

Key witness in Amber Guyger’s murder trial shot to death

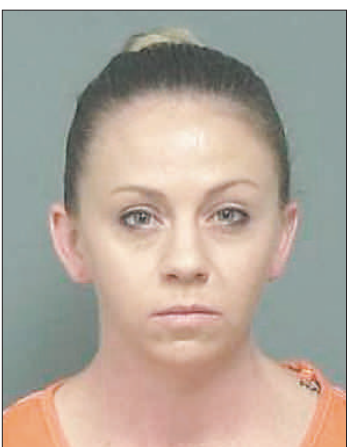
Joshua Brown feared his testimony could lead to his murder, Elected officials demand police find his killer or killers



Brown offering eyewitness account during Guyer’s trial.

By Frederick H. Lowe
TriceEdneyWire.com

Botham Jean’s neighbor who testified courageously and tearfully as a prosecution witness in the murder trial of former Dallas cop Amber Guyger, was found shot dead Friday night in Dallas. Joshua Brown, who lived across the hall from Jean, died of multiple gunshot wounds, Lee Merritt, an attorney for the Jean family, wrote in a statement posted on Facebook. Brown feared that someone would murder him because of his testimony that led a 12-person jury to find Guyger guilty of the September 6, 2018 murder of Jean inside his fourth-floor apartment in the South Side



Guyger

Flats apartments.

Brown, 28, testified that he was down the hall from the apartment when he heard the voices



Jean

of two people who sounded like they were meeting by “surprise” The gunshots followed “right after,” he said.

Looking through his apartment door’s peep hole, he could see Guyger walking, back and forth, while talking on the phone. Moments earlier, Guyger was on her phone telling an unnamed person she went to the wrong apartment.

Guyger claimed she walked in Jean’s apartment by mistake, thinking it was hers. She saw Jean and immediately assumed he was a burglar.

Guyger fired two shots at the unarmed Jean, hitting him in the chest and heart. She said she fired because he failed to obey her commands. Jean died from a wound to his heart at Baylor

Brown
Continued on page 3

What Matters 2020 – Issues that impact minority communities



BLM co-founder Patrisse Cullors (standing) announcing new “What Matters 2020” initiative while in Houston for the Democratic Party debate.

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Every vote counts and elections have consequences!

The 2020 presidential elections will definitely have consequences and it will be important that every vote is counted and accounted for.

Everyone and everything in this country is impacted by someone in a position of political leadership who shapes public policy and who makes decisions regarding the very legislation that we must all adhere to, in one way or another. This includes city councilmembers, mayors, governors, judges, county, state and federal representatives and even our President.

Knowing how important it is to vote is one thing but getting engaged in the process is an entirely different thing altogether.

One group that has made a major impact in this country and that has done a great job of engaging and energizing people of color relative to getting involved in social issues and politics has been the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Global Network.

Founded in 2013 by Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s murderer, George Zimmerman, what started as a hashtag, has now grown into a global chapter-based, member-led organization in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada. The organization’s mission has been to mobilize determined activists who are committed to fighting anti-black racism and discriminatory reforms worldwide.

Minority Communities
Continued on page 3

Willie Simmons receives high praise and endorsements for Transportation Commissioner

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

A press conference was held October 7 on the steps of the Hinds County Courthouse on behalf of Senator Willie Simmons, candidate for Transportation Commissioner of the Central District of Mississippi.

Simmons was surrounded by individuals who declared their support of his candidacy. Mary Coleman, former U.S. District 65 House of Representative, served as moderator.

Speaking on Simmons’ behalf were Senator John Horhn, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and State Representative of Holmes County Bryant Clark.

Horn said, “The sleeping giant is awake now; you can tell the others you cannot keep ignoring us because we are going to elect someone who hears our voices and addresses our needs. We are go-

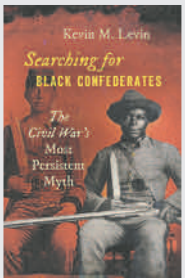
Simmons
Continued on page 3



Simmons speaking



Espy speaking





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Simmons

Continued from page 1

- Racial Injustice
- Police Brutality
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Black Immigration Environmental Conditions
- Voting Rights & Suppression
- Economic Injustice
- Healthcare
- Education

Jeffrey Boney is a political analyst and frequent contributor for the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com and the associate editor for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey is an award-winning journalist, dynamic, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur and business development strategist. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

Simmons has represented Senate District 13 for 27 years where he advocated for affordable quality healthcare, quality education, equal rights and better job opportunities for all Mississippians. He thanked God, his family, his supporters and those who went to the polls and voted for him and encouraged all citizens of the Central District to vote for him in the upcoming election.


Clark said, "For so long the transportation needs for our people have been neglected and we now have a candidate in this race that will represent all 22 counties so that the poor and impoverished areas will not be neglected."

Continued from page 1

Witnesses said a silver four-door sedan was seen speeding away from the murder. Police don't have a motive or suspects. An ambulance rushed Brown to Parkland Memorial Hospital where he died. Brown was not carrying any identification. Police could not immediately

Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Congressman Al Green and two 2020 presidential candidates demanded authorities find Brown's murderer.

DISPARITY STUDY COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Jackson Municipal Airport Authority

BBC Research & Consulting (BBC) and Exstare Federal Services Group (Exstare) are conducting a disparity study for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA). The study will assess whether any barriers exist for minority- and woman-owned businesses that make it more difficult for them to participate in JMAA's contracting and procurement opportunities.

We invite **business owners, trade association representatives, and community stakeholders** to attend one or both community meetings to:

- Learn more about the study
- Ask questions of the project team
- Provide testimony about your experiences

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th

<p>10:00 am – 12:00 pm Beverages will be served</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JAA Airport 100 International Drive Jackson, MS 39208 Community Room</p>	<p>5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Light meal at 5:30 pm; meeting begins at 6:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hawkins Field Airport 558 W Kamp Street Jackson, MS 39201 Community Room</p>
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Free, validated parking will be provided for both meetings.

If you are unable to attend a community meeting, you may submit testimony about your experiences or questions to the project team at: JMAAdisparitystudy@bbcresearch.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

<p>Sharon Carter DBE Program Manager, JMAA scarter@jmaa.com 601-664-3530</p>	<p>Iris McClish Director, BBC imcclish@bbcresearch.com 303-321-2547</p>
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10th Annual Purple 4 Peace Luncheon

Jackson Convention Center • October 3, 2019 • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Heart health starts here.



Meet Victor D. Sutton, Ph.D., "head coach" at the Jackson Heart Study Community Engagement Center, where evidence-based programs and promoting health policies are a team effort. By mobilizing forces to reach people on every front, the CEC can help prevent and control chronic diseases and score winning outcomes in the African-American community.

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This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHSN268201800015.



HCCHS Jaguar All-Stars announced

Mississippi Link Newswire

Congratulations to Montra Edwards for making history as the first football player in Holmes County Central High School history chosen for the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star Football Game. Montra Edwards was also named to the *Clarion Ledger's* 2019 Dandy Dozen.

Congratulations as well to John Mitchell, Jedrus Watts and Justin Smith who were chosen as Bernard Blackwell North-South All-Stars. Smith was honored in September as the Wendy's Player of the Week



Montra Edwards, John Mitchell, Jedrus Watts, Justin Smith

and featured on the Friday Night Under the Lights show. Head coach Marcus Rogers

was chosen as the offensive coordinator for the North-South Game.



HCCHS head coach Marcus Rogers

The Mississippi-Alabama Game is December 14 at the University of Southern Mis-

issippi in Hattiesburg and the Bernard Blackwell North-South All-Stars Game is De-

cember 21 at Gulfport High School, 100 Perry St. Gulfport, MS.



Bernard Blackwell North-South All-Stars coaching staff

All 3000 students attend Academic Learning Day at the State Fair

Mississippi Link Newswire

Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) will make history again by taking all of its students and nearly 500 chaperones to the 160th Mississippi State Fair Friday, October 11. All students and staff will enjoy learning while having fun during a special four-hour window from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for students of HCCSD.

Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson said, "The purpose of this Academic Learning Day is to expand students' learning, thus enriching a well-rounded curriculum. Many of our students have not been introduced to sensory activities which strengthen observation skills and increase their knowledge in various subject areas. Moreover, this experience will expand their awareness of their own communities."

Prior to the field trip, Holmes

County students have studied concepts as varied as the physics involved in roller coaster design, animal science, statistics and problem-solving. While at the fair, they will have the opportunity to see their lessons in real-world applications. Following the trip, students will write about the experience while mastering one of the state writing standards.

State fairs were originally held to promote state agriculture and livestock. In the 20th century they expanded to include carnival rides, games and live music entertainment. This year's fair will include an 8,000 square foot ice rink with rental skates available. Over 1,000 Mississippi students will show their livestock and a Children's Barnyard and Petting Zoo will have more animals to view and interact with in close proximity.

The Trade Mart, at one end of the .6 mile midway, will

have demonstrations from local vendors including beekeepers, arts and crafts, activities for children, food preservation and items for sale.

Purple t-shirts will be worn by all students and staff to make HCCSD's presence visible. Sixty school buses will transport the students and staff and school picnic lunches will be served. The statewide field trip includes free admission for teachers and discounted unlimited rides for students. School bus parking is free and field trip chaperones are afforded a discounted unlimited ride wristband, as well. A mobile app and multiple social media sites make it easy to get information about all aspects of the fair.

For more information and/or media coverage, email Deborah Antoine, Media & Public Relations, at dantoine@holmesccsd.org or call 662-854-3447.

HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACADEMIC LEARNING DAY
AT THE STATE FAIR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11



Need all permission slips returned by students registered to go

Purple t-shirts for all students and employees

Nearly 500 chaperones supervising students

60 buses transporting students

9:00 am - 1 pm
Four hours of learning and fun for students and chaperones

Wristbands and lunches for all students and employees

Adult-Student Supervision Ratios

Pre-K	1 adult to 5 students
KDG-1st grade	1 adult to 6 students
2nd grade	1 adult to 8 students
3rd - 12th	1 adult to 10 students

Students will complete interdisciplinary curriculum lessons that connect classroom learning to real world experiences prior to the trip. After the field trip, all students will describe the experience by responding to a writing prompt to address the tested writing standard.

Parents are welcome to attend the Fair for \$5. Parents may drive their vehicle (\$5 parking).

