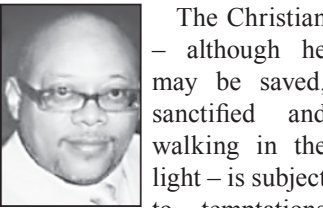
Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, senior pastor of Dallas's Friendship West Baptist Church, also testified at the April hearing.

"Payday predators hijack the hopes of the vulnerable and re-victimize them by baiting them into a debt trap...It is reprehensible that there may be a plan to open the way for old bank payday loans to re-enter the marketplace, as well as predatory high-cost bank installment loans," said Haynes.

Amen, Reverend.

# The seriousness of life

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



The Christian – although he may be saved, sanctified and walking in the light – is subject to temptations and persecutions. A Christian can get caught up in vices or snares laid out by Satan, and he can find himself a captive, struggling to get free.

Matthew 7:21-23 reads: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. The word many that Jesus used in

verse 22 is the same word used in verse 13 when Jesus said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.”

Jesus was talking about those who walked the broad way and entered the wide gate. Souls are leaving this world at a very rapid rate daily, and the majority of those souls leaving are lost.

A Christian can get so tied up in everyday living that he hardly even notices that souls are just slipping away around him. Some leave this world expecting to leave because of their condition, but others leave unexpectedly. Therefore, it behooves every one of us to be ready. One thing is sure; we are going to leave this world somehow, either in death or by living at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Either way, we all have to appear before the judgment seat to give

an account of the deeds done in this body, whether good or evil. Paul wrote in Second Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

While in this body, we are making or marring our destiny. We are either winning or losing a crown. This life is a testing ground for eternity. These Scriptures line up with the words of Solomon found in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, “Let us hear the conclusion (the ending) of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: For this is the whole duty of man. (Why?) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, or whether it be good or whether it be evil.”

There is only one way men and women want to appear before the throne of God, and

that is saved. Those who lack purpose and direction in life should fear God and keep His commandments. Those who think life is unfair should remember that God will review every person’s life to determine how he or she has responded to Him, and He will bring every deed into judgment.

Have you committed your life to God, both present and future? Does your life measure up to His standards?

No matter what the mysteries and apparent contradictions of this life, we must work toward the single purpose of knowing God. All people will have to stand before God and be judged for what they did in this life.

*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

# Loving the stage you’re in

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Well, what’s wrong with you? Why ain’t you married?” I knew the conversation was going to be a little awkward when it started with this question. This “why ain’t you married?” conversation took place when I had a chance to hang out with some friends from high school during a visit to my hometown about 8 years ago. Ironically, the 50-year-old man grilling me was also not married.

I don’t recall if it was because I was tired or my friend’s ex was slightly tipsy that made me pause before I attempted to answer his question. But I do remember thinking: “Here we go again,” I thought: Another conversation where I have to listen to questions about why I’m not married and don’t have children. I knew he wasn’t interested in me (he was the ex-boyfriend of my friend and still in love with her) but he sure was interested in my marital status.

As he sat looking puzzled at my calm response that it just wasn’t my time, I tried to tune him out as my friends and I reminisced about former classmates. Eventually, we came around to the topic of the changes in our own lives. We joked about how instead of sharing makeup and hairstyling tips, we were now sharing stories of side effects of various prescription medication we were taking for things like diabetes and high blood pressure.

As we continued to talk, the conversation shifted to a more reflective tone as we talked about goals that we’d set years ago. The more we talked about future plans, I thought about how we’d


each had our own expectations of where we’d each be professionally and personally 25 years ago.

After listening to us, my friend’s ex blurted that the men in Dallas were lame. I disagreed with him and said that it wasn’t just my time. He vigorously shook his head in disagreement and said that I needed to use the same motivation I used to earn my educational degrees to get a man.

Even as he explained his reasons why he believed this, I actually tuned him out again and started to think about a nugget of wisdom another friend shared: “We should love people at their stage and not their age.” She was referring to how we expect other people to act and made great sense at the time. She explained that we expect people to act a certain way because of how old or young they are. In fact, John 7:24 warns that we should not judge according to appearances. It would be better to simply love people at their stage of maturity based on their life’s experiences and not judge them for not doing what we think people at their age should be doing.

Now years later, looking back at this conversation, I see how it’s only with God’s grace and mercy that we can support others when they are “acting their shoe size and not their age,” accept them where they are and not criticize them because they are not where we think they should be.

*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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# Calls for justice for a black Immigrant

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



In an article, titled “A Clarion Call for Racial Justice Reaches the Highest Level,” Rev. Jesse Jackson brought to light “the story of an immigrant, an internationally praised economist, and a whistleblower that exposed a \$16 billion fraud against American taxpayers all wrapped in one person.”

The immigrant is Dr. Yonas Biru, an Ethiopian national, who’s waited for justice for a very long time. An unusually mixed group of people have come to the aid of Biru. They range from the far left to the far right politically and philosophically, as well as a racially mixed group of people. This group gives hope to what our US Congress could be like if they’d go beyond party labels to resolve problems we face.

Biru has become a national hero for a broad swath of people, but he remains a victim of what one conservative supporter called a “legalized racial discrimination case.”

Jackson presented the story as an “epitome of the most dehumanizing issue of race and intelligence.” Biru was a deputy global manager at the World Bank. He was praised for “managing one of the most critical programs the World Bank has ever managed” and for leading research endeavors that produced “legacy-setting methodological innovations.”

