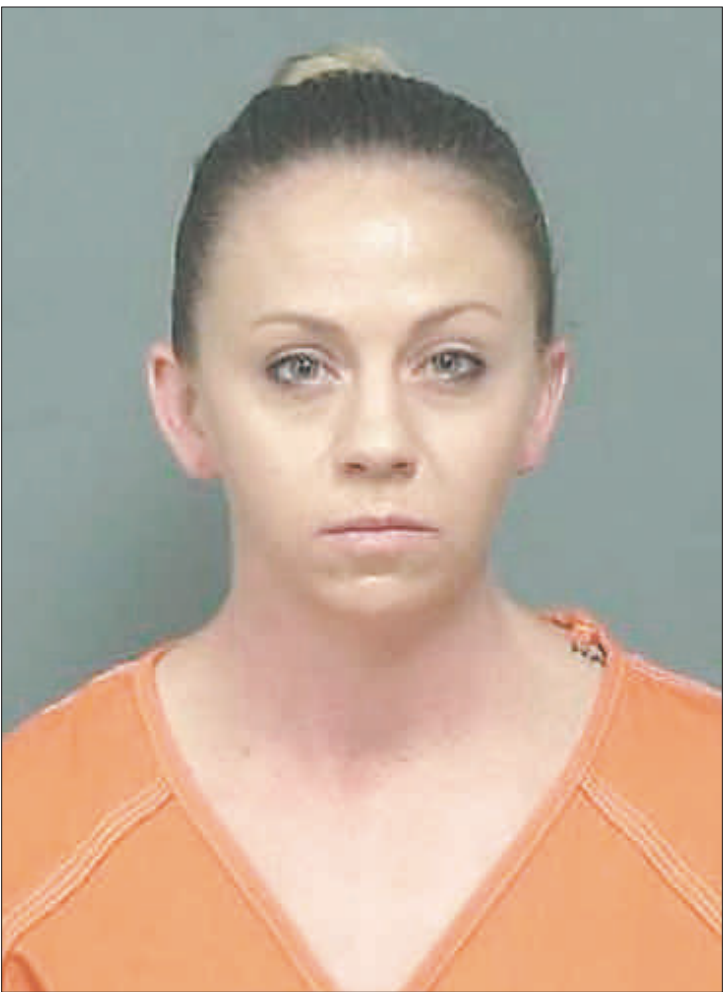


Dallas cop gets only 10 years in prison for killing her neighbor



Guyger

By Jake Bleiberg
Associated Press

A white Dallas police officer was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years in prison for killing her black neighbor in his apartment, which she said she mistook for her own unit one floor below.

Amber Guyger didn't appear to show much reaction, at least from the angle of a live camera stream, as the judge read the jury's sentence. It came a day after the jury convicted her of murder in the September 2018 killing of Botham Jean.

Guyger's sentence was met

with boos and jeers by a crowd gathered outside the courtroom. "It's a slap in the face," one woman said.

The basic facts of the unusual shooting were not in dispute throughout the trial. Guyger, returning from a long shift that night, entered Jean's fourth-floor apartment and shot him. He had been eating a bowl of ice cream before she fired.

Guyger said she parked on the wrong floor and mistook Jean's apartment for her own, which was directly below his, and mistook him for a burglar. In the



Jean

frantic 911 call played repeatedly during the trial, Guyger said "I thought it was my apartment" nearly 20 times. Her lawyers argued that the identical physical appearance of the apartment complex from floor to floor frequently led to tenants going to the wrong apartments.

But prosecutors questioned how Guyger could have missed numerous signs that she was in the wrong place. They also asked why she didn't call for backup instead of walking into the apartment if she thought she was being burglarized and

suggested she was distracted by sexually explicit phone messages she had been exchanging with her police partner, who was also her lover.

The shooting drew widespread attention because of the strange circumstances and because it was one in a string of shootings of unarmed black men by white police officers.

One of the Jean family lawyers hailed the verdict as "a victory for black people in America" after it was handed down Tuesday.

The jury was largely made up of women and people of color.

Bobbie McClure Graves seeks re-election for Election Commissioner District 2



Graves

By Othor Cain
Editor

Some say the third time is the charm. This could very well hold true for Bobbie Graves.

Graves, who is seeking re-election to her post as election commissioner for District 2, in Hinds County, is currently serving in the position as an appointed commissioner because the previous seat holder decided to seek another political office without fulfilling her obligations and duties to this office.