JAMES L. HENDERSON, ED.D

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JPS partnership with Stewpot provides resources to homeless community

Superintendent Errick L. Greene shares his personal experience with family displacement

Mississippi Link Newswire

According to data released by the Department of Justice, more than 1.7 million teenagers experience homelessness within the United States each year. Between 2008 and 2014, homelessness in America’s public schools increased by 90%, jumping from 680,000 to more than 1.3 million students. The McKinney-Vento Program is an academic program for students enrolled in Jackson Public Schools who have been identified as homeless; typically those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Its purpose is to provide homeless

children with the academic opportunities to achieve the same standards expected of all students, regardless of where they attend school. Over 1,800, or 13%, of JPS students were reported to be homeless during the 2018-2019 school year. The McKinney-Vento Program, previously served by a part-time worker, is now led by a full-time administrator, Dr. Faith Strong. It has been moved from the Enochs facility and is now located at the Enrollment Services and Records building, formally Poin-dexter Elementary School. The relocation is designed to make it more efficient for displaced families and students to register and receive supplies, reading books, uniforms and personal hygiene kits. Through a partnership with Stewpot, a nonprofit organization offering services to Jackson’s homeless population, JPS has been able to assist with the needs of families experiencing hardships. Each school year, Stewpot provides an afterschool enrichment program for JPS scholars that offers assistance with homework, tutoring and recreational activities. The equity toward the education of homeless children is close to the heart of Greene.

He shared a personal experience recently at a luncheon for Stewpot. “While in high school, my family was displaced from our home,” said Greene. “I know all too well how difficult it can be for a scholar to not have a stable home and the effect it has on his or her ability to learn. We stand with all of our partners around the city and state who have pledged to provide the necessary resources to support our Jackson community.” Stewpot also offers summer camps, computer and science lessons, summer reading and art classes.



Greene

19 JPS teachers awarded scholarships to pursue National Board Certification

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Professional Educators and the Mississippi Department of Education have partnered, with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, to support 250 Mississippi practitioners in pursuing National Board Certification. This project focuses on National Board candidates in the following four districts: Jackson Public Schools, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, and Sunflower County. Nineteen practitioners from Jackson Public Schools received scholarships and support in Year 1 of this project. They are: Carl Boschert, Michell Brown, Kierra Garner, Precious Haynes, Londra Hunter, Dawn Husbands, LaTisha Jackson, Kanitra King, Kimberly Lovato, Louise McCoy, Shanita McDonald, Renna Moore, Elizabeth Nichols, Marilyn Sawyer, Keilandra Scruggs, Gabriel Stapleton, Tranita Taylor, Allison Warnsley, and Shimacha Williams.



Renna Moore, an art teacher at Forest Hill High School, is one of 19 JPS teachers awarded a scholarship to complete National Board certification.

Awardees each receive a \$475 scholarship towards their initial component of certification, as well as reimbursement of the \$75 registration fee to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and up to \$100 for mentoring support at a World Class Teaching Program. This scholarship will provide seed money for recipients to begin their National Board journey. Scholarship recipients will use the state’s reimbursement of their initial component to pay for subsequent components.

Bond work completed at Green Elementary and Jim Hill High

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools has recently completed the construction of a new parking lot at Green Elementary School and parking lot improvements at Jim Hill High School as part of the 2018 JPS Bond Construction Program. The parking lot work completed at Green Elementary involved converting an unused basketball court to a 27-space parking lot. The work at Jim Hill involved repairing potholes in areas with significant damage. Phase II of parking lot improvements at Jim Hill will be completed Summer 2020. Both projects were completed by R & L Unlimited, Inc. in August 2019.



Bond Oversight Meetings

Mississippi Link Newswire

The next Bond Oversight meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, October 22, in the School Board meeting room located at 621 S. State Street. Bond Oversight meetings are open to the public. **Bond Oversight Committee** Committee members were appointed by the JPS Board to track and report Bond progress. Akilah Irvin, Ward 1; H. Ann C. Jones, Ward 2; Sandra McCall, Ward 3; Erica Fell, Ward 4; Kass Welchlin, Ward 5; Ercilla Dometz-Hendrix, Ward 6; Mitch McGuffey, Ward 7.

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CHS student earns U.S. citizenship



Clinton High School senior Tiffany Thu Nguyen recently earned U.S. Citizenship. A naturalization ceremony was held Sept. 17 in Jackson.



CHS senior Tiffany Thu Nguyen (center) recently earned U.S. Citizenship. Pictured with Tiffany are school counselor Katelon Adcock and Assistant Principal Brock Ratcliff.



CHS senior Tiffany Thu Nguyen (right) credits her English language teacher Julie Roberts for helping her become proficient in English.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Tiffany Thu Nguyen thought the U.S. Citizenship test would be difficult, so she was well prepared.

“It’s hard if English is your second language,” she said. “It wasn’t easy but I learned it. And I tried really hard and learned about the culture and how to be a good citizen.”

Tiffany, a native of Vietnam, realized her dream and became

a United States citizen Sept. 17.

“Mrs. Roberts helped me learn English,” she said, of Clinton High School ESL teacher Julie Roberts. “School provided us a lot of opportunities to learn grammar and things like U.S. History.”

In the Clinton Public School District there are approximately 250 students learning English, and 26 different home languages are spoken. CP

SD offers ESL services at all grade levels.

In the spring of 2019, 31 students scored proficient on the LAS Links state test, earning proficiency in the English language.

“Clinton is a very diverse community,” said Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. “Our schools do a great job working with students from other countries, both with

learning English and making sure they’re included in the school culture.”

Tiffany is a senior this year at CHS. When she returned to school after the naturalization ceremony, her classmates surprised her with a party to celebrate.

“I didn’t know they would do that,” she said. “It was really fun and emotional.”

Roberts praised Tiffany’s

hard work and determination.

“She did a lot of the English on her own,” Roberts said. “She worked so hard to achieve this.”

“I was absolutely thrilled when Tiffany told me that she had taken her citizenship test and passed,” said CHS teacher Nancy Dent. “I think I did the squealing and hugging that day. I have tried to let her know she is important to me and how

very proud I am that she has taken this step to become an American.”

Dent said Tiffany is “a joy to teach.”

“She is a great student who despite some language barriers has managed to thrive and excel,” she said. “I love that I have the opportunity to get to know her and her culture. It’s one of the many delights of teaching international students.”

AIM program at CHS helps ELL students



Clinton High School baseball coach Trave Hopkins recently visited Julie Roberts’ English Language class to teach students about baseball. They taught him how to say “what’s up” in each of their home languages.



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Imagine being a child whose family has moved to a new country.

You don’t speak the language. You aren’t familiar with the culture. Everything is new and different.

At Clinton High School, there

is a group of students who volunteer to mentor and assist English Language Learners with the transition to a new environment. The Arrow Intercultural Mentors – or AIM – program provides a student-based support system for students whose native language is not English.

“AIM students assist English Language students with everyday tasks like navigating the building, following daily procedures, getting a lunch and getting on the correct bus home,” said CHS Principal Brett Robinson.

AIM volunteers even help

with English language-based instruction.

“Many of our AIM students are former ELL students who have exited the program by scoring proficient in reading, writing and speaking,” he said. “These students in particular are paired with students who

speak the same native language and they serve as translators when necessary.”

The AIM program at CHS is led by Spanish and ELL teacher Julie Roberts and counselor Katelon Adcock.

“These kids are awesome,” Roberts said. “I couldn’t make

it without them.”

She has three AIM volunteers working with her first block class and two more working with her second block class.

“There are another six students who are part of AIM who help as their schedules allow,” she said.

Hinds CC names Dumas 2019 homecoming queen

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Raymond Campus sophomore Aarionna Dumas, of Columbus, was crowned Hinds Community College Homecoming queen at the annual festivities on Oct. 3.

Dumas is a graduate of Columbus High School. A nursing major, she serves as vice president of I.D.E.A.L. Woman, is a member of the Hinds Cheerleaders and served as an orientation leader.

She was escorted by DeShawn Hackett, of Raymond. Hinds Community College President Clyde Muse crowned her.

The Homecoming Court included sophomore maids Ashley Deer of Jackson, representing the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, Raven Hayes of Byram, representing the Raymond Campus; Kanajah Brown, of Canton, representing the Rankin Campus,

Tatyanna Griffin, of Forest, representing the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center, Antwinette McCloud of Pearl, representing the Raymond Campus, Arionna Hill of Vicksburg, representing the Vicksburg-Warren Campus.

The freshman maids were Kenitra Promise of Vicksburg, representing the Vicksburg-Warren Campus; Tiara Johnson of Utica, Brianna Shaw, of Grenada, and Nyla Ross-Griffin, of Chicago, all representing the Raymond Campus; Angeliya McDonald of Byram, representing the Rankin Campus; Ge’Khilyah Ray of Yazoo City, representing the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center; Camille Berry of Canton, representing the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center.



Hinds Community College Homecoming Queen Aarionna Dumas and her escort, DeShawn Hackett, left, react as her name is called as queen during halftime of Hinds’ Oct. 3 game against Coahoma Community College. HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/TAMMI BOWLES



Dumas

www.mississippilink.com

DRA announces \$1.6 million investment into Mississippi communities

DRA’s investment will strengthen public infrastructure, industrial expansions to support economic development in communities across Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) made a \$1,630,201 investment to support public infrastructure and business development to grow the region’s economy and create jobs, DRA Federal Co-Chairman Chris Caldwell and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant announced.

Eight new investments will provide funding for projects supporting water and sewer systems, access road improvements and workforce readiness in communities across Mississippi through DRA and other public and private resources.

“DRA’s mission is to support economic development by making investments into the physical infrastructure and human capital of the Delta region,” said Caldwell. “Not only will these investments improve water and sewer services for Mississippi residents, they will also provide more economic opportunities for workers and job seekers and improve quality of life.”

Funding for these projects is provided by the States’ Economic Development Assistance Program, DRA’s flagship grant program that makes strategic investments into projects supporting basic public infrastructure, transportation improvements, workforce training and education and business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

DRA coordinates directly with the Office of the Governor for the State of Mississippi and nine local development districts in the state for program funding implementation.

Mississippi: 2019 Investment Snapshot

State	# of Projects	DRA Investment	Total Investment	Jobs Created/Retained	Individuals Trained	Families Affected
MS	8	\$1,630,201	\$4,689,031	132	350	16

“Through DRA and other public and private resources, these investments will provide much needed funding for various projects in communities across Mississippi,” said Bryant. This funding will go a long way to making sure that Mississippi remains competitive in a changing economic landscape and will give a foothold to job seekers in these regions. This is great news for the people and communities in our state.”

Mississippi’s congressional delegation issued the following statements:

“Regular investments in public infrastructure are required to support Mississippi’s growing economy,” said Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS). “The Delta Regional Authority is an Important partner for Mississippi communities as we work to improve quality of life for our residents.”

“I appreciate that a wide range of communities will be able to use these Delta Regional Authority SEDAP grants for infrastructure improvement and workforce development projects that can help them to strengthen local economies and support job growth,” said U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.).

“I am appreciative of Delta Regional

Authority’s commitment to invest in our communities,” said Congressman Bennie Thompson (D - 2nd District). “Investments like these are important and a necessity to the Delta Region and rural communities in Mississippi.”

“I applaud DRA’s dedication to improving Mississippi’s communities,” said Congressman Michael Guest (R – 3rd District). “The DRA helps our state promote prosperity and a higher quality of life for Mississippians. By improving our infrastructure and workforce readiness, these grants will help many Mississippians development the capacity to provide for their families and communities.”