His performance record raised a red flag with some senior executives who realized his high rating would qualify him to become global manager. When he applied for the position, they wrote his performance rating had the unintended consequence of feeding into his megalomaniacal view of his performance and the resultant sense of entitlement to the position.”

A 73-page report by Sen. Chris Van Hollen revealed that Biru’s record was “retroactively downgraded” to inaccurately reflect his actual performance record; Culprits deemed the record “too good to be true for a black man.” Every project that was deemed “legacy setting,” which he was credited for “initiating, managing and delivering,” was retroactively retracted. His deputy global manager title and role was denied under oath. The brazen criminal act involved redacting his title and leadership role from the bank’s publications and websites, crediting his accomplishments to white managers.

Biru also happened to be a whistleblower after he exposed his superiors who fabricated fraudulent economic data to make Africa and Asia look poorer than they were.

With a feigned report that claimed “The Developing World Is Poorer Than We Thought,” the bank portrayed the two continents as paupers in desperate need of international aid. They used the fabricated data to siphon off \$16 billion from American taxpayers.

Biru’s whistleblower case bought him prime real estate in the conservative orbit. The first person who demanded “to hold the World Bank accountable” was Dr. Ben Carson!

Subsequently, a group of 32 conservative organizations wrote a letter to the current president, pleading with him to ensure “Biru is fully redressed.”

Several Republicans such as Ken Cuccinelli, Acting Director of Citizenship and Immigration Services asked the Trump administration to intervene with a sense of urgency. He wrote an op-ed in the Washington Examiner which led World Bank President David Malpass, to agree to restore Biru’s official record. His chief of staff wrote to Biru’s advocates, promising to redress the injustice. Sadly, someone stopped the process in its tracks. No action has been taken to date.

Others whose interventions have borne no fruit include 26 US legislators, the US Departments of Treasury and State, current dean of the World Bank’s Board and two former US board members.

Recently, 20 African-American religious leaders pleaded with Trump to intervene in the interest of “justice and humanity.” With his record on immigrants, the question is: Will he respond and how?

*Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women (www.nationalcongressbw.org). She’s also host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFM-FM.89.3.*

# Please bring school supplies

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The event promised to be one of those last-gasp of summer events that would raise a little money for a good cause. The young woman who called to tell me about it promised that I’d meet interesting people, enjoy excellent wines and that the cost of attending was modest. “We aren’t charging anything this year,” she said rather breezily. “But please bring school supplies.”

Her call wasn’t the first call that I’ve had asking for school supplies. And whether we are educators, parents of now-adult children, or others, we understand how important it is for young people to approach a new year with “new stuff.” They should have pristine notebooks for the new subject matter. A supply of pens, folders, markers, pencils and more.

Some schools actually provide parents with a list of necessary supplies. The lists may include as many as 30 items and cost as much as three hundred dollars. Low-income parents can’t even begin to meet the set of needs teachers’ detail, not to mention the things their children clamor for.

Please bring school supplies.

That plea speaks to the economic disparity that exists in our country and to the many ways that individuals rush to help, if not close the gap. According to a study by the Economic Policy Institute (I serve on the board), the teacher spends at least \$450 per year in school supplies. The overwhelming number of them won’t be reimbursed. They pay for some things that school districts should pay for, and they pay for items to support their pupils.

Teachers who work in high poverty areas spend about a hundred dollars a year more than those who spend in lower-poverty districts. But they all contribute, and even with their spending, people are asked to “bring school supplies.”

Most of us have the heart to help young students, especially those whose families are struggling, especially those who may not have a new notebook but for charity. But we have to connect the heart to serve to activism that ensures that no child is inadequately supplied when she returns to school this fall.

As commendable as the pleas for school supplies, they must be accompanied by pleas for structural shifts. Why is education the most easily cut item in our federal, state or local budget? Why are we

so satisfied that a plea for donated school supplies will be met? And why are we more confident in well-meaning charity than with an economic structure that would serve every child well.

Teachers are among the least well-compensated, but the hardest working contributors to our society. They earn at least 21 percent less than folks who are similarly qualified as they are, mainly because the public does not value teachers as much as we once did. Last year teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona, North Carolina, Kentucky and Colorado went on strike, and also garnered national publicity for their plight.

Cover stories included accounts of teachers who were working additional jobs to make ends meet. And too many states report teacher shortages because the occupation, with low pay and big hassles, isn’t as attractive as it once was.

Collecting school supplies will help some students, but I think it makes teaching challenging and less attractive. While teachers may enjoy the support of the community with donated school supplies, what does this support mean in terms of relationships and realistic pay? Who wants to be associated with an occupation so marginally regarded that supporters have to

pan-handle for the tools of their trade?

On the one hand, then, I applaud Courtney Jones, the elementary school teacher from Tyler, Texas who launched a #clearthelists campaign to encourage people to help teacher pay for school supplies. On the other hand, I’d be much more enthusiastic about a #educationfirst campaign that urged legislators to prioritize education in budgets.

It’s nice to send school supplies. I bought a bag of notebooks and pens and dropped them in the box at the front door, which was overflowing with donations from others. There were notebooks and pads, pens and markers. There were gift cards and lunch boxes and more. The table was overflowing with community generosity. Why can’t we be as generous in pursuing a public policy that provides an equal and quality education for all of our students, and economic equality for their parents?