Graves is spreading a message of 'commitment to the job.' "For me, it isn't about the next bigger opportunity, it

is about doing the job we are elected to do," Graves said. "The grass isn't always greener on the other side." This is Graves second stint in this office.

However, Graves, who has two opponents in the race November 5, is the only candidate that has served a full term as an elected commissioner in District 2. "I'm running because I am committed and dedicated to fully serving my time in office and doing what is in the best interest of the voters in District 2 and Hinds County as a whole," Graves said. "Dedication, integrity

Graves
Continued on page 3

Dr. Jerry Young affirmed for second term as president of the NBC, USA, Inc.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Jerry Young became the first unopposed, seated president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., (NBC, USA, Inc.) in nearly 30 years to be reaffirmed as president for a second term at the 139th Annual Session held at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

On September 5, with nearly 15,000 delegates in attendance at the Convention (September 2-6), Young was affirmed by the membership through an overwhelming vocal affirmation.

Young was elected as the 18th president of the convention in 2014 at the 134th Annual Session also held in New Orleans.

His theme for the convention is

"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally!"

Young is the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, MS and the founder and headmaster of New Hope Christian School. He is married to Helen Young. They have 2 daughters, Jerlen (Matthew) Canada and Kelli (Benjamin) Hart and five grandchildren.

In addition to the choir workshops, nightly worship services, lunches, banquets and daily vendor fair, other highlights of the week included the pre-convention musical featuring local talent; The President's Educational Banquet featuring Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, and Young's annual address.



President Young addressing the National Baptist Convention, USA in New Orleans.



MVSU equips grad with “tools” for a successful career



Ewing



Johnson

The Mississippi Link Newswire

When Demontra Ewing enrolled at Mississippi Valley State University in 2014, he felt his career opportunities in engineering technology would be limited.

Fast forward four years later and the West Point High School graduate is now a college graduate and working for one of the largest tool manufacturers in the world – Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation.

Ewing serves as production engineer for Milwaukee Tool in Greenwood.

“Initially, I figured I would land a job as a maintenance tech or engineering tech. The job I have now is more than I could ever expect. Coming from MVSU only made me appreciate this opportunity more,” said Ewing, a native of Pheba, Miss.

The course work at MVSU is something Ewing is appreciative of along with the flexibility offered by his professors.

“Several of my departmental

courses tied directly into the work I’ve been doing,” Ewing said. “MVSU worked with me so that I could continue to work at Milwaukee Tool as an intern and finish classes.”

“The internship allowed me to apply what I learned in school in a real-world situation,” he added.

Ewing said that the learning culture in MVSU’s Department of Engineering Technology, coupled with the support from the faculty, is what helped to build a strong foundation for him.

“The professors in the engineering technology department always encouraged us to excel academically. Mr. (Antonio) Brownlow specifically was passionate about his students and what he did as an academic advisor,” said Ewing.

“He would take time to meet with students individually and discuss career opportunities and life goals. He took the time to develop relationships with students, and that is what set

him apart from everyone else, in my opinion,” he added.

Brownlow, who is the acting chair of Engineering Technology, said Ewing was a student who never slacked on his work.

“Demontra came to us because he had a cousin who came through the department and something that I noticed about both of them was their work ethic,” said Brownlow. “They worked hard and listened to the advice that was shared.”

Looking back on his journey through MVSU, Ewing said that if he had to advise younger students about one thing, he would encourage them to stay focused.

“I would tell any freshman coming into MVSU to stay focused and don’t get caught up in any distractions,” he said. “MVSU is a great institution that can help you to start a great career. You can only get out what you put in, so put your all in so you can get everything out,” he said.

Preserving JSU’s legacy: University’s birth site in Natchez gets marker



Jackson State University professor Hilliard Lackey celebrates the HBCU's birthplace after a historical marker was placed in Natchez. He's joined by Earlexia Norwood, president of the JSU National Alumni Association. Both are JSU alums.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University administrators and alumni took a pilgrimage to Natchez, Mississippi, to honor the university by placing a historical marker at its founding location.

The president of the JSU National Alumni Association, Earlexia Norwood, said, “As the representative for 50,000 alumni throughout the world, I am very excited that we had the opportunity to step on the grounds where JSU started. This marker is a reminder that we will never forget the sacrifices and struggles that have occurred since 1877.”