Mississippi Investment Projects

Sunflower County Access Road Improvements | Indianola, MS: Sunflower County will use DRA funds to make improvements to an access road to support the facility expansion of Delta Protein International, a manufacturing company specializing in the production and marketing of high-quality collagen hydrolysates. This investment is projected to create 10 new jobs and retain 20. DRA Investment: \$332,945

Hollandale Access Road Enhancement | Hollandale, MS: The City of

Hollandale will use DRA funds to repair and improve the access road to the Bayer Crop Science facility to allow for increased production and to reduce traffic for local residents. This investment is projected to create six new jobs and retain 46. DRA Investment: \$306,512

Quitman County Workforce Development Center | Marks, MS: Quitman County will use DRA funds to rehabilitate a county-owned building to support a collaboration between Northwest Mississippi Community College, Coahoma Community College and The Marks Project to provide industry-driven workforce training to local residents. This investment is projected to train 50 individuals for in-demand careers. DRA Investment: \$231,250

Moorhead Sewer System Extension | Moorhead, MS: The City of Moorhead will use DRA funds to extend the municipal sewer system to service an annexed area of the city and spur more commercial development in the region. This investment is projected to impact three individuals who will benefit from improved water and sewer services. DRA Investment: \$206,274

Brandon Industrial Site Develop-

ment | Brandon, MS: Rankin First Economic Development Authority will use DRA funds to rough grade 200,000 square feet of land at the East Metro Center Park to incentive additional industrial development for the region. DRA Investment: \$206,000; Total Project Investment: \$339,000

Jackson Workforce Readiness Initiative | Jackson, MS: Jobs for Mississippi Graduates will use DRA funds to implement its career readiness and dropout prevention program in high schools across Hinds, Madison and Yazoo Counties. This investment is projected to train 300 individuals for in-demand careers. DRA Investment: \$150,000; Total Project Investment: \$470,000

Taylorsville Sewer System Improvements | Taylorsville, MS: The Town of Taylorsville will use DRA funds to make improvements to a dilapidated sewer system which provides services to an underserved area. This investment is projected to impact 15 families who will benefit from improved water and sewer services. DRA Investment: \$110,050; Total Project Investment: \$130,050

Panola County Industrial Facility Improvements | Batesville, MS: Panola County will use DRA funds to rehabilitate an existing industrial building in Sardis, Mississippi by providing enhanced ventilation to extend the life of the facility for private sector occupancy. This investment is projected to create 50 new jobs. DRA Investment: \$87,170; Total Project Investment: \$2,673,000

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

FEMA Individual Assistance is available in eight Mississippi counties

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Intended to meet basic needs and help survivors get back on their feet, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Individual and Households Program (IHP) may provide financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households.

Mississippi residents in Clay, Humphreys, Issaquena, Lowndes, Monroe, Sharkey, Warren and Yazoo counties who were impacted by the storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding, designated as DR-4429-MS, may be eligible for benefits under the program.

Who should apply for federal disaster assistance?

Mississippi homeowners and renters in impacted counties who sustained damage to their homes, vehicles or personal property as a result of the storms and flooding.

Who Is Eligible to Receive Individual Assistance?

To be eligible for IHP grants, you must meet all the following requirements:

You suffered disaster-related losses in DR-4429-MS and were a resident of one of the eight designated counties at the time of the storms and flooding.

You have no insurance, or you are insured but your insurance is not enough to cover your losses.

You or someone who lives with you is a U.S. citizen, a non-citizen national or a qualified alien.

The affected home is your primary home. You can’t access it or it requires repairs because of disaster damage.

What assistance is available?

FEMA Individual Assistance Programs may include grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs for your primary residence, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses as well as medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other serious disaster-related expenses.

In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners and renters. Businesses are not eligible for Individual Assistance but may apply for SBA low-interest disaster loans.

Will FEMA rebuild my home the way it was?

No. Individual Assistance provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households who have uninsured and underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs. The program is not a substitute for insurance and cannot pay for all losses caused by a disaster. It is intended to meet basic needs and help you with your recovery. FEMA assistance is not intended to make you whole.

What if I have insurance?

Contact your insurance agent to file a claim. Even if you have insurance, apply to FEMA as soon as you can. FEMA cannot provide money to individuals or households for losses already covered by insurance. However, if you have applied to FEMA for assistance and:

Your insurance settlement is

delayed, FEMA may be able to assist while you are working it out with your insurance company.

Your insurance settlement is insufficient, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance to meet your unmet needs.

You have exhausted the Additional Living Expenses or Loss of Use provisions of your policy, FEMA may be able to help pay for temporary housing.

How Do I apply?

To start an application, visit DisasterAssistance.gov. If you have questions or prefer to apply by phone, you may call the FEMA at 800-621-3362 (TTY) 800-462-7585. The Helpline is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, seven days a week. Bilingual operators are available.

You can also register at a local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). Use the DRC Locator to find a center near you.

I have applied. What happens next?

Once registered, you may be asked to make an appointment with a FEMA housing inspector to assess the damage to your home.

You can check on the status of your application, add new information to your application (such as change of email, home address, phone number, if you have received an insurance settlement and are reporting it or you’ve discovered additional damages).

You can get answers to your questions by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800 462-7585).

PART 1

Profile in Education

Equity: Sharif El-Mekki

Leading with equity and justice

NNPA.com

This time last year, Sharif El-Mekki, former principal of Mastery Charter School’s Shoemaker campus in West Philadelphia, was welcoming the school’s nearly 900 students and staff back to school and back to “nation building.” It was a charge for students to do more than just get an education, but to lead and serve in their communities. And for teachers and school leaders to make sure students have what they need to do so.

This back to school season, El-Mekki is answering his own “nation building” call. In May, he announced that after 11 years as Shoemaker’s principal and 26 years of being inside schools as a teacher or administrator, he was devoting his full attention and time to launching Center for Black Educator Development to help address the urgent need to bring more black educators into Philadelphia’s classrooms and across the nation. “If I’m going to be serious about trying to change the lives of black educators and hence the lives of black children, then it just can’t be my night and weekend job,” he said.

El-Mekki can already count a few successes in this area. In 2014, he founded The Fellow-



El-Mekki

ship: Black Male Educators for Social Justice, an organization dedicated to recruiting, retaining, and developing Bback male teachers. It started as a small support group of fewer than 20 black men. They met over dinner to share stories, help each other solve problems, and to build a community. The group has grown exponentially over the years. It now hosts a number of meetings throughout the year for black educators (and those who supervise or support them) to learn from each other.

The hallmark event is the an-

nual convening, which last year drew over 1,000 participants to Philadelphia. The Fellowship’s big goal is to triple the number of black male educators in Philadelphia by 2025.

But the new center will have a heightened focus on professional development for black teachers (providing ongoing and direct mentoring support and coaching), pedagogy curated from the traditions of highly effective black teachers, pipelines to the classroom and policies that can support new and aspiring black teachers.

It will also provide cultur-

ally responsive training for educators. Considering that the vast majority of educators are white (e.g., 96% of Pennsylvania’s teachers), making sure all educators are culturally competent and responsive is an essential piece, El-Mekki said. “I’m always thinking that as we recruit/retain more black teachers, a huge intervention needs to be far more white teachers learning how to be anti-racists. That would impact black teachers’ retention numbers and likely change the experience of black children in schools so they would strongly consider becoming teachers. ... I believe nothing undermines the number of black teachers more than the school-based experiences of black students and teachers.”

El-Mekki is speaking from first-hand experience. Under his team’s leadership, Shoemaker transformed from one of the most violent schools in the Philadelphia school district to a place where black students say they feel supported, motivated, safe and culturally affirmed. “It’s just like the sense of community I get when I walk in these doors is just amazing. I feel like I won’t ever get that feeling anywhere else,” said one 10th grader. “It’s a safe house,” said another.

Eric Garner’s mother gives emotional testimony at Judiciary hearing

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Gwen Carr provided an emotional opening statement during the House Judiciary Committee’s oversight hearing on policing practices.

Carr, the mother of Eric Garner who died in New York from a police chokehold in 2014, recounted how police officers had approached her son outside of a grocery store on Staten Island.

Inexplicably, Officer Daniel Pantaleo wrestled Garner to the ground and used an illegal chokehold that eventually led to Garner’s death.

“Five years ago, my beloved son Eric was murdered by people who were supposed to serve and protect,” Carr told the bipartisan group of lawmakers.

“Eric cried out 11 times, ‘I can’t breathe.’ But those officers on the scene that day didn’t seem to care,” she said. “How come no one was held accountable?”

Carr said Garner’s death had devastated her family.

It also led to the fatal heart attack suffered by Garner’s sister, Erica, who died of a heart attack in 2017, Carr said.

“She died of a broken heart,” Carr said.

House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), told Carr that the criminal justice system failed her and her family.

“Shockinglly, the officer responsible for placing Mr. Garner in a departmentally-banned chokehold remained on the force for five years before finally being fired this past August,” Nadler said.

The chairman also asked that his colleagues in Congress look for measures that would prevent police officers from escaping punishment.



The mother of Eric Garner, the man who was killed after being put in a chokehold by police in 2014 in New York City, testified before the House Judiciary Committee on Sep. 19, 2019. “Violent police have no place in this society,” said Gwen Carr, Garner’s mother, who urged lawmakers to pass a bill that would prevent police from using chokeholds. The Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights and community advocates appeared before the committee. PHOTO: PBS NEWS HOUR / YOUTUBE

“There needs to be better information on the use of force and better proposals to end racial profiling and to restore trust between law enforcement and the community,” Nadler said.

The hearing focused on the role of the federal government in addressing concerns about illegal practices, enhancing accountability, and in developing 21st-century policing practices.

During the session, Rev. Al Sharpton joined Carr and others to call on Congress to pass legislation to set a federal standard for excessive use of force.

It included testimony from former professional tennis player James Blake; former federal law enforcement official Ron Davis; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Chief Vera Bumpers; and Phillip Atiba of the Center for Policing Equity.

“I should say from the onset that (the National Action Network – or NAN) has never been anti-police. We are, however, anti-police brutality,” Sharpton said.

“We know that most police of-

ficers are hardworking and law-abiding citizens who take the oath to serve and protect quite seriously. They put their lives on the line every day to keep us all safe, and we are grateful for their enormous service and sacrifice,” he said.

However, over the past two decades, there has been a growing, and disturbing trend of mostly unarmed black and brown young men who have been the victims of discriminatory police practices and these encounters with law enforcement have led to their untimely deaths, Sharpton told the committee.

These statistics should cause all great alarm, he said.

“There are too many victims to name. But we all know their stories. We’ve read about them in the newspaper and have seen them on the nightly news: Eric Garner, Michael Brown, LaQuan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Stephon Clark, and countless others,” Sharpton said.

“I’ve spent days and nights with grieving parents and family

members who wanted nothing more but justice for their loved one who was senselessly shot or choked to death by an officer. I’ve preached the funerals. You can feel the pain and heartache. And even in the despair, I made a promise to the victims’ families that I would push Congress to enact federal legislation to address fatal misconduct,” he said.

Sharpton added that the time to address the issue is now.