Please bring pencils and school supplies and a passion for justice.

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

# Not all private prisons are the same

By Harry C. Alford & Kay DeBow  
NNPA News Wire

At the National Black Chamber of Commerce, we change lives through our Project Rebound program, designed to place at-risk applicants into meaningful jobs where they can contribute to society. I am pleased to report that we recently visited another place that changes lives for the better, a most unexpected place: a detention center. Two of them, actually.

When you turn on the news today, it seems everybody is bashing private prisons. They cause mass incarceration and cage children at the border, the saying goes, and take poor care of those in their custody.

Since I have a background in Corrections and have been in a dozen prisons, I decided to see for myself. My wife, Kay and I were recently part of a group that visited the Broward Transitional Center in Pompano Beach, FL., and the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility in South Bay, FL. Both are managed by the GEO Group, a corrections firm that has had its share of negative headlines. My conclusion: the progressive and media narrative is wrong. Both facilities help people improve their lives in ways that are inspirational – and go far beyond what any state prison would do.

In the first place, neither Bro-

ward nor South Bay seem like the stereotypical image of a prison. The Broward facility – which GEO runs under contract for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – is more like a college dorm. Detainees from 43 countries mill about in their clean, air-conditioned, bunk bed-style rooms (equipped with flat-screen TVs) or in the yard, where they enjoy an artificial turf soccer field; weightlifting equipment and a beach volleyball net with sand.

They have a pharmacy stocked with medication and access to their attorneys and to religious services; in fact, a Muslim prayer service was underway the day we were there. The cafeteria even has a salad bar.

South Bay, which GEO runs for the Florida Department of Corrections, gives off a similar, surprisingly relaxed vibe. Cheerful, brightly colored artwork lines the walls, along with motivational sayings from Mark Twain, Martin Luther King and Gandhi. The population includes murderers and other potentially high-risk offenders, yet there are no iron bars, and the guards don’t carry guns or batons. From what we observed, inmates and staff treat each other with dignity and respect.

More important than the appearance, however, was the substance. Even at Broward – where the average stay is only about 55 days,

in contrast to the media image of unlimited detention – I sensed optimism and faith among the detainees, who were cordial and cooperative. These guys are going to have a future when they get out, I thought to myself.

But it especially was at South Bay that the life-changing potential of the GEO Group stood out. GEO is so focused on helping inmates re-enter society and promoting rehabilitation that they have a division for it called The Continuum of Care. The company invests \$10 million a year into this noble mission, and there is growing evidence that it works.

We saw the potential of this approach simply by walking from room to room. It seemed that everybody was busy, focused and learning something. Everyone had a purpose. There were classes and power point presentations on everything from computers and high-tech printing to horticulture and a commercial driver’s license classroom that featured a simulator of an 18-wheeler truck.

We dined on lunch prepared by the culinary “students.” They prepared fresh spinach with strawberry salad. Chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, carrots and green beans were the entrees and vegetables followed by flourless chocolate cake. Ah, and we won’t forget the iced tea with fresh mint. When they leave the prison, they will have cu-

linary licenses and can work in restaurants as chefs.

In the religion room, which offers an urban ministry instructor’s program, an inmate quoted Bible verses and explained his pride in the program. He is destined for the ministry, I’m sure.

The computer software room featured an eager inmate explaining to us – in between doing power points – how he is already communicating with his GEO post-release counselor about potential housing and jobs.

Equally remarkable: we witnessed an actual “call center,” where 10 GEO employees were taking calls from released offenders and helping them find food, homes and jobs. It operates 24-7.

Overall, we sensed hope, pride and optimism about the future. And we left feeling hopeful ourselves, determined to bring GEO’s can-do spirit back to our own Project Rebound. We saw people on our tour who would make good job candidates because they are determined to turn their lives around. We are eager to help in any way we can.

*Harry Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. DeBow is the co-founder, executive vice president of the Chamber. Website: www.nationalbcc.org. Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdeb@nationalbcc.org*

# Breastfeeding benefits for black mothers and their babies

*Black Breastfeeding Week: Disparities in access to maternity care are alarming*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The United States is one of the most dangerous places in the developed world for a black woman giving birth and for black infants in their first year of life.

Stark racial disparities exist between black and white infants in the U.S. The infant mortality rate of non-Hispanic black infants is 10.9 per 1,000 live births, which is 2.3 times the infant mortality rate as non-Hispanic whites (4.7 per 1,000 live births).

Despite the news, there is a healthy, cost-effective strategy to help reduce infant mortality: Breastfeeding.


Dr. Lenaye Lawyer, an OB-GYN and a market chief medical officer for AmeriHealth Caritas, a national leader in Medicaid managed care, said there should be greater awareness of the importance of raising the low black breastfeeding rate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), black infants are 13 percent less likely to be breastfed than white infants.

“There are many factors that contribute to the low black breastfeeding rate,” Dr. Lawyer said. “We have to help ensure that hospitals and health clinics in minority communities have breastfeeding and lactation resources and information. And, we have to work with our community partners to remove the stigma of breastfeeding.”


The CDC’s Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey found that hospitals and health clinics in communities with more than a 12.2 percent black population

## Breastfeeding Benefits for Black Mothers and Their Babies:

Equal access to prenatal care and lactation programs saves lives.