Also, she said, “A lot of people don’t know that the school actually transitioned to Jackson from Natchez due to the outbreak of yellow fever in the late 1800s. Natchez Seminary began as a place to train ministers, and then, as Jackson College, it trained teachers. Once the name transitioned to Jackson State University, John A. Peoples fought to expand the curriculum so that the university could accommodate students pursuing a vast number of different academic backgrounds. JSU has overcome a lot of trials and tribulations to become the global university that we know

today.”

In 1877, the school was established as Natchez Seminary by the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Association to improve Christian leaders of color in Mississippi and its neighboring states.

Today, JSU offers 93 degree programs within five academic colleges and is home to more than 7,000 students. The university ranks among the top 10 HBCUs in research; top 20 among 50 best online colleges; and top three among institutions in the nation awarding doctorates to black students.



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Graves

Continued from page 1

and commitment matters.”

If Graves is successful November 5, it will be her third tour of duty.

A graduate of Lanier High School and Jackson State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and a Master’s degree in criminology and justice services, Graves has been working to inform voters in District 2 about election processes. “I’m committed to ensuring that the voters in District 2 are informed. By creating public education events, engaging and empowering voters with knowledge about election day procedures and deadlines,” Graves said. “When we know better we do better.”

Graves has been spending a lot of time recently on talk radio programs, attending community events and simply meeting voters where they are. “I am committed to ensuring that voters in District 2 and all of Hinds County are informed and empowered to vote with confidence.”

Graves is running on a platform of:

- Bringing back confidence to the voters of District 2
- Maintaining polls, operating well-run elections, assisting voters and providing an adequate amount of ballots and surveys
- Managing polling registration; providing registration information; good record keeping,

processing and grouping data as required

- Providing transparency and clarity with election compliance
- Working to increase poll worker(s) compensation.

Graves believes the job of an election commissioner is far too important and necessary to have just anyone in the seat. “We’ve seen what has happened in this office before when the right person isn’t seated,” Graves shared. “Things sometimes run amok and ultimately ends up costing the taxpayer unnecessary money...we need committed leadership”

With just about a month left until election day, Graves is hoping to continue spreading her message of committed leadership with the voters. “I want to connect with as many voters in my district as possible, if you see me in the grocery store, please stop me and let’s chat... let’s chat at church or wherever, that’s important to me,” Graves shared.

District 2 has several precincts including 08, 11, 13, 14, 16, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 37, 40, 84, 85, 86, BO, BR, C1, CA, CY, ED, LE, PN, PO, R1, ST, TN and U1.

These precincts are located in Bolton, Brownsville, Cayuga, parts of Clinton, Edwards, parts of Jackson, Learned, Pocahontas, Raymond, St. Thomas, Tinnin and parts of Utica.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius
DeShun Cooley



Courtney Shanaye' Harris and Cornelius DeShun Cooley were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at four o' clock in the evening at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Jackson.

DISPARITY STUDY
COMMUNITY MEETINGS

JMAA

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority

BBE Research & Consulting (BBE) 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

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Beverages will be served

JAA Airport

100 International Drive

Jackson, MS 39208

Community Room

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Light meal at 5:30 pm,
meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Hawkins Field Airport

558 W Kamp Street

Jackson, MS 39201

Community Room

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:

Sharon Carter

DBE Program Manager, JMAA

scarter@jmaa.com

601-664-3530

Iris McClish

Director, BBE

imcclish@bbcresearch.com

303-321-2547

Humana grand reopening for neighborhood location in Ridgeland



First Lady of Mississippi Deborah Bryant (center in black slacks) joined Humana for the grant reopening celebration of the newly renovated and expanded neighborhood location.



Mississippi Link Newswire

On Sept. 25 Humana Inc., one of Mississippi's leading Medicare health benefits companies, celebrated the grand reopening of its newly renovated and expanded neighborhood location in Ridge-

land, at 772 Lake Harbour Drive. Over 60 Jackson-area residents attended the free community event, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony, senior-focused exercise demos, health education presentations and staff-guided

tours of the remodeled center. Attendees also enjoyed checking out books from the Madison County Library Bookmobile, which was on site for the festivities. Across the country, Humana

community locations are helping seniors to stay active and engaged and to better manage their health. Programs at the center, which are open to Humana members and the community, include no-cost fitness classes, health and

wellness seminars and disease-specific education classes. To receive information about upcoming events, including a flu shot clinic and a senior skin care health talk, please call the Humana Neighborhood location at 601