He said there’s a deep-seated mistrust of the police in many communities of color and solutions must be identified to find ways to rebuild trust.

“Quite simply, there is a need for greater oversight on the patterns and practices of law enforcement across the country,” Sharpton said.

“Without these checks and balances, we will continue to experience discrimination and egregious injustices at every stage of the criminal justice system, beginning with an individual’s first encounter with law enforcement officials, as we witnessed first-hand in New York with the death of Eric Garner five years ago,” he said.

“There is a need for police officers to undergo racial profiling and micro-aggression training so that they are better equipped to police in an increasingly diverse America.”

Excerpt:

“Five years ago, my beloved son Eric was murdered by people who were supposed to serve and protect,” Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner who died in New York from a police chokehold in 2014 told the bipartisan group of lawmakers. “Eric cried out 11 times, ‘I can’t breathe.’ But those officers on the scene that day didn’t seem to care,” she said. “How come no one was held accountable?”

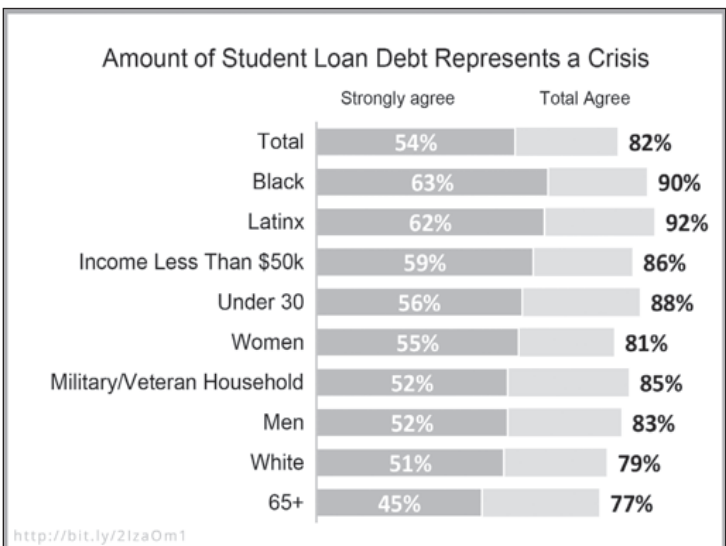
Poll of likely voters

shows rising student debt

problems: Weakened

borrower protections,

blocked debt relief cited



By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

When likely voters across the country were recently asked their opinions about student loan borrowing, 82% agreed that the still-growing \$1.5 trillion debt is a national crisis. Even when partisan affiliations were included, the solid concern for this unsustainable financial burden held strong: 74% of Republicans, 80% of independents, and 90% of Democrats.

When asked further about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)’s reduced efforts to protect students from abusive student loans and student loan services, those most concerned were blacks, Latinx (73%), consumers earning less than \$50,000 per year (72%). Additionally, voters in early Democratic Primary States agreed at 77%, as did both women and military or veterans’ households that polled 70% each.

Conducted by Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting, the poll was jointly commissioned by the Americans for Financial Reform (AFR) and Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). Its student loan results, released on October 2, found that recent actions by the Department of Education (DOE) and the CFPB both contributed to consumer concerns.

Higher penalty fees charged to struggling borrowers, making it harder for state and federal law enforcement agencies to pursue wrongdoing by state loan servicers and blocked debt relief for students who were defrauded by for-profit institutions were the top DOE criticisms cited in survey.

“[T]he Department of Education seems to be making it easier for for-profit colleges and servicers to take advantage of students,” said Debbie Goldstein, CRL executive vice president. “We need a Department of Education that holds for-profit institutions accountable for abusive practices and a CFPB with a division that protects borrowers from predatory student loan servicers.”

“Without proactive regulatory action and strong state laws,” continued Goldstein, “students of color will continue to carry larger debt burdens, exacerbating the racial wealth gap.”

“The student debt crisis in the United States deserves greater attention and voters know it,” noted Alexis Goldstein AFR senior policy counsel. “Borrowers need federal authorities as allies, not as apologists for the for-profit college industry.”

The disproportionate student debt burdens borne by black and Latino borrowers was the focus of a joint research re-

port by the NAACP, National Urban League, UNIDOS US, Leadership Conference Education Fund and CRL. Initially published this July, QUICKSAND: Borrowers of Color & the Student Debt Crisis, the report examined how unprecedented debt levels weigh heaviest on Black America.

Key findings from that report show that:

Today, over half of all families with black heads of household aged 25-40 have student debt.

Black bachelor’s degree graduates are unable to afford loan repayments at five times the rate of comparable white graduates. These black grads are also more likely to default than whites who never completed a degree.

Four years after graduation, nearly half of black graduates owe more on their undergraduate student loans than they did when they received their degree; by contrast, only 17% of white graduates face this same dilemma.

Similarly findings and concerns were found in a September student loan debt report entitled Stalling Dreams by Brandeis University’s Institute on Assets and Social Policy, a part of its Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Among its key findings:

Twenty years after starting school, the typical black borrower owed about \$17,500 more than their white peers;

The typical black student loan holder in their 30’s, has negative total wealth of \$10,700 compared to whites who are close to breaking even; and

About half of all black borrowers and a third of all Latinx borrowers wind up defaulting on their student loans within 20 years.

With researchers and consumers agreeing that student debt is at crisis levels, the larger question becomes: What – as a nation – are we prepared to do about it? And if so – when?

With 44 million people affected by student loan debt, this trillion-dollar issue should not be ignored but rather vigorously debated as part of the 2020 elections in the interest of our collective futures.

“We need a racial equity filter for solutions to reverse the consequences of our current privatized high education financing regime,” states Brandeis’ Stalling Dreams. “We need a return to strong public investment in higher education that acknowledges the societal benefit on an educated public.”

In other words, if you’re drowning in student debt, your education is working against you – instead of for you. It’s time for a new paradigm in American education.

Be submissive and keep growing

PART 3

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



In John 6:55-56 Christ said: “For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.” What was He talking about? He was not talking about eating His natural flesh. He was speaking figuratively, instructing us to eat His teachings.

As Christians, we eat and obey the teachings of Christ. Physically speaking, whatever you have eaten becomes a part of you. Likewise, you must eat the Word of God and let it become a part of you.

Man has tried to keep the Bi-

ble from people in past history. If they were to burn all the Bibles, they could not separate you from the Word of God. They cannot take away what you have eaten. They cannot take the Spirit of God away from you. They cannot take away what you have obeyed and disciplined yourself to do through the years. They cannot take away what your memory tells you about the Word of God. For that, I thank God.

Jesus said in Matthew 23:24, “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow

a camel.” They were doing the same that people do today. They took the part of the Word of God they wanted to take and the rest they left alone. You have to eat all the Word of God. If you only have partial respect for God’s commandments, you are out of the order of God.

Jesus told the Pharisees, “Woe unto you.” The word woe means that pain, suffering, and sorrow will come to you. Some people want to hold on to some parts of God’s Word and ignore other parts. I believe that saddens the heart of God.

Why is it that people do not want to live right? Even a child can point out wrong in an adult. If you treat a child wrong, you owe that child an apology. Some things are

weightier matters on God’s scale.

Friend, you cannot buy your way into Heaven. Jesus told the disciples not to blow the trumpet when they did something good. He instructed them to do it in secret, and their Father who sees in secret would reward them openly.

The Psalmist David said in Psalm 103:1-3, “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”

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.

PRESERVED

The trial – an old-fashioned lesson in forgiveness?

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



For the last few weeks, the eyes of the world have been focused on the Dallas Police Department. “She should go to jail!” “That hug was too much!” “I would not forgive period!” were some of the responses I heard and read on social media regarding the Amber Guyger murder trial. The world was shocked by the senseless death of 26-year-old accountant and praise and worship leader Botham Jean in 2018 by now convicted murderer Guyger.


But what was perhaps one of the most shocking things to come out of the trial was the “hug” that Brandt Jean, Botham’s younger brother, gave to Guyger on the day of her sentencing. What was a gesture designed to free him from the bondage of unforgiveness and bitterness, became part of the larger conversation about police relations with the African-American community as well as the often-unrealistic expectation that African Americans be gracious in forgiving the unforgivable.

listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Does this apply to the situation with Jean and Guyger? I’m not sure because like so many of you, I’m still trying to process all that happened during the controversial trial.

I believe that it could also be an old-fashioned lesson in forgiveness. Looking at it through spiritual eyes, I can see it as a lesson about the difficult position of forgiving even if you don’t think they deserve it. It’s true that the murder of a loved one is a potentially unforgiveable offense. However, the Jean family provided a complicated example of the power of forgiveness and the grace that God gives us during the most emotionally and spiritually challenging situations. Now with the murder of Joshua Brown, one of trial’s star witnesses, the end of the trial leaves many with more questions than answers.

As Christians, solutions are found in God’s word even if we can’t find the strength or grace to follow them. If you look at Matthew 18:15, we get a fairly clear idea of what we should do: show compassion and grace because the goal is for the offender to see their fault and change so they can grow in their own spiritual walk.

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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No end to corruption

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Each day I get up thinking things with our government can’t get any worse. Despite my hope for a better day, things do get worse. All too often another Trump official seems to be coming under fire for some bad act such as allegations of peddling influence, ignoring the bad acts of members of the President’s staff and/or associates, some new allegation about President Trump or his family and on and on.

How could one man have so much smoke around him without there being fire somewhere? One has to wonder what dirt Trump has on some of these people that allows them to either seal their lips or outright defend his apparent corrupt behavior. In nearly three years of his selection, and I say selection because no rational person could believe a majority of the American people would elect someone so unqualified to follow in the footsteps of President Barack Obama who had the right credentials, right temperament, right family, right values to be president.

The tragedy of what’s happening with our government is that Trump seems convinced that he’s the smartest man in the world. He believes he’s doing a great job. No matter how many crooked things he does, he believes everybody else is the crook. The other day I heard someone say, “When you work for a crook (and stay) you, too, become a crook.”

At one time Rachel Maddow on MSNBC was keeping a board that listed all who exited the Trump Administration either by being asked to leave or volunteering to leave after getting a taste of what was going on around the White House and various government agencies. The list has gotten so long that Maddow can’t seem to find space to place anymore names on the board.

A few months ago, those who judge truth from lies indicated that Trump had told over 10,000 serious lies. They’ve been coming so fast lately that no new numbers are being given. Many of us try to teach young people right from wrong, teach them to be truthful and teach them to be respectful. What can we tell them that makes sense about how this president gets away with so many violations of decency, of our Constitution, of diplomacy and of just plain old common sense?

We deserve to have leaders who play by the rules, and we’ve always been taught that ignorance of the law is no excuse for wrongdoing. When I look at the behavior of certain Members of Congress, I wonder how they sleep at night and what their own children think of them when they see their parents defending this president or remaining silent in the face of gross behavior. Some of them give such silly arguments and defenses in support of this man that it’s mind boggling. This man is bringing this country so far down that we may not be able to emerge from the depths to which he has taken us in our lifetime.