CORPCOMM\_78638878



- Breastfeeding for at least two months cuts a baby's risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) almost in half.<sup>1</sup>
- Fewer black infants (74%) are ever breastfed compared with white infants (86.6%) and Hispanic infants (82.9%).<sup>2</sup>
- Younger mothers (ages 20 to 29) are less likely to ever breastfeed (80%) than mothers age 30 or older (86.3%).<sup>2</sup>

www.amerihealthcaritas.com

1. ScienceDaily, "Breastfeeding for two months halves risk of SIDS," University of Virginia Health System, October 30, 2017, [sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171030123401.htm](http://sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171030123401.htm).  
2. "Breastfeeding Rates," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last updated August 9, 2018, [https://data.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/infant\\_data/index.htm](https://data.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/infant_data/index.htm).

were less likely to be supportive of breastfeeding.

Comparing facilities in areas with more than 12.2 percent black residents with facilities in areas with less than 12.2 percent black residents, the largest differences were in the percentage of facilities that implemented recommended practices related to helping mothers initiate breastfeeding early on (46 percent compared with 59.9 percent), having infants spend the majority of their

time in the same room as their moms (27.7 percent compared with 39.4 percent) and limiting what infants eat or drink to only breast milk (13.1 percent compared with 25.8 percent), according to the CDC survey. These findings reveal racial disparities in access to maternity care practices known to support breastfeeding.

An international study found that breastfeeding for at least two months cuts a baby’s risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

(SIDS) almost in half, and the longer babies are breastfed, the greater the protection.

Breast milk is good nutrition for a baby, providing all the proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and enzymes that a young body needs to stay healthy. Infants who are breastfed have a lower risk of developing asthma, Type 2 diabetes, eczema, and obesity.

For premature infants, breast milk can be lifesaving, according to the American Academy

of Pediatrics. The organization recommends that infants be exclusively breastfed for about the first six months with continued breastfeeding alongside introduction of complementary food for at least one year.

AmeriHealth Caritas works with local breastfeeding advocacy groups to promote awareness about breastfeeding to expectant mothers in historically disadvantaged communities.

The organization’s Bright Start® maternity program hosts

Moms2B community baby showers where expectant mothers can connect with local social service organizations and resources, including lactation specialists. The goal of Bright Start® is to improve birth outcomes and reduce pregnancy-related complications through early prenatal education and intervention.

“We have to work to help ensure that there is equal access to prenatal care and lactation programs and to help ensure that there are policies and practices to support women’s breastfeeding goals during prenatal care, during the maternity stay and after the birth,” Dr. Lawyer said.

**About AmeriHealth Caritas**

AmeriHealth Caritas is one of the nation’s leaders in health care solutions for those most in need. Operating in 11 states and the District of Columbia, AmeriHealth Caritas serves more than 5 million Medicaid, Medicare and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) members through its integrated managed care products, pharmaceutical benefit management and specialty pharmacy services and behavioral health services.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, AmeriHealth Caritas is a mission-driven organization with more than 35 years of experience serving low-income and chronically ill populations. AmeriHealth Caritas is part of the Independence Health Group in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For more information, visit [www.amerihealthcaritas.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritas.com).

## Mississippi Public Health Institute recognized as breastfeeding friendly by Mississippi Urban League

*State’s only public health institute working to increase breastfeeding rates to improve health outcomes throughout the state*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Public Health Institute (MSPHI), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage in partnerships and activities that improve Mississippi’s health, was recently recognized as a breastfeeding-friendly business by the Mississippi Urban League. To receive this designation, organizations must have policies and support systems in place for women that promote breastfeeding, including adequate facilities and access to breastfeeding equipment.

“Our commitment to health begins with our employees, and our goal is to create a work environment that promotes and encourages healthy behaviors,” said Glenda Crump, MSPHI’s chief administrative officer. “We believe establishing a breastfeeding-friendly culture where we work is inextricably tied to our work to increase breastfeeding rates and improve public health in communities throughout the state.”

Earlier this year, MSPHI was awarded a five-year, \$3.4 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant, one of only 31 awards

from CDC’s Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program, is supporting collaborative efforts increase breastfeeding rates, decrease maternal smoking rates and improve community health care linkages in Jackson, Hancock and Harrison Counties.

MSPHI’s breastfeeding-friendly business designation is part of a broader effort by the Mississippi Urban League to transform the culture of breastfeeding in the state. “We’re approaching our efforts to change the breastfeeding culture in Mississippi in a holistic way,” said Jacinda Roach, program manager for the MSPHI REACH project. “We definitely plan to use this momentum and build on our partnership with the Mississippi Urban League to continue promoting breastfeeding and other healthy behaviors in communities throughout the state.”

For more information on the REACH project, contact Tennille Collins at [tcollins@msphi.org](mailto:tcollins@msphi.org) or (601) 398-4406.

For more information on MSPHI, visit [www.msphi.org](http://www.msphi.org).

# Fluoride in your water: Is it safe?

By Glenn Ellis  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*



Fluoride in water has long been known to reduce dental cavities and tooth extractions in both children and adults. Yet, a recent study published in *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics* has given new life to a long-running debate: whether adding fluoride to drinking water is a safe way to prevent tooth decay, or a potentially toxic mistake.