605-5130. The reopened and expanded Humana neighborhood center, located at 772 Lake Harbour Drive, Suite 3, Ridgeland, MS 39157, is open to the community Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MAC minigrants available, apply by Nov. 1



Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Arts Commission is now accepting applications for the agency's Minigrant program, which is offered annually to organizations and individual artists to assist with small-scale arts projects around the state. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 1, 2019. Minigrants for organizations are designed to meet a wide variety of needs in Mississippi communities, schools and arts

organizations, and they stimulate arts projects in rural and underserved communities. Non-profit organizations or local government entities may apply for up to \$1,000 to support a presentation by members of MAC's Artist Roster. Arts organizations may use the funds to hire a consultant or support professional development efforts. Professional-level artists may apply through the artist Minigrant program for up

to \$500 to support promotion and marketing efforts, attend a professional development workshop or purchase art supplies. First-time applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with MAC staff member about their project before submitting an application. Complete grant guidelines and criteria are available on MAC's website at arts.ms.gov or call 601 359-6030 for more details.

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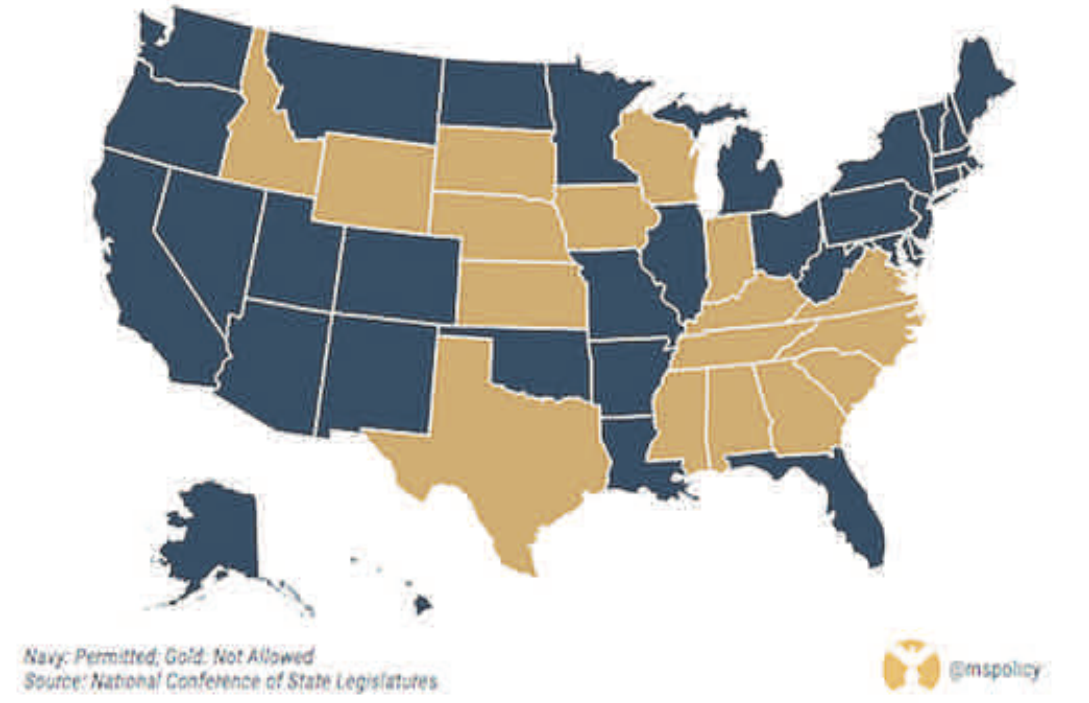
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Medical marijuana in Mississippi?



Mississippi Link Newswire

Voters in Mississippi will have the opportunity to legalize medical marijuana in 2020 after supporters collected more than 100,000 signatures to put the issue on the ballot.

And you have the chance to learn more about the campaign – and what this could mean for Mississippi – at our

next Casual Friday luncheon.

Today, medical marijuana is legal in 33 states and the District of Columbia after voters in Missouri, Oklahoma and Utah approved similar initiatives last year. Medical marijuana was legal in just a dozen states 10 years ago.

Is Mississippi going to be added to this growing list of states?

Join us Friday, October 11, when we will hear from Medical Marijuana 2020, the team behind the ballot initiative.

They will talk about the initiative, why we need to approve medical marijuana, and what that would look like from a regulatory standpoint in Mississippi.

We look forward to seeing you next week.