Normally, someone rises up to say, we shall not continue to allow this foolishness but where is that person who has the power to do so now? We deserve better than what we have running our government.

The 2020 election seems so far away to wait for a resolution. Impeachment alone is not good enough if Republicans in the Senate are not willing to show some courage to get our country back on the right track. Let us pray that all is not lost and that Republicans will have an awakening before too long. In the meantime, let us not sit still and wait. Let’s do something that makes a difference.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. She is also host of Wake up and Stay Woke on WPFW-FM 89.3.

Congress is duty-bound to investigate alarming reports of Trump’s misconduct

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



“Any attempt by a president to use the office of the presidency of the United States for personal political gain – rather than the national interest – fundamentally undermines our sovereignty, democracy, and the Constitution ... Misuse of the office of the presidency for such a corrupt purpose would thus represent a clear breach of the trust placed in the president to faithfully execute the laws of the United States and to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.” – Statement by Rep. Adam Schiff, chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Rep. Eliot L. Engel, chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Ever since Russian interference in American democracy was first

disclosed in September of 2016, the words of George Washington’s 1796 farewell address have been invoked many times:

“Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government.”

Credible allegations have been made that President Trump not only solicited a foreign government for election assistance, but also sought help in discrediting an U.S. intelligence finding about previous foreign interference and implicitly threatened to withhold military aid if his requests are not honored.

The gravity of these allegations cannot be overstated. Congress is duty-bound to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation to protect American democracy.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pe-

losi is correct when she says this is a sad time for our country. Regardless of where one falls along the political spectrum, no one should take any pleasure in the idea that the commander-in-chief could be abusing the power of his office for personal and political gain.

“Our tone must be prayerful, respectful, solemn, worthy of the Constitution,” Pelosi said.

Nor should the impeachment process be abused for political gain. It is a remedy for only the most egregious betrayals of the public trust. Only a fact-driven, evidence-based inquiry can determine whether that remedy is warranted.

The integrity of American elections is sacrosanct for African Americans, who have bled and died in defense of the right to vote. We at the National Urban League found reports that Russian interference specifically targeted African Americans so troubling that we devoted our 2019State of Black America ® report to an ex-

amination of the attacks.

What we found puts the egregiousness of Trump’s apparent efforts to absolve Russia into stark perspective. The greatest portion of Russia’s online disinformation effort was aimed at dissuading African Americans from voting. Russian trolls exploited the credibility of legitimate online movements like #BlackLivesMatter, posing as activists, and abusing that trust to tamp down black voter participation.

One Russian-created fake account, @WokeLuisa, garnered more than 50,000 followers and its posts were highlighted by dozens of prominent news outlets.

All patriotic Americans should be outraged. Our leaders should be doing everything within their power to protect the integrity of our elections and thwart foreign interference. If, instead, Trump is trying to deflect blame for this attack on democracy away from Russia, it is right to question where his loyalties lie.

Fannie Lou Hamer died of untreated breast cancer

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the proliferation of pink ribbons is about to start. Predatory capitalists will make breast cancer their cause, producing pink t-shirts, pocketbooks, everything. It’s a mixed blessing, this awareness, because too many will make this both a marketing and a profit-making opportunity, while others will wonder how they can use their health insurance to afford a mammogram. Health equity is a major issue, and there is a gap in health care and health access. It is especially sharp when we address the issue of breast cancer.

While black women get breast cancer at a lower rate than white women, we are 42 percent more likely to die from it. And young black women, those under 35, are twice as likely as white women to get breast cancer, and three times as likely to die from it. Black women are also three times as likely as white women to get triple-negative breast cancer, an especially aggressive form of breast cancer.

I am privileged to know Ricki Fairley, a triple-negative breast cancer survivor, and marketing maven who now holds a leadership role at the nation’s oldest and largest black women’s breast cancer network group. Sister’s Network, describes itself as a “survivorship organization” that provides support for black women who are diagnosed with breast cancer.

Fairley only recently joined the organization as its vice president for Strategic Partnerships and National Programs, and she is on a mission to raise awareness about breast cancer in the African-American community. Propelled by her own survivorship story, but also by the many women she has provided support for, she is passionate about the reasons that African-American women must be informed and engaged around breast cancer issues.



Fannie Lou Hamer CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Our civil rights icon, Fannie Lou Hamer, died of untreated breast cancer. She was just 59 when she made her transition, and one can only speculate about why this fearless leader had an untreated disease. Her untreated breast cancer was not the first collision she experienced with our racist health care system. At 44, she had surgery to remove a tumor, and the hospital also gave her a hysterectomy without her consent.

These unconsented sterilizations happened to lots of black women in southern states. It eroded the trust that many black women had in our health care system. Had Hamer noticed a lump, would she

be inclined to return to the health care system that had already oppressed her? Probably not.

Hamer was poor and vocally black in the south. Serena Williams is wealthy, black and an international superstar. Despite her privilege, Williams also experienced the differential way the health care system treats black women. Williams might have died giving birth to her daughter, Alexandra.

Because Williams was gracious enough to share her story, we are reminded that black women are all too often ignored or dismissed by health care providers. Racial bias in the medical field is not only real, but also life-threatening. Reference

Fannie Lou Hamer. Ask Serena Williams. Consider the thousands of black women that are being sidelined by a health care system that does not hear our voices.

What must we do to ensure that black women don’t carry the heavy burden of health disparities? We must be mindful and aware of the risks of breast cancer. We must talk about breast care with our sisters and our young ‘uns. We must engage in a policy conversation about the ways health insurance can support our breast health. Too often, health insurance covers some, but not all, of the cost of screening. We must engage our civic organizations in breast health education.

We must remember Hamer, who said she was “sick and tired of being sick and tired.” That means as tired as we are of being tired, we must also be committed to taking care of ourselves. Too many studies say that black women ignore self-care for the care of others.

Hamer was a leader and an icon. She was also a black woman who gave voice to her tiredness and the way it impacted her. In saying that she was “sick and tired of being sick and tired,” she challenged us all to be less sick, less tired and more self-aware. If we celebrate her, we must hear her.

The health care system is biased against black women, and we must take our health care in our own hands. Neither sick, nor tired, just empowered.

And during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month must be supportive of organizations like the Sister’s Network, an organization that provides opportunities and services for the black women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. We must do this in the name of Fannie Lou Hamer.

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

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The Mississippi Link

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Thinking about getting a flu shot? Now's the time

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



As summer becomes a faint memory for most of us, winter is just around the corner. This year's Farmer's Almanac has a sobering forecast for winter 2019-2020: "Get ready for shivers, snowflakes and slush. Big chills and strong storms will bring heavy rain and sleet, not to mention piles of snow."

What this means for us all is that we should start preparing for the cold and flu season.

Even though you can get a cold anytime of the year, they do seem to be more prevalent in the winter. While it is not possible to actually prevent getting a cold, the CDC says that you can reduce your risk by washing your hands often, not touching your face with unwashed hands, and staying away from people who are sick with a cold.

The flu (influenza) on the other hand is a different story. The CDC offers that the best strategy for preventing, or reducing, your risk of getting the flu is to get a flu vaccination.

Now comes the big controversy.

Few things in medicine and healthcare have generated more controversy, divisiveness, or outright fear, than the topic of vaccines...of any kind.

We all know of either from personal experience, or through the experience of family and friends, about the gut-wrenching decisions around whether or not to give a child his/her scheduled vaccinations. We know that childhood infectious diseases that once plagued us, have all been eradicated, until recently, where we saw a rise in measles and whooping coughs in areas of the country where parents were more aggressively exercising exemptions based on religious or philosophical beliefs.

The debate carries over into the HPV vaccine with its' defenders and critics. This vaccine was initially designed to prevent girls from ovarian cancer. However, after much public uproar, boys were included, since the virus that causes this cancer must be transmitted from boys to girls.

Enough about that, on to the flu, and the flu vaccine. Much of what I'll share with you in this column is designed to provide more complete, factual information in order for you to make an informed decision for yourself or your family.

Let's make sure we're all on the same page about what the flu is, and why it's a threat to your health.

The flu is a virus (not bacteria) that spreads mostly from person to person, and typically around the fall through spring months. There are various types, including Influenza A, B and C, as well as Swine and Avian Flu.

The type of flu varies by the specific protein that is a part of the "coat" that a virus wears. This gets real complicated by the fact that each year, the flu that is prepared to hit us differs from year to year.

So, how do we deal with

that? Well, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Influenza Surveillance Network coordinates with scientists from around the world and come up with a statistical guesstimate of the most probable flu virus to hit in the upcoming flu season. Voila, the vaccine is produced based on this process each year, since the virus change and evolve from year to year.

The flu virus for the season usually hits our part of the world in Fall and Winter, so the official flu season is generally from October through April.

Now, here's the stuff you need to know so that your decision about whether or not to get the flu vaccine is an informed decision, not one based on myths, fear or mistrust:

Since the season typically begins in October, and the vaccine takes 2-4 weeks to take effect once you get it, October is the time to do it, if you've decided to get one this year. The 2-4-week window before the vaccine starts to work is the reason people say, "I got the flu shot last year and got the flu any way." These folks were infected before the vaccine took effect.

For some of the real skeptics among us, let me be clear, getting the flu vaccine is not going to guarantee that you won't get the flu. In fact, the data from the CDC shows that on any given year, the flu vaccine is 40-60% effective in preventing the flu. I know that almost sounds like, 'Hey, Glenn, there's a 50/50 chance that I'll get the flu whether I get the vaccine or not.' I say, not so fast...there's more than your own health to think about.

Whether the vaccine matches the dominant strains of flu well or not so well, it's way better than nothing. Not only that, some of us work around or live with people with compromised immune systems, and us getting vaccinated helps to protect their delicate health condition. Also, even getting the flu after getting the vaccine results in a lesser severity of flu symptoms, and in many cases even a shorter duration of having the flu.

For the 2017-2018 flu season, the CDC estimated that more than 56,000 Americans would die. Officials later calculated that 79,000 had – which, the agency noted, is more people than usually fill a Super Bowl stadium. So getting the flu is truly a potentially deadly situation.

The flu vaccine lasts about six months, the approximate length of the flu season. Getting it during the month of October offers you the greatest protection.

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

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

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

Mississippians have new choice for health insurance in 2020

Molina Healthcare of Mississippi to enter the health insurance marketplace for the first time

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney announces that Molina Healthcare of Mississippi will be added as an option on the Health Insurance Marketplace (also known as Exchange) starting in 2020.

Molina Healthcare of Mississippi already serves Medicaid members through Mississippi-CAN and will begin covering minors through the state's Chil-

dren's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) November 1, 2019.

"The addition of CHIP and Marketplace plans is a good thing for families looking for insurance," said Chaney. "Up until now there has been only one provider in the Mississippi Marketplace. Increased competition and market share can only benefit consumers."

Molina will be offered in 19 counties including Desoto, For-

rest, Hinds, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lafayette, Lamar, Lee, Madison, Marshall, Panola, Pearl River, Pontotoc, Rankin, Tate, Union and Warren.