These new research findings, which looked at mother-child pairs from six Canadian cities, found that high fluoride exposure during pregnancy was correlated with lower IQ scores among young children, especially boys.

First let’s clear up a common mistake that many of us make: We think that fluoride and fluorine are the same. Wrong.

Fluoride is the world’s 13th most abundant of all the naturally occurring elements and make up 0.08% of the Earth’s crust. Fluoride is a mineral found naturally in your bones and teeth. It’s also in the water, soil, plants, rocks and in the air.

Fluorine is what you will find it toothpaste and drinking water. Fluorine, on the other hand, is a highly reactive, poisonous, pale yellow gas. In fact, fluorine plays a major role in the depletion of the ozone. The long and short of it is that fluorine is poisonous to humans. If inhaled in small amounts, fluorine causes severe irritation to the respiratory system (nose, throat and lungs). In larger amounts, it can cause death.

Community, or artificial, water fluoridation – the addition of a fluoride compound to public drinking water supplies is still, nevertheless, a controversial public health intervention. The benefits and harms of which have been debated since its introduction in the USA.

It all began in 1945, when Grand Rapids,

Michigan added fluoride to its water supply and became the first city to implement community water fluoridation. The latest data from CDC shows that in 2014, 74.4% of the U.S. population on public water systems (or 211.4 million people) consume fluoridated water. As the studies showed, dental cavities have dropped significantly in those communities and municipalities with fluoridated water.

Fluoridation has been shown to be remarkably safe and effective means of reducing risk of the commonest disease in the western world.

Questions on the safety of water fluoridation has been investigated time and time again by a variety of advocacy groups, scientists, researchers, medical groups, as well as national and international commissions. Allegations have been made that water fluoridation is linked to almost every conceivable condition known to medicine – and some conditions beyond. The range of allegations covers such diverse items as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, effects on salmon spawning and even the increasing crime rates in American cities.

One of the early controversies following the completion of the post-1945 Grand Rapids trial of water fluoridation was how fluoride ingested by humans should be classified. Is it a nutrient, medication or pollutant?

While fluoride is a naturally occurring compound, it can still cause side effects when consumed in large doses.

Researchers from around the world have conducted hundreds of studies that look at the safety of adding low concentrations of fluoride to drinking water. There’s no evidence that low levels of fluoride added to local water supplies in the United States causes any health problems, aside from the occasional mild case of dental fluorosis.

One of the unwanted results of fluorinating water is something called dental fluorosis. This happens when you con-

sume too much fluoride while your teeth are still forming under your gums. This results in white spots on the surface of your teeth. Other than the appearance of white spots, dental fluorosis doesn’t cause any symptoms or harm. Generally, this tends to affect only children under the age of 8 who have permanent teeth still coming in.

In spite of my own efforts to find facts, one way or another, the one thing I found for certain is that the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has never approved fluoride supplementation as a “safe and effective treatment” despite 50-plus years of prescriptions. In fact, the statements by the FDA seem to be all over the place!

In 2000, the FDA issued a statement that said, “Fluoride, when used in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in man or animal, is a drug that is subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation.” Yet, in 2015, a response from the FDA stated the following: “the FDA does not regulate the quality of water, including water fluoridation, as this is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).”

Fluoridation does continue to provide a valuable public health benefit. However, like any preventive measure, it only makes sense where there exists a significant disease risk. The time may come in a particular society where the decay risk is too small to continue fluoridating or to consider starting.

The official consensus of the medical and scientific community is that fluoridation poses no threat to public health.

For people concerned that they or their families may be exposed to too much fluoride, there are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure. Know the level of fluoride in your drinking water, and people who live in areas with high levels of fluoride in the water might consider using alternate sources of drinking water, such as bottled water.

LEGAL

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

8/29/2019, 9/5/2019

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: CUSTODY OF  
KE'NIYAH CHRISTYANA FEAZEL

CAUSE NO. P2018-106T/I

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF A  
African- America Female child born on  
December 16, 2007 at ST. Mary Medical  
Center in Long Beach, California to a  
Nineteen (19) year old African American female,  
An adult resident citizen of Long Beach, California


You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Kenneth and Gerald Johnson who is seeking Petition for Guardianship.

THE Petition which has been filed in this matter is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights, if any.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 O'clock A.M. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2019, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand – deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, 769-251-0207.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Aug, 2019.

(SEAL)  Eddie Jean Carr,  
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi  
By: K. Howard, D.C.

8/22/2019, 8/29/2019, 9/5/2019

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

1989 CADI BRO Vin #1G6DW51Y4KR737379  
Registered to Alexander Kenny  
Mississippi Title Loans, Financial, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: September 26, 2019  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M.