DPS driver service bureau begins “check for the star” campaign

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety’s Driver Service Bureau (DSB) announces a new statewide campaign recently called “Check for the Star” REAL ID on state issued driver licenses and identification cards to help raise awareness on new federal requirements for flying commercially in the United States, accessing military bases and entering secure federal facilities. These new guidelines go into effect on October 1, 2020.

REAL ID is a secure form of identification that meets federal security standards for state issued driver licenses, driver license permits and identification cards. REAL ID is indicated by a gold star in the upper right-hand corner of a driver’s license, driver’s permit or identification card.

You do not need a REAL ID

to do the following: drive, vote, access hospitals, visit the post office, bank transactions or to apply for or receive federal benefits such as social security or veterans’ benefits.

Some Mississippi residents already have a gold star on their driver’s license and or identification cards.

The Driver Service Bureau began implementation of the new REAL ID licenses in 2018.

In order to obtain a REAL ID gold star license, visit any Mississippi driver license station to purchase a duplicate or renewal driver’s license or identification card. You can also go online at www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov to purchase one.

The new Wait Anywhere online same day appointment scheduling is available for faster service of purchasing a renewal driver license and or identification card in six driver

license stations across the state: Nesbit, Tupelo, Jackson, Pearl, Hattiesburg and Gautier.

Visit www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/wait-anywhere for more information.

Mississippi firearm permits will not have a gold star. Firearm permits are not used for official state identification purposes.

TSA does not require children under the age of 18 to provide identification when traveling within the United States. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under the age of 18.

You can visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s website at www.dhs.gov/real-id or the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov/real-id for additional information on REAL ID.

Mississippi under statewide burn ban

Mississippi Link Newswire

At the request and advice of the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), Gov. Phil Bryant has signed a proclamation initiating a statewide burn ban, effective immediately. The burn ban will remain in place until further notice.

“Much of the state is experiencing significant drought conditions,” said MFC state forester Russell Bozeman. “Almost half of Mississippi’s 82 counties have implemented burn bans due to the extremely dry conditions.”

From September 1 – September 30, MFC wildland firefighters responded to and suppressed 239 wildfires that burned approximately 4,200 acres throughout the state. These fires have threatened hundreds of homes and buildings, destroying seven.

“With the current drought conditions and little rainfall in the forecast, we appreciate Gov. Bryant implementing this statewide burn ban in order to protect the public,” Bozeman said. “The MFC will continue to monitor conditions and provide

the public with updates on the burn ban as needed.”

Under a statewide burn ban, outdoor burning of any kind is prohibited. Persons caught violating a burn ban can be fined, as well as be held responsible for any damages caused from a fire.

To report a wildfire, call 911 or contact MFC’s Central Dispatch at 877-MFC-FIRE.

To learn more about wildfire prevention, visit mfc.ms.gov, or like and follow @MSForestryComm on Facebook and Twitter.







JPS appoints Sandra Robinson interim chief operating officer

Mississippi Link Newswire

Sandra Robinson has been appointed interim chief operating officer (COO) for Jackson Public Schools. As COO, she will lead the Operations Division which consists of six departments – Campus Enforcement, Child Nutrition, Facilities and Operations, Information Technology Services, Property Accounting, and Transportation.

Her career in JPS spans over 22 years. During her tenure, Robinson served as an accomplished teacher, administrator and project manager.

As a proud product of Jackson Public Schools, Robinson is a graduate of Lanier High School. She also attended Lake Elementary and Hardy Middle Schools. She received

her Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University earning Magna Cum Laude honors. She worked for several years as an engineer and project manager before returning to Jackson to pursue a career in teaching.

She started her career in education at Jim Hill High School where she taught courses ranging from pre-algebra to IB mathematics studies and AP calculus. Her accomplishments as a mathematics teacher led her to become the district mathematics assessment specialist in 2001. In this role, she developed the district's nine-week mathematics assessments for grades 6-8 and algebra I. In 2004, she became director of planning and

evaluation where she analyzed state and district data and provided professional development to improve the capacity of district leaders, principals and teachers on interpreting and effectively utilizing data to improve student achievement.

After completing a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Jackson State University she transitioned from the academic side of JPS to the operations side as construction director. Under the 2006 Bond Program, she oversaw the design and construction of the new Kirksey and Peoples Middle Schools and numerous other projects that included building additions and HVAC upgrades at several schools.