Molina's competitively priced Marketplace plans include free preventive care including screenings, family planning and preventive drugs, as well as easy access to a wide network of doctors and hospitals.

Molina Marketplace plans

also include telemedicine services that provide 24/7 access to quality doctors for the same low copay as a primary care visit.

The open enrollment period for Marketplace in Mississippi begins November 1 and runs through December 15 for a membership effective date of January 1, 2020.

Those interested in enrolling can visit ChooseMolina.com for more information.

Grant funding boosts HIV care access throughout Southeast

By Ruth Cummins
ricummins@umc.edu

Patients in the Jackson metro area need more than medical services to keep their HIV-positive status in check and their health the best it can be.

They need access to a clinic for things like the flu or an earache. They need counseling to help them remain free from the drug and alcohol addictions that often befall those who live with HIV, an infectious disease that, left untreated, is life threatening.

The 2,000-plus people living with HIV treated by the University of Mississippi Medical Center's infectious diseases team need a long-term support system that makes getting health care less of a struggle. That's especially true for the HIV-positive population, a group that might not have money for food or medicine, don't have reliable transportation, lack child care, or are unemployed or financially insecure.

The Medical Center is getting a boost to help improve its delivery of HIV services while addressing everyday challenges that can keep those living with HIV from seeing a provider. UMMC is one of three program grantees supported through HIV Care Connect, a \$7 million, five-year initiative established by the Merck Foundation to help reduce disparities in access to care and improve health outcomes for persons with HIV living in vulnerable and underserved Southeastern U.S. communities.

"In this day and age, a large number of people with HIV know that they are infected and know where they can get care, but they're not getting it," said Dr. Leandro Mena, professor and chair of the Department of Population Health Science in the John D. Bower School of Population Health.

"UMMC shares a significant responsibility to make sure that individuals living with HIV in Mississippi receive quality care," said Mena, an infectious diseases professor in the School of Medicine who also directs UMMC's Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education and Policy.

"Health is determined by biological, genetic, social, economic, environmental and place-based factors," said Dr. Bettina Beech, founding dean of the School of Population Health.

"The funding provided by Merck will help Dr. Mena and the Medical Center to address the full range of factors that impact health and health care and improve the health of Mississippians affected by HIV."

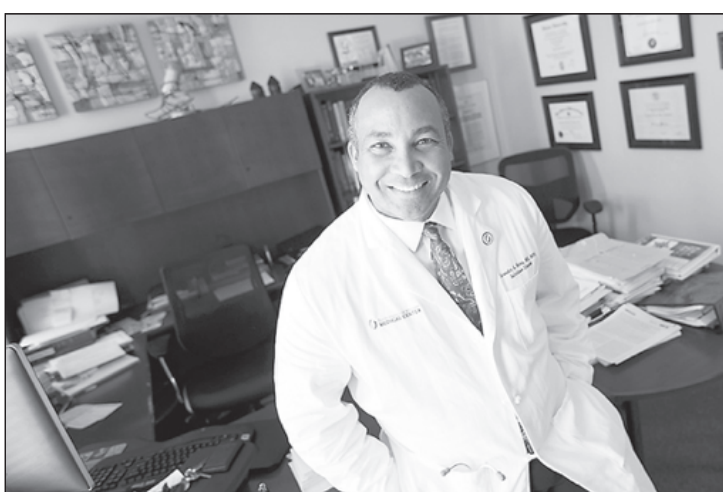
The Merck Foundation is providing funding to UMMC, Care



Jennifer Brumfield, a clinical research nurse, collects a blood sample for testing for HIV antibodies at UMMC's Express Personal Health Clinic.



Staff at UMMC's Express Personal Health Clinic collect samples, including blood and urine, from patients receiving free HIV testing.



Dr. Leandro Mena, professor of infectious diseases and chair of the Department of Population Health Science in the John D. Bower School of Population Health

Resource of Miami and Medical Advocacy and Outreach of Montgomery, Ala. The University of Alabama at Birmingham is serving as the national program office for HIV Care Connect, supporting efforts of the grantees and providing leadership in building a public-private partnership to help reduce HIV care disparities.

"We need to accelerate solutions that address the growing disparities in patients' access to HIV care and health outcomes, and focus on communities that are most affected," Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding, executive vice president and chief patient officer at Merck, said in a news release.

"Through HIV Care Connect, we are pleased to partner with the University of Mississippi Medi-

cal Center and help catalyze collaboration among organizations across the southeastern United States and improve care coordination among people most affected by HIV."

More than half of those newly diagnosed with HIV live in the South, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show. About three quarters of them are people of color. In Mississippi, there were 428 new HIV diagnoses in 2017, latest statistics show.

A large percentage of Mississippi's 10,000-plus residents living with HIV aren't getting regular care for their disease, let alone primary care. HIV stigma continues to play a role, with some patients feeling shame or fear, or

discomfort in going to an urgent care clinic or a health care facility in a small rural community.

"They may have had a bad prior experience with health care, and with that a lack of trust," Mena said.

There is no judgment by UMMC caregivers.

In addition to the adult special care clinic for HIV-positive patients, directed by Dr. James B. Brock, the Medical Center's Express Personal Health provides free HIV testing and same-day referrals to a HIV primary care provider for those testing positive. UMMC links HIV-negative patients with comprehensive services, including same-day access to PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis. It's a pill that people at risk of becoming HIV positive take daily to greatly reduce their chance of infection.

And HIV-positive patients coping with substance abuse diseases can enroll in the "Helping HAND" program at the HIV clinic, receiving services ranging from referrals to detox or inpatient rehabilitation to medication-assisted treatment and mental health care.

The HIV Care Connect grant will allow UMMC to create a central point in Jackson for care coordination with other organizations, including a centralized data system. UMMC will co-locate a new low-barrier access clinic within Express Personal Health "so that no one will be left behind," Mena said. "This will allow patients that have experienced difficulty engaging in care to receive individualized care so that they can be virally suppressed."

If a patient must miss work in order to get care, the clinic could give the patient a half-day of lost wages. "It's a financial incentive to mitigate the cost of being compliant," Mena said. "We know many of our patients are poor."

The clinic also could pay for transportation to appointments for those who don't have a ride. Food barriers will be broken down with vouchers for groceries and referrals to food pantries. "We want to sit down with patients and understand why they haven't been able to get care, and find out what it will take to get there," Mena said.

"We meet people where they are," Mena said. "Eighty-five percent of our HIV patients are virally suppressed, but another 15 percent aren't. This program will focus on that 15 percent, and the 40 percent in Mississippi who are not."

"This grant allows us the opportunity to provide a model of differentiated care and to mitigate the barriers."



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Advertisement for Electronic Bidding

Bid 3105 Boyd Elementary School - Exterior Window Replacement & Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) October 30, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for will be held at Boyd Elementary School, 4531 Broadmeadow St., Jackson, MS on October 17, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.eleyguildhardyprojects.com. Bid specs/documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228-594-2323 or Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

10/3/2019, 10/10/2019

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Advertisement for Electronic Bid

Bid 3102 Callaway High School Site Roof and Interior Improvements

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) November 11, 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Callaway High School Site Roofing and Interior Improvements will be held at Callaway High School, 601 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS on October 18, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.dalebaileyplans.com. A \$200.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Ginger Murphree at Dale Partners, Associates, Phone: 601-352-5411 or Email: GingerMurphree@dalepartners.com.

10/3/2019, 10/10/2019

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Advertisement for Electronic Bidding

Bid 3106 Lanier High School Exterior Window Restoration

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) November 08 2019, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for will be held at Lanier High School, 833 W. Maple St., Jackson, MS on October 24, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jbhmplans.com. Bid documents are available as paper prints or as digital copies on CD and must be purchased through the website. Cost of CD (.pdf Format) is \$50.00 per CD, non-refundable. Cost of paper prints will be listed on [HYPERLINK "http://www.jbhmplans.com"](http://www.jbhmplans.com) www.jbhmplans.com and will be non-refundable. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Kim Mathew at JBHM Architects, Phone: 601-352-2699 or Email: kmathew@jbhm.com.

10/10/2019, 10/17/2019

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Housing Inspector: The Mississippi Regional Housing Authority No. VI is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Housing Inspector. Some experience in building construction or maintenance or with property management is required. This position is responsible for performing inspections of housing units for compliance with Housing Quality Standards (HQS). Applicants should submit a letter of interest along with current resume to: Linda Durr, Human Resource Specialist, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority No. VI, P.O. Box 8746, Jackson, MS 39284-8746. Open until filled. EOE

10/10/2019

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MDB - Jackson, MS (Sales Tax Revenue Infrastructure Project 2019) (209172) - Intent Resolution

There came on for consideration the matter of providing financing for various capital improvements for the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and after a discussion of the subject matter, Councilperson Priester offered and moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO EITHER ISSUE SPECIAL SALES TAX REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OR ISSUE A SPECIAL OBLIGATION BOND OF THE CITY FOR SALE TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK OR ENTER INTO A LOAN WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK, ALL IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED FORTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$40,000,000) TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF (A) CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING AND PAVING ROADS AND STREETS; (B) REPAIRING, RECONSTRUCTING AND RESURFACING PROJECTS BASED ON TRAFFIC PATTERNS, NEED AND USAGE; (C) PAYING THE COSTS OF WATER, SEWER AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS; AND (D) FOR OTHER AUTHORIZED PURPOSES UNDER SECTIONS 27-65-241 ET SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME, AND SECTIONS 31-25-1 ET SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME, INCLUDING FUNDING CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF APPLICABLE AND PAYING THE COSTS OF ISSUANCE, DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "Governing Body"), acting for and on behalf of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City"), is authorized by Sections 27-65-241 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Municipal Special Sales Tax Law"), and Sections 31-25-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Bank Act" and together with the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law, the "Act"), and other applicable laws of the State of Mississippi (the "State"), to either issue special sales tax revenue bonds of the City pursuant to the Act in a total aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) (the "Bonds"), issue a special obligation bond of the City pursuant to the Act in a total aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) (the "City Bond"), or enter into a loan with the Mississippi Development Bank (the "Bank") pursuant to the Act to borrow money from the Bank in a total principal amount not to exceed Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) (the "Loan") to provide funding for (a) constructing, improving and paving roads and streets; (b) repairing, reconstructing and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage; (c) paying the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects; and (d) for other authorized purposes under the Act, including funding capitalized interest, if applicable, funding a debt service reserve fund, if applicable, and paying the costs of issuance (together (a) through (d) constitute, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3268 (2009 Regular Session) authorized, among other things, certain municipalities to impose a special sales tax of not more than one percent (1%) on the gross proceeds of sales or gross income of the business, as the case may be, derived from any of the activities taxed at the rate of seven percent (7%) or more under the Mississippi Sales Tax Law (the "Special Sales Tax"), which was codified as the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2839 (2011 Regular Session) amended the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law to provide that the revenue collected pursuant to the tax levy shall be used to pay the cost of road and street repair, reconstruction and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage, and to pay the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects; to provide that an election required by this section shall not be held after June 30, 2014; to reduce the amount of the special tax revenue that the Mississippi Department of Revenue (the "DOR") may retain to defray the costs incurred by the DOR in the collection of the special tax; to extend the date of repeal on this section until July 1, 2032, unless no election is held under this section prior to July 1, 2014, or, if an election is held prior to July 1, 2014, and the proposition fails, in which case this section is repealed from and after July 1, 2014; and for related purposes; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 787 (2014 Regular Session) amended the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law to provide that the Special Sales Tax shall apply to sales of tangible personal property or services sold in the municipality and shall not apply to wholesale sales of food and drink for human consumption sold to full service vending machine operators and wholesale sales of light wine, beer and alcoholic beverages; to authorize the governing authorities of any municipality that levies the special sales tax authorized under this section to incur debt for the purpose of paying the costs of road and street repair, reconstruction and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage, and to pay the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects authorized by this section; and to extend the repeal date on this section from July 1, 2032, to July 1, 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, on October 22, 2013, adopted a resolution declaring the intention of the governing authorities of the City to impose upon all persons as a privilege for engaging or continuing in business or doing business within the City a Special Sales Tax for the purpose of paying the cost of road and street repair, reconstruction and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage, and to pay the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects, and calling for a referendum to be held on the question; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, on October 22, 2013, adopted a resolution providing for the calling and holding of a special election (the "Special Election") within the City for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition of whether or not to impose upon all persons as a privilege for engaging or continuing in business or doing business within the City a Special Sales Tax for the purpose of paying the cost of road and street repair, reconstruction and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage, and to pay the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects, as authorized by the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, on January 14, 2014, held a Special Election pursuant to the resolutions adopted on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, on January 21, 2014, adopted a resolution accepting and approving the report of the Election Commissioners within and for the City concerning a Special Election held in said City on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 and declaring the result of said election in connection with the proposition of whether or not to impose a Special Sales Tax for the purpose of paying the cost of road and street repair, reconstruction and resurfacing projects based on traffic patterns, need and usage, and to pay the costs of water, sewer and drainage projects, as authorized by the Municipal Special Sales Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, the Project is in accordance with and in furtherance of the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2019, the assessed value of all taxable property within the City, according to the last completed assessment for taxation, was \$1,275,951,918, and the City had outstanding bonded and floating indebtedness of the City as subject to the twenty percent (20%) debt limit prescribed by Section 21-33-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time, is in the amount of not greater than \$116,621,000; and