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



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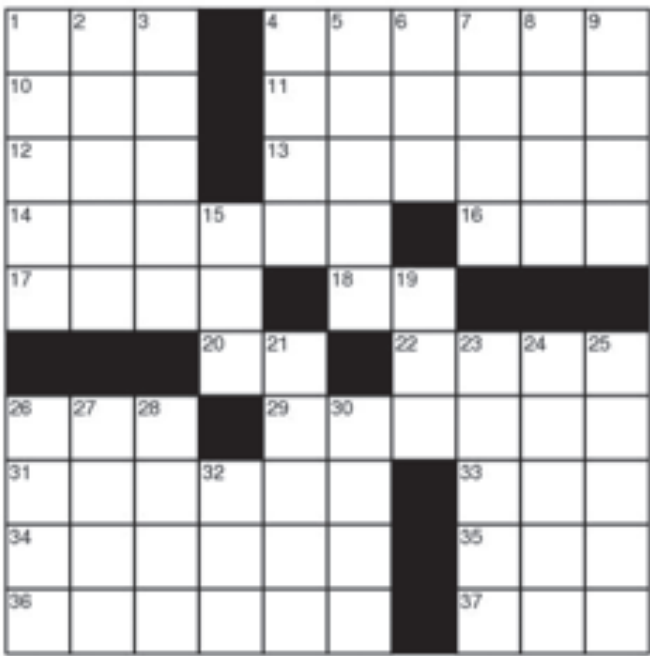
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Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**

  - 1. Stood opposite
  - 4. Engraved
  - 10. Before (prefix)
  - 11. Shrew
  - 12. Pot
  - 13. Earlier form of a word
  - 14. National capital
  - 16. Compass point
  - 17. Sight organs
  - 18. Compass point
  - 20. Thulium (abbr.)
  - 22. Pas
  - 26. Delaware
  - 29. Deprive of freedom
  - 31. Character on "Seinfeld"
  - 33. Pull
  - 34. Nearly
  - 35. Adam's wife
  - 36. Scold
  - 37. Crimson
- DOWN**

  - 1. Froth
  - 2. Orderly arrangement
  - 3. Tight
  - 4. Always
  - 5. New Testament book
  - 6. Whoop
  - 7. Christmas meats
  - 8. Self-esteems
  - 9. Finished
  - 15. Eastern Standard Time
  - 19. Words per minute
  - 21. Capital of Byelorussia
  - 23. Outside layer
  - 24. Turn out
  - 25. Put pieces of cloth together
  - 26. Beloved
  - 27. Women's magazine
  - 28. Sheep
  - 30. Allot
  - 32. Promissory note

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Bill Clinton

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
B V

R G U A A Q B N G V V G P R L G I R G R B P E  
T O T V B M G V L G P B D P Q Z X X G P G I T G C  
Q B W U V V G P N D V B D P T B W W B I  
L D W U I Z V K W U V V G P C W B P G

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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.

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

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
U N T O G X M L Z Y E A W I B J F P C V D O R S K H

W E A L L D O B E T T E R W H E N W E W O R K  
R G U A A Q B N G V V G P R L G I R G R B P E  
T O G E T H E R . O U R D I F F E R E N C E S  
V B M G V L G P B D P Q Z X X G P G I T G C  
D O M A T T E R . B U T O U R C O M M O N  
Q B W U V V G P N D V B D P T B W W B I  
H U M A N I T Y M A T T E R S M O R E .  
L D W U I Z V K W U V V G P C W B P G

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Sudoku Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

Crossword Solution

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

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DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

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DOLLAR GENERAL

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104 Terry Rd

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MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2

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B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

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3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

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743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

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JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

K & K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

LACY'S INSURANCE

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road

CITY HALL

Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

SERVICE STATION

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CITY HALL

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RAYMOND

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# 2019 Toyota RAV4

By Frank S. Washington  
*AboutThatCar.com*

It has been more than 20 years since Toyota's RAV4 hit this market. And in case you've forgotten the vehicle was one of the first crossovers, thus it is one of the founders of the segment. It is also a sales leader.

With more and more crossovers entering the market, Toyota has every intent to keep the RAV4 out front. It has been redesigned; given spiffy new technology, a better engine, more creature comforts and new sheet metal.

We thought the new 2.5-liter engine sounded a little wimpy upon start up. But there was nothing lacking in its performance. This power plant made a healthy 203 horsepower and a 184 pound-feet of torque. It was mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission. The combination got 25mpg in the city, 33 mpg on the highway and 28 mpg combined. That mileage is for the all-wheel-drive model that we had. There is a front-wheel-drive version of the RAV4 as well as a first-ever hybrid.

We thought the transmission could be a little slippery. Let up a bit on the accelerator while cruising and then press on it and you kind of caught the gearbox off guard and that could make the direct shift transmission hesitant.

Still, the 2019 Toyota RAV4 handled well. Acceleration was excellent. Sight lines were great. The suspension was capable of smoothing out the road. Cornering was good too. The RAV4 was relatively quiet. There were six drive modes to select from: eco, normal, sport, mud and sand, rock and dirt and snow.

The compact crossover was bigger, it had a more muscled look and it featured some attributes of edge design. At one point, coming out of the fitness center we thought someone had hit our test vehicle. The creases around the pocket for the parking lights and beside the grille were so pronounced we thought the new RAV4 had been crunched.

Toyota said the RAV4 has a more chiseled and robust look. It did. It was also bigger and it sat higher. Ground clearance was increased by more than a half-



inch over the previous generation RAV4. It was longer; wider but overall height was lower on some models. We had the top of the line Limited which came with 19-inch alloy wheels.

We found the seats to be soft, heated and perforated. The door panels had soft

touch perforated leather-like material as well. There were two USB jacks, plenty of leg room and plenty of head room, even though there was a panoramic roof. That was the back seats.