In 2017, Robinson served as inter-

im director of facilities and operations while maintaining her duties as construction director. She supervised eight departments and a staff of over 300.

Under her leadership, facilities and operations was able to increase the completion rate of the MDE Corrective Action Plan Standard 30 audit findings from 62% to 92%. Most recently, as construction director, she managed project responsibilities for over 70 projects in Phase I of the 2018 Bond Construction Program.

As chief operating officer, Robinson looks forward to working with internal and external stakeholders to promote and drive the district's vision "Excellence for All" so that it becomes a reality.



Robinson

JPS honors top readers at 2019 Summer Reading celebration

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools held its 2019 Summer Reading celebration September 5 at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson. The district recognized top summer readers at each grade level and the top schools based on the number of books read.

Program participants for this year's celebration included Susan Garrard, president/CEO for Mississippi Children's Museum, JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene and 2019 Read On Jackson Reading Ambassador Candace Coleman, morning anchor for WJTV News Channel 12.

"For students, I want you to invest in your homework and be attentive when you are in class and when the teacher is talking," said Coleman. "For parents, continue to invest in your students by helping them with their homework, by communicating with their teachers, and by debriefing after a day of school – just listening to what they have to say about their day, that always helps. For teachers, we know that it's a tough job that you do. So, just show up in the best way that you can each day for your students. Once again, I'm proud of you all and to see my home district invest in the students here."

"How do you become a stronger reader?" asked Greene. "By reading, by practicing, by training. We are training our brains



Kyle Johnson, 2nd Grade, Casey Elementary

to become stronger thinkers, stronger readers. That's what you did over the summer. I know that's what you'll continue to do throughout the year and throughout life. Every day we should be doing what? Reading."

An unplanned appearance by Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and First Lady Ebony Lumumba and their two daughters was a welcome surprise. Avid proponents for children and high-quality education, the Lumumbas made brief remarks before reading celebration attendees.

"Reading can take you anywhere you want to go to in the world," said Mayor Lumumba. "Not only does a book [give you] the opportunity to broaden your horizon, those individuals

who are most successful in their careers, are individuals who have a love for reading and engage with words. I want you to know how proud we are of you, and we love you."

"I'm thrilled to see so many young people who spent their summer reading," added First Lady Lumumba. "Reading truly is a gateway to any successful venture that you will undertake. I want to applaud the parents, because I know you had to listen to a lot of those stories over and over again. I'm so excited this is happening in our city."

Outstanding readers, students at each grade level who read a high volume of books, were recognized at the celebration and presented a certificate for their achievement. Top readers were presented a trophy for



Bruce Berry, 2nd Grade, Casey Elementary. Rhoda Yoder (2nd from left) is the principal of Casey.

reading the most books among their grade-level peers district-wide. All of these high-volume readers received free admission to the museum for themselves and a family member and time to spend at the museum's interactive exhibits. Top schools received plaques that can be displayed in their trophy cases or hallways.

Top Summer Readers
Elementary Grades K–2
Bruce Berry, 2nd Grade, Casey Elementary (Tie/61 Books)
Kyle Johnson, 2nd Grade, Casey Elementary (Tie/61 Books)
Elementary Grades 3–5
Jada Davis, 3rd Grade, Lake Elementary (128 Books)
Middle School
Angel Bell, 8th Grade, Bailey



Jada Davis, 3rd Grade, Lake Elementary

APAC Middle (30 Books)
Marcus Stafford, 7th Grade, Bailey APAC Middle (30 Books)
High School
Lakeyia Booker, 12th Grade, Jim Hill High (40 Books)
Top Schools
Lake Elementary (3,000 Books)
Northwest Jackson Middle (1,681 Books)
Murrah High (670 Books)
Every year, Jackson Public Schools holds a kickoff spectacular in the spring and a celebration party at the end of the summer as part of the Read On Jackson Summer Reading initiative. Our aim for these programs is to raise awareness, especially for parents, of reading's connection to their children's academic success.
Two important goals of Read



Angel Bell, 8th Grade, Bailey APAC Middle

On Jackson are to carry on the culture of reading across the city of Jackson and provide support to scholars to enhance academic gains and future life successes.

Though all JPS students are required to read three books each summer, Read On Jackson encourages students to read lots of books.

The success of Read On Jackson would not be possible without our outstanding community. Jackson Public Schools acknowledges the generous support of our community partners and donors, including the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Junior League of Jackson, the Jackson Hinds Library System and many others who helped make the 2019 summer reading program a success.