WHEREAS, if applicable, neither the Bonds, the City Bond nor the Loan, when added to the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the City, will result in indebtedness, both bonded and floating, exclusive of debt not subject to the aforesaid twenty percent (20%) debt limit prescribed by Section 21-33-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time, in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the assessed value of all taxable property within the City, and will not exceed any constitutional or statutory

limitation upon indebtedness which may be incurred by the City; and

WHEREAS, there has been no increase in said bonded and floating indebtedness of the City since October 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the City for the Governing Body to provide funding for the costs of the Project by borrowing money through the issuance of the Bonds, through the issuance of the City Bond or by entering into the Loan; and

WHEREAS, the City reasonably expects that it will incur expenditures in connection with the Project for which the City intends to reimburse itself with the proceeds of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan. This declaration of official intent to reimburse expenditures made prior to the issuance of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan is made pursuant to Department of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2 (the "Reimbursement Regulations"). The Project for which such expenditures are made is the same as described herein. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for the Project is the amount herein set forth; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is authorized and empowered by the Act to issue the Bonds, to issue the City Bond or to enter into the Loan for the purposes herein set forth and there are no other available funds on hand or available from regular sources of income for such purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY, ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, AS FOLLOWS:

The Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, hereby declares its intention to issue and sell the Bonds, to issue and sell the City Bond or to enter into the Loan, all in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000).

The Bonds or the City Bond will be issued or the Loan will be entered into for the purpose of financing the Project, as authorized by the Act.

The Bonds or the City Bond may be issued in one or more series and, if issued, will be special obligations of the City payable solely from and secured by the Special Sales Tax revenues and revenues of the Project. The Loan will be payable from the Special Sales Tax revenues of the City and, specifically under Section 31-25-28 of the Bank Act, will not constitute an indebtedness of the City within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory restrictions, limitations, or provisions, and the taxing power of the City will not be pledged to the payment of the Loan. Except for the Special Sales Tax or other required collateral of the Bank, the taxing power of the City will not be pledged to the payment of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan. No special tax, other than the Special Sales Tax, will be levied by the City for the payment of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan.

The Governing Body proposes to direct the issuance of all or any portion of the Bonds or the City Bond or to authorize the Loan in the amount and for the purposes and secured as aforesaid at a meeting of the Governing Body to be held at its usual meeting place located at the City Hall in the City, located at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a.m. on October 29, 2019, or at some meeting or meetings subsequent thereto; provided, however, that if ten percent (10%) or Fifteen Hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of the City shall file a written protest with the City Clerk of the City (the "City Clerk") against the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond or the authorization of the Loan on or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on October 29, 2019, then the Bonds or the City Bond shall not be issued or the Loan shall not be entered into unless approved at an election on the question thereof called and held as is provided by law; provided, further that if no protest is filed, then the Bonds or the City Bond may be issued and sold in one or more series or the City may enter into the Loan without an election on the question of the issuance thereof at any time within a period of two (2) years after October 29, 2019.

In full compliance with the Section 21-33-307, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time, the City Clerk is hereby directed to publish a copy of this resolution once a week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in The Mississippi Link and The Clarion Ledger, both newspapers published in and having a general circulation in the City and qualified under the provisions of Section 13-3-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time, with the first publication being not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date set forth in Section 4 of this resolution, and the last publication being made not more than seven (7) days prior to such date.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to procure from the publishers of the aforesaid newspapers the customary proof of the publication of this resolution and the required notice and have the same before the Governing Body on the date and hour specified in Section 4 hereof.

The City hereby declares its official intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan for expenses incurred with respect to the Project subsequent to the date of this resolution. This declaration of official intent to reimburse expenditures made prior to the issuance of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan is made pursuant to the Reimbursement Regulations. The Project for which such expenditures are made is the same as described herein. The Bonds, the City Bond or the Loan will not exceed the aggregate principal amount of Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000).

The City hereby ratifies and confirms the referendum duly called and held on January 14, 2014, by which a majority of at least three-fifths (60%) of the qualified electors of the City who voted in the election for the levy of the Special Sales Tax was achieved.

If any one or more of the provisions of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any of the other provisions of this resolution, but this resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision or provisions had not been contained herein.

Councilperson Banks seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

COUNCILPERSON	YEA	NAY
Ashby Foote	X	
Melvin Priester, Jr.	X	
Kenneth I. Stokes (Absent)		
De'Keither Stamps (Absent)		
Charles Tillman	X	
Aaron Banks	X	
Virgi Lindsay	X	

The President of the Council then declared the resolution passes and adopted this the 1st day of October 2019.

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Virgi Lindsay
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Chokwe Antar Lumumba
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Kristi Moore
CITY CLERK

10/3/2019, 10/10/2019, 10/17/2019, 10/24/2019

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.

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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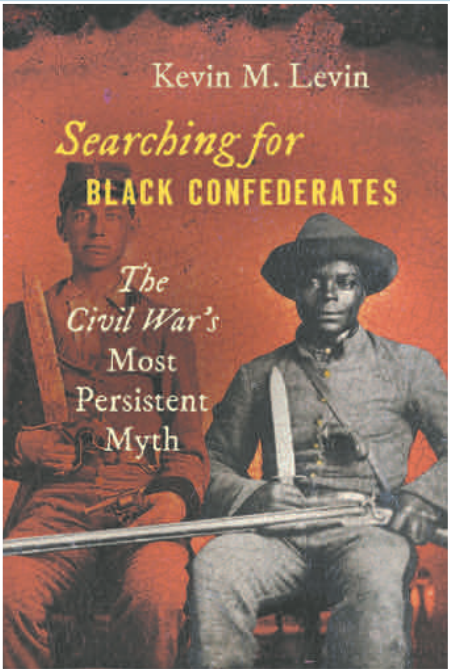
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BOOK REVIEW: “SEARCHING FOR BLACK CONFEDERATES: THE CIVIL WAR’S MOST PERSISTENT MYTH”

BY KEVIN M. LEVIN
C.2019, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS
\$30.00 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 228 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

History is a big subject. And yet, each era has inside it a thousand little clues for people, places and everyday life: clothes folks might’ve worn, toys children played with, maybe, or foods they enjoyed. Those are the things that make history fascinating, even powerful. But add in a bit of quarrel and, as in the new book “Searching for Black Confederates” by Kevin M. Levin, they might make history wrong.

Ever since the last shot was fired in the Civil War, there’s

been controversy, including argument over the site of that last shot. For more than a century-and-a-half, stories were told and mythology endures – one of them being the possibility that slaves fought on the side of the Confederacy. “Over the past...decades,” says Levin, “claims...of anywhere between 500 and 100,000 black Confederate soldiers... have become increasingly common.” But, he says, those claims are highly inflated. In truth, “a small handful of black men” were recruited “just days before

the fall of the Confederacy...” Also true: photographs taken during the war show black men dressed in gray uniforms. Those pictures cause a misunderstanding, Levin says, that leads back to one of the reasons the war was fought in the first place. When volunteering to serve in the Confederate Army, many white men took a slave or two with them to serve as “camp slaves” to polish arms, press uniforms, cook and carry messages. Some slaves charged their “master’s” comrades for work, which allowed them money to buy their own Con-

federate uniforms, if they so desired. During battle, camp slaves were sometimes tasked with guarding provisions and horses on the outskirts of a conflict but “at no point... was it ever revealed that black men were... serving in the Confederate army as soldiers.” The idea was suggested and discussed but most slave owners “did not believe that slaves or free blacks could make good soldiers.” Even trying, Levin says, would have elevated slaves to the level of their “masters,” a thought that was totally unacceptable...

So is the discussion settled? Probably not, but “Searching for Black Confederates” surely makes good arguments on the side of dismissal. Beginning with a novel written in 1860 – one that he picks apart methodically – Levin suggests that the idea of slaves basically fighting to keep themselves enslaved is preposterous. To support this, he cites various sources to explain photographs that have come to be misunderstood and how end-of-war expectations and Jim Crow laws affected life for black men in the post-War years. These sources

underscore his original claims that black men were not enlisted to fight for the “Lost Cause.” It’s fascinating information, if not just a bit repetitive. And yet, because there’s nobody to interview and nobody to question, certain historians and readers who embrace black forebears in gray might still dispute the disputer. They, too, have sources, stories and reasons, which make “Searching for Black Confederates” a book that no Civil War scholar should ignore: if you think the argument’s here to stay, you wouldn’t be wrong.

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A LETTER FROM THE JSUNAA PRESIDENT



Greetings Tigers,

Thank you alumni for attending the Fall Leadership Development Council and Natchez historical marker dedication! A huge Tiger hug for Chairs Sue Brown-Clark, William Blowe, Annette Anderson, President Frisby, and the JSUNAA Natchez Chapter, for implementation of a phenomenal event!