In the front, the RAV4 had a clean look. It was admirable the way Toyota

had laid out the control surfaces. The floating touch infotainment screen was ringed with buttons for the audio system, the navigation system, the phone, Apps, menu and home.

The interior was swathed what Toyota has branded SofTex seat material. This

stuff was just that soft and they called it seat material but we think it was also on the doors.

Down on the left side were the controls to put the headlights on automatic, the camera for a 360 degree as well as overhead view. The heated steering wheel, the power liftgate as well as the brightness control for the interior lights.

There was another USB jack beneath the climate controls and a 12V socket. That is where the wireless smartphone charger lay as well. There were also two more USB jacks in the center console.

The instruments were analogue with a mixture of digital. The odometer and the fuel gauge and temperature gauges were framed by semi circles on either side of a large TFT screen. The speedometer was a digital readout in the center and atop the TFT screen.

This RAV4 had LED headlights and daytime running lights. Heated and cooled front seats. There was a shelf just under the dash and it went across the car. The door panels in the front were also soft touch.

There were the usual creature comforts: Bluetooth, satellite radio, voice controls and a power driver's seat with memory, a premium audio system and an impressive array of connection options.

The Car had Apple CarPlay, Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant capability, a smart key system on all four doors and it had pushbutton start stop. Among the options was the Entune app suite 3.0, a Wi-Fi connection. Of course there was blind side alert, lane departure alert, and a digital rearview mirror, lane tracing assist, automatic high beams and smart cruise control.

Torque vectoring was part of the all-wheel-drive system. It could direct up to 50 percent of engine power to the rear wheels, as well as distribute it to the left or right rear wheel to enhance handling on or off pavement. There was also a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection.

It was already the bestselling non-truck in the country. And Toyota just made the 2019 RAV4 a lot better. As tested, our RAV4 was \$39,034.

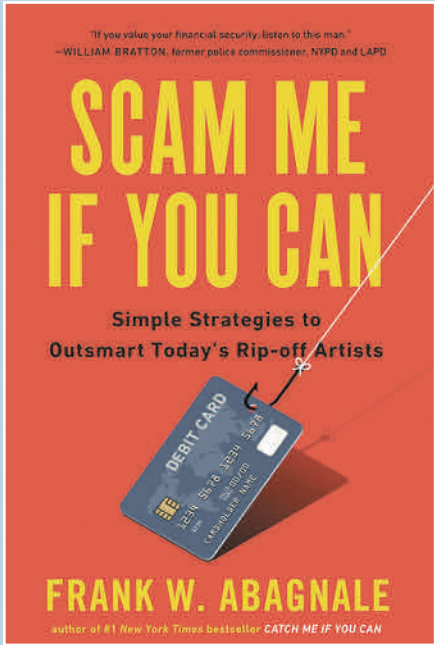
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BOOK REVIEW:

“SCAM ME IF YOU CAN”

BY FRANK W. ABAGNALE

C.2019, PORTFOLIO/ PENGUIN

\$19.00 / \$25.00 CANADA • 337 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Your friend “Rachel” called today. Seven times, she did, and you answered two of them before you realized that you were being robocalled again.

You’re usually pretty savvy about not being fooled but lately, it seems like the more you know, the better scammers get at deception. So read the new book, “Scam Me If You Can” by Frank W. Abagnale and protect yourself.

You’ve heard the horror stories: people scammed out of their

life savings, businesses targeted by ransomware, computers hijacked with malware, and you wonder if you’re doing enough to avoid becoming a victim of technology thieves.

The answer to that is “no,” says Abagnale, who was a scammer himself for part of his young life.

Boiler-room thieves are constantly looking for ways to get around technology blocks, firewalls and the like. They know exactly how to find your personal information online (it’s very easy), and they buy what’s not

a few clicks away. Chances are, you’re already an open book on some database.

So what can you do? First of all, recognize that safety is fleeting: scammers know how to suss out information better than you know how to hide it. Also remember that if you’re scammed, you’re not alone: in 2017, more than 16 million Americans were victims of fraud.

Never let your guard down when talking to strangers. In public, watch your belongings at all times. Don’t fall “under the ether” by becoming complacent

and if you feel pressured, walk away or hang up. Question fees, especially anything you’re asked to pay up-front. Never, ever give personal information to someone who calls you with a “deal.”

Those things may be commonsensical.

Abagnale goes on...  
Lighten your wallet by carrying only what you need today. Invest in the right kind of shredder and shred everything. Know how to hire a trustworthy banker, accountant, IT person and other service workers. Learn what you can do to protect your small

business from hacking and ransomware. And as for passwords, well, Abagnale awaits the day we can truly forget them, since better security methods are available...

Until that day arrives, look for “Scam Me If You Can” but don’t answer an unrecognized phone call or press “2” to be taken off a list. Doing either is a mistake, as you’ll learn inside this informative, important book.

Yes, it’s time to stop hiding beneath your desk from scams. Not to scare you – though the information does read like a high-tech horror novel – but au-



thor Abagnale wants his readers to know how thieves think and work and how to build a virtual wall around personal and business data. He writes truthfully, in plain talk, and if you’re not thrown into action by his useful advice, the cautionary tales he tells will do it.



“Scam Me If You Can” is the kind of book of which to buy multiple copies: one for you, one for your parents, the office and for anybody who holds your information. Read it, share it; protect yourself, or get scammed. It’s your call.