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Hinds CC Rankin campus training labs expand student opportunities



Harrison Lanum, left, observes a component of a process machine with Darrell Hill, right, inside the Rankin Campus Career-Technical Education Building. HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/APRIL GARON

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alumnus Blake Taylor has one associate degree from Hinds Community College already in hand, but he's not done with his education just yet. He's back this fall to continue at the newly renovated Rankin Campus Career-Technical Education building, where he and other students are eager to be trained on the latest control motors, process machines, robotically-controlled assembly line equipment and more.

"This technology is where everything is going now," said Taylor, 23, of Pearl, adding that manufacturing job tasks "used to be chains and a manual, but now it's all by computer, hydraulics or hydroelectric."

The college unveiled the newly renovated and expanded building in June. It has labs in electromechanical technology and automation that give students in Electromechanical Technology, Robotics, Industrial Maintenance, Electrical, Welding and Mechatronics in an extra 4,930 square feet of new space in which to learn the kinds of skills employers want.

Expansion of the building involved closing in and renovating previously unused space in the rear of the property. Funding sources on the project included additional property tax dedications via the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, totaling \$800,000 in each of the next two years.

"The Rankin County Board of Supervisors considers itself in a strong, mutually beneficial partnership with Hinds Community College," said Steve Gaines, president of the Rankin County Board of Supervi-

sors. "Because we understand how important it is to have a well-educated, well-trained and well-rounded workforce for Rankin County."

Taylor and his classmates and instructors agree support from local government and the business community is paramount to the lab's success.

"It's extremely important that it continues," Taylor said. "We couldn't do a lot in a little-bitty classroom. The added equipment helps us expand our ideas and use what's out there in the workforce."

David Roberts, an instructor in the program and himself a former career-tech student at Hinds, simply looks to hiring trends by the state's biggest employers in manufacturing to promote the importance of continued funding.

"Continued support of the Rankin CTE lab at Hinds is important because of the businesses coming into town," Roberts said. "Just look at Continental Tire and Unified Brands. They're hiring technicians as soon as students graduate. Some companies are hiring interns prior to graduation because they know our program will produce qualified technicians."

"Industries in our district are choosing to expand and new industries are relocating here because they know that the college can deliver a highly skilled, highly qualified workforce," he said. "Our program's enrollment is increasing so much that we had to hire a second instructor for this fall semester."

Another financing piece to complete the renovation was a \$1.2 million Challenge Grant from the Mississippi Community College Board.



David Roberts, left, an instructor in the Industrial mechanics and maintenance program at Hinds Community College, instructs student Blake Taylor, on the equipment in the Rankin Campus Career-Technical Education Building. HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/APRIL GARON

"It will give us so much more opportunity to offer advanced training programs to area business and industry and it will allow us to better connect employers with qualified workers," said Robin Parker, Dean of Career and Technical Education at the Rankin Campus.

Those opportunities also extend to older students wanting to expand their skills and land higher-paying jobs to support their families in the process.

On a scale of 1 to 10, "I'd say my skill level is only a three right now," said Calvin Johnson, 43, a Port Gibson native now living in Brandon.

He has worked various maintenance jobs for years and has a welding credential from Hinds, but hopes to grow his chances of challenging employment with successful completion of the Industrial Maintenance program.

"I'm in the program to learn the latest technology and further my career," he said. "Here, I'm getting a better understanding of PLC (programmable logic controllers) and electrical work, control motors and related things."

The Rankin Career-Technical Education building itself has housed career-tech classes since 2009, after the college purchased it the year before.

Additional programs offered there include electrical, welding, plumbing, associate degree nursing and practical nursing. Built in 2002, the two-story, 40,000 square-foot building sits on five acres about five miles from the main Rankin Campus off Highway 80.

The availability for training of fu-

turistic robotic arms and machines used to program today's manufacturing assembly lines will also help recruit businesses to Rankin.

"Hinds is such a wonderful partner for us in terms of workforce development and training needs," said Regina Todd, associate director of Rankin First, the county's economic development arm. "It's especially the case when we're trying to recruit new industries to the county. We're hoping we can bring prospective new employers through this new mechatronics lab and see firsthand what kind of equipment Hinds is training students on."

Students in Roberts' class have sensed the shift in today's manufacturing plants to a more diverse set of skills to work in them.