Now it's time for THEE Blue Tie Gala and to give students much needed scholarships. Please join me at the gala or the after party for an evening of glamour & purpose.

If you cannot make it to either, you still have an opportunity to support with the purchase of a raffle ticket. You don't need to be present to win. See www.theebluetiegala.org to purchase.

Homecoming week is always electrifying, but with guest artist KENNY LATIMORE the evening will be spectacular! Enjoy this month's Tiger Moment video, and see you at Homecoming!

Tiger Strong and Student Focused,

Earlexia M. Norwood, M.D.
President
Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Inc.



High School and Transfer Day 2019



Mississippi Link Newswire

Get Ready – Get Ready – Get Ready!
It's Jackson State University's Annual High School/Transfer Day!
It's that time! Venture to Tiger Country for a fall preview unlike any other. Participants will join the Jackson State University family for a fun-filled and action-packed day on the beautiful campus of

Mississippi's Urban University!
Attendees will enjoy performances by the Sonic Boom of the South, JSU Cheerleaders, Prancing J-Settes and JSU Greeks. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and speak with departmental representatives at the "Become Who You Are Meant to Be Departmental Fair," directly after the program in the

Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center.
Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue throughout the beautiful locales of JSU.
Later, you will have a chance to witness a battle on the gridiron between the Jackson State University Tigers and University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions at the Veterans

Memorial Stadium at 6 p.m.
Event information:
Registration fee (non-refundable):
\$10.00 per person (Registration packet will include game day ticket)
Date:
Saturday, November 2, 2019
Time:
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 7:30am)
Location:

Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center and university campus
Meal:
Lunch on your own. Food trucks will be on site.
Online registration will close Friday, November 1, 2019 at 11 a.m. Walk-in registration will begin Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. at the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center. **No**

personal checks.
Football tickets will not be available for purchase at the Athletics and Assembly Center.
In order to secure your game day tickets, you must supply a list of participants' names to recruitment@jsums.edu before november 1. Subject line: hs day 2019.
For more information call 601 979-5845.

2019 GMC Yukon XL 4WD SLT

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

Talk about more than enough, the GMC Yukon XL 4WD SLT certainly filled the bill. Where to begin?

Let’s start under the hood. We had the Graphite Performance Edition. That means that the 5.3-liter V8 for a normal Yukon got bumped up to 6.2-liters and 420 horsepower and 460 pound-feet of torque with cylinder deactivation. There was a 10-speed automatic transmission, a 3.23 axle ratio and a two-speed active transfer case and magnetic ride control.

This engine moved the Yukon XL, which weighed almost three tons, with ease. We didn’t sense any cylinder deactivation. Gear shifts were silky smooth and the suspension managed to kill most of the truck-like ride on this body on frame three-row sport utility.

It had an independent coil-over shock, magnetic ride control with the graphite performance package front suspension. In the rear was a solid axle with five-link location and coil springs, magnetic ride control and the graphite performance package.

This package included black 22-inch machined wheels with carbon flash metallic pockets, black assist steps with gloss black accents, black chrome grille mesh insert and fog lamp surrounds, body-colored grille surround, gloss black beltline moldings and additional trim, the Z85 suspension package. This was a menacing looking vehicle and we mean that in a good way.

About the only thing that was miss-



ing were LED headlights. The halogen lamps seemed like they were from another planet. And there wasn’t a moonroof. Still, this GMC Yukon was well equipped.

It was the XL Yukon. It had a wheel-base that was 14 inches longer than a normal Yukon and it was almost two-feet longer overall with more than twice the cargo space behind the third row seats.

The gear shift was on the column and that took some getting used to. All through the test drive we kept reaching for the gear shift atop the center console. But that was the only aspect of the Yukon XL that was radically different.

It had heated and cooled front seats. And you could select whether to heat the seat back, or the whole seat. It took a few days before we realized that the pedals were adjustable. There was a smart key to lock and unlock the doors, all four could be push buttoned opened or locked. And of course, there was push button start and stop.

The interior was black throughout with light grey stitching. The odometer and speedometer were round, analogue and black with white numerals reversed out. There were four smaller digital gauges between them: the oil pressure gauge, the temperature gauge, the fuel gauge and the volt meter ran across the top of the TFT screen.

There were buttons on the left side of the dash to adjust the height of the heads up display and the information you wanted it to display. The center stack sort of cascaded down to the console with the infotainment touch screen at the top, the audio controls underneath and then two stacked areas of climate controls beneath.

The Yukon had its own Wi-Fi connection. At the base where the center-stack met the center console there were two USB jacks and a 12V plug. The storage bin in the center console had an LED light for illumination, it was that deep. There was also a retractable mirror that let you see the second and third row seats. Think kids.

And the whole infotainment screen slid up revealing another storage bin and a USB jack.

We climbed into the second row and found it spacious. It too had heated captains’ seats. Getting to the third row for a kid or someone nimble meant getting through the space between the two second row seats. Doing it the conventional way required pulling a lever and the seat back flipped forward. Then pull a strap on the back of the seat cushion and it too flipped forward.

There was a 120V plug on the back of the center console and another USB plug. There were also climate controls for the back passenger area. We thought it convenient that the liftgate was power and it could be set at different heights.

There was plenty of head space in the third row, although leg room was tight. It was easy to get out with the second row seats completely flipped forward.

From the back, the third row seats could be power folded down or up. And let’s not forget that the Yukon XL was a full size sport utility, a big one. It could tow 8,000 lbs. and that was with the 5.3-liter engine and the XL had 121.1 cu. ft. of cargo space with its second and third row seats folded.

Fuel efficiency for the 6.2-liter engine was 14 mpg in the city, 20 mpg on the highway and 16 mpg combined. It had a 31 gallon fuel tank. It was made for years of kids, camping, stowing, towing and the outdoors or city streets.

As tested, our 2019 Yukon XL AWD SLT had a sticker of \$74,630.

Mississippi city rejects mental health facility despite need

Associated Press

Officials in southwest Mississippi have denied a rezoning request for a mental health facility, despite complaints that the area is underserved.

Natchez aldermen recently unanimously rejected rezoning property to allow a crisis stabilization unit, a small mental hospital meant to keep people from being sent to faraway state hospitals or jail.

Opponents said the facility is

inappropriate for a mostly residential neighborhood.

Crisis stabilization services were one of the flash points in a recent trial in which a federal judge ruled Mississippi was violating the rights of mentally ill people by relying too much on state hospitals to confine them. Adams County Sheriff Travis Patten testified in that trial that Natchez and surrounding Adams County have few resources to help mentally ill people, say-

ing he padded a jail cell to hold people.

Patten testified that he rarely got help from Southwest Mississippi Mental Health because many of its employees were more than an hour away in McComb.

Southwest Mississippi Mental Health Executive Director Sherlene Vince told *The Natchez Democrat* that city documents improperly labeled the unit as a drug and alcohol reha-

bilitation center.

“It is not a drug treatment program or detox unit and we are not able to treat anyone who has criminal charges,” Vince said.

Alderwoman Sarah Carter Smith says Natchez needs the unit, but says “there has to be a better place for it.”

“It should not be in a neighborhood,” Smith said.

Lawyer Scott Slover, representing Southwest Mississippi Mental Health, said that because

the facility is being funded with grants from the state Department of Mental Health, the local mental health board can’t build or buy a building. The requirement to lease limits its options, Slover said.

“They would have to find someone who owns a piece of property, would invest anywhere from half a million to \$750,000 into the property and then would take some sort of lease payment over time to re-

coup the cost and make a profit,” he said. “That is easier said than done.”

Slover warned that if Natchez couldn’t approve a location, the crisis stabilization unit could also end up in McComb.

At least three other Mississippi cities have settled lawsuits alleging illegal discrimination against people with disabilities in recent years after they barred or tried to close facilities serving people with mental illness.

US judge to hear Mississippi election system challenge

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A federal judge will hear arguments Friday in a lawsuit that challenges Mississippi’s unique, multistep process of electing the governor and other statewide officials – an electoral process that critics say is designed to thwart black political power.

The hearing happens less than a month before the Nov. 5 gubernatorial election between Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

Mississippi’s 1890 constitution requires a statewide candidate to win a majority of the popular vote and a majority of the 122 state House districts. If nobody wins both, the election is decided by the House, now controlled by Republicans.

The multistep process was written at a time when white politicians across the South were enacting Jim Crow laws to erase black political power that had been gained during Reconstruction. No other state in the U.S. uses such a method to choose governor.

Reeves and Hood are both white, but Mississippi has a history of racially polarized voting with Democrats doing well

among black voters and Republicans among white ones.

Attorneys for black plaintiffs say that, because of the way Mississippi House districts are drawn, the electoral system dilutes African-American votes.

“Because white and African-American Mississippians overwhelmingly vote for different candidates, and because of the geographic and electoral concentration of the racial groups among the House districts, African-Americans’ candidates of choice must obtain a significantly larger share of the statewide population in order to win a majority of House districts, as compared to candidates preferred by white voters,” an attorney for the plaintiffs, Uzoma N. Nkwonta, wrote in court papers.

U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III will hear arguments about the plaintiffs’ request that he issue a preliminary injunction to block the state from using the system. It’s unclear, though, how fast Jordan will act on that request.

The lawsuit was filed May 30 against two Republican officials — Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, who is Mississippi’s top elections officer, and House Speaker Philip Gunn.

Attorney Trey Jones, representing Hosemann and Gunn, wrote in court documents that Mississippi’s system is not discriminatory.

“This suit was obviously filed because of some concern about how the rules ‘might’ impact Democratic candidates,” Jones wrote. “That is not a valid basis for which to seek relief from this Court.”

Eric Holder, who was the first African American to serve as U.S. attorney general, is now chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, whose affiliated foundation is providing financial and legal backing for the lawsuit. Plaintiffs include Leslie Burl McLemore, a retired professor of political science at Jackson State University.

The 1999 Mississippi governor’s race was decided by the House after nobody received the required majorities in a four-person race. The top two candidates were white, and House members chose the Democrat who had received the most votes. At the time, the House was controlled by Democrats.

Mississippi’s current Republican governor, Phil Bryant, is limited by law to two terms and could not run again this year.

Coach Earl Sanders
Inaugural Golf Tournament

Contest

Closest to Hole - \$25
Longest Drive - \$25
Mulligans are \$7
Prizes

First Place - \$100
Second Place - \$200
Third Place - \$100

(Four-Man Scramble)
Entry Fee \$100/Player
18 Holes with Golf
cart, Range balls
and Lunch included
\$100 per Hole
Sponsorship

Friday, October 25, 2019
10:00 am Shotgun Start
Location: Live Oaks Golf Club 11200
US 49 N Jackson, MS 39206

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Highlights from South Hinds Rotary Club Dictionary Giveaway to HCSD 3rd Graders



Highlights from UEMS Celebration for Becoming a “B” Level School



Highlights from Southern Farm Bureau Book Donation to HCSD 1st Graders