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# Local Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta kicks off sororal year with city-wide community service and retreat

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, JMAC kicked off its 2019-2020 sororal year with members carrying out the “JMAC: Joint Mission in Assisting the Community... We’re Loving It” community service project; wherein chapter members joined forces to tackle 12 community service projects simultaneously throughout the city of Jackson.

Derived from the popular brand of McDonald’s Corporation, which is also well-known for providing community service, the theme JMAC: Joint Mission in Assisting the Community... We’re Loving It,” JMAC’s goal is to make JMAC synonymous with service throughout its service communities of Jackson, Rankin County and Tougaloo.

Teamed up to make a difference in the local community, the members of JMAC provided community service from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. to the following organizations: Ronald McDonald House, Operation Shoestring Galloway, The Salvation Army, Project Hope Lodge, Methodist Children’s Home, Magnolia Nursing Home, Reading Rainbow, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Fire Department, Jackson Public Schools, Boys and Girls Club.

Members of JMAC also served the homeless community.

JMAC members engaged in activities that ranged from light cleaning at Ronald McDonald House to playing Twister with the children at the Boys and Girls Club.

The day ended with a sister-

hood retreat that included a delicious lunch and the subcommittees sharing the morning’s service experiences.

“Our traditional chapter retreats have focused more on sisterhood, planning and internal development of our members,” said Chapter President Denise Griffin-Whittington. “This year we made a decision to spend the morning with a concentrated focus on service to our communities, before convening in the afternoon for fellowship,” she added. “Social action is at the forefront of everything we do.”

For more information on “JMAC: Joint Mission in Assisting the Community... We’re Loving It,” contact Nakisha Davis, [nakishad23@yahoo.com](mailto:nakishad23@yahoo.com), 601 345-0823, or Liz Terry, [eterry04@gmail.com](mailto:eterry04@gmail.com), 601 291 2971.



JMAC performed light cleaning at Ronald McDonald House



JMAC soror arranging pantry at Salvation Army



JMAC president makes presentation to Hope Lodge



Members of JMAC at Salvation Army



JMAC and firefighters – Fire Station No. 10



JMAC members who served the Boys & Girls Club



JMAC prepare for retreat after Day of Service activities



JMAC members who served at Hope Lodge



Nakisha Davis, membership services chair, getting members fired up for the retreat



We're Loving It food box



Sorors of JMAC serving Hope Lodge

# Trustmark launches Financial Scholars Program at Tougaloo College

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Trustmark visited Tougaloo College Friday to launch the Trustmark Financial Scholars Program. In attendance were students, faculty and local Trustmark representatives.

The Trustmark Financial Scholars Program features an interactive, new-media learning platform specifically designed to introduce financial literacy skills and build financial capacity necessary to assist students as they navigate through adulthood. Tougaloo College has been selected by Trustmark as the first college to receive the program.

“Trustmark’s mission is to improve the financial well-being of the communities that we serve, and this new financial education initiative is a key piece of Trustmark’s larger commitment to the Tougaloo family,” said Trustmark Regional President John Wise. “At Trustmark, we believe it is important for young people to learn the fundamentals of money management early in life. This online program provides students with the knowledge, skills and competencies to apply toward their future financial decisions.”

Students will become knowledgeable in numerous topics in financial education. The course offers programming aimed at teaching, assessing and certifying students in a variety of financial topics including credit scores, insurance, credit cards, student loans, mortgages, taxes,



Students, faculty and local Trustmark representatives at the launching of the Trustmark Financial Scholars Program on the Tougaloo College campus

stocks, savings, 401k’s and other critical concepts that map to national financial literacy standards.

Students can access the Trustmark Financial Scholars Program anywhere with internet access, including their

phone, iPad, laptop or desktop computer.

“Knowing the basics of personal banking, as well as the larger financial world, is a key step to creating lifelong learners who are responsible members of society,” said

Trustmark Jackson Market President Bernard Bridges. “If we can better educate the students of today, then they will become the financially responsible citizens of tomorrow.”

#### About Trustmark

Trustmark Corporation is

a diversified financial services company headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, with more than 200 locations in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. Trustmark provides banking, wealth management and insur-

ance solutions through its subsidiaries, including Trustmark National Bank, Trustmark Investment Advisors, Inc. and Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance, Inc.

Visit [trustmark.com](http://trustmark.com) for more information.

HINDS COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCE AGENCY

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL


AWARDS & RECOGNITION

GALA

2019

Friday, September 20, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.

JACKSON MARRIOTT HOTEL



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
DERRICK JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, NAACP

At Hinds County Human Resource Agency, our goal is to help families and strengthen communities.


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

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

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

Our programs and services would not be available without the invaluable support of our community and corporate partners.

To make a donation or for more information on tickets, ads, and sponsorship, call 601.923.1838.



Helping Families.  
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258 Maddox Road | Jackson, MS 39212 | [www.hchra.org](http://www.hchra.org)

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Terry High School Army JROTC

finish 3rd in Florence Athletic Meet

Recently the Terry High School Army JROTC cadets won 3rd place overall in the 5 Cadet Male and Female competitions at Florence High School. They competed in 5 events that demonstrated teamwork, endurance and strength.



Raymond High School Air Force

JROTC highlights

This past summer, the Raymond High School Air Force JROTC Cadets participated in leadership courses, flight training and summer training.