"A lot of the traditional manufacturing jobs are slowly disappearing, so we need to continue transitioning into that higher-skill workforce," said Harrison Lanum, 20, of Brandon "You're not making the parts anymore, but instead you're overseeing, repairing and programming the robot that makes them."

To students in the program at any age, there's no such thing as too many career opportunities.

"I just want the ability to work with my hands," said Darrell Hill, 25, of Brandon, who has experience at Nissan as an assembly line technician. He wants to grow those skills at Rankin.

"I wanted to learn more skills than just working on the line," he said. "With the expansion and support, there will be more job opportunities and knowledge a student can receive."

CHS students earn college credit through dual credit courses

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Clinton High School teacher Bradley Freeny has high expectations for his students.

"They're getting English IV while they're receiving credit through Hinds Community College for Comp I and II," he said.

"They get a taste of what it's like to be in a college class."

Students at Clinton High School have the opportunity to earn college credit through several dual credit course options. Clinton High School partners with Hinds Community College and Mississippi College to offer students dual credit options their 11th and 12th grade years.

During the 2018-19 school year, 152 CHS students took at least one dual credit course, earning a total of 1,065 college hours for an average of seven college hours earned per dual credit student.

"These are 152 students who are starting their post-secondary career with a leg up on the competition," said CHS Principal Brett Robinson.

The classes are offered through CHS at a substantial savings for families, Robinson said.

"Students can begin taking online dual credit courses through Hinds their junior year and classroom dual credit their senior year," said Counselor Dana Wright. "Entrance into these courses is based on their cumulative GPA and credits earned."

CHS students can choose from 17 online options and three classroom options. Both Hinds and MC have provided these opportunities at a nominal fee in comparison to taking them their freshman year on campus, Wright said.

For a fee of \$100, students can take all of the classroom options. The fee does not include textbooks or cover online courses students take directly through Hinds or other colleges and universities, only the dual credit courses taught by CHS teachers.

"Clinton High School has seen our dual credit program grow exponentially over the past few years and we look forward to providing even more courses in the future," she said.

Freeny agreed, noting that CHS has added an additional teacher to accommodate growth in the program.

"We have more dual enrollment students now than we've ever had," he said.

Coursework in Comp I and II is challenging and puts the responsibility on students to keep up with when things are due.

"Ninety percent of the grade comes from the six essays they write during the semester," Freeny said. "It's a reflection of how a college course looks. Some students have trouble adjusting. There is also a more accelerated schedule of turning assignments in. Semesters in college start later than in high school and end earlier, so students have a shorter time frame to complete the course work."

Despite the challenge, he said, he's gotten overwhelmingly positive feedback from students.

"After they graduate and go to college they always tell me, 'I'm so glad I took this class in high school,'" he said. "They see their classmates struggle to adjust, and they have a better transition."

For more information about dual enrollment courses, contact the CHS counselors' office at 601 924-5443.



Freeny

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www.mississippilink.com

Mississippi Department of Human Services receives \$1.4 million federal grant

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Human Services has been awarded a \$1,366,223 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve and modernize application processing in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The grant will use the SNAP Model Notice Toolkit as a guide to modernize recipient notices and transition to a platform connected to data in the eligibility system to reduce Case and Procedural Error Rates.

“We’re excited to be the beneficiary of such a significant amount of federal funds to better serve and assist Mississippians,” said Christopher Freeze, MDHS executive director. “This will greatly enhance our ability to streamline notices, operate more efficiently and ensure effective communication with SNAP recipients.”

The \$1.4 million grant represents 27 percent of the \$5 million awarded nationwide.

For more information on the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the services they provide, go to www.mdhs.ms.gov.

Mississippi Second Congressional District 2019 College and Career Fair

The Mississippi Link Newswire

It’s almost time for the Mississippi Second Congressional District 2019 College and Career Fair. We have several NEW vendors who will attend this years’ fair.

New to the Fair

LEIDOS
Murry State University
Delta State University Music Institute and Traveling RV
MS State University Bagley College of Engineering
The University of Mississippi FASTrack Program
Delta Health Alliance (GREAT, Financial Literacy, Delta DREAMS, CPR)
The LeMoynes-Owen College
Greenwood Lefflore Hospital
Cannon Motors of Mississippi
AA Calibration Services
Amazon
FCC Yazoo City

Bolivar Medical Center HR Department
DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis
DHS Federal Protective Services
DHS Cyber Security Infrastructure Agency
DHS Office of the Inspector General

Military Academy Day
To see the list of registered participants including companies, high schools, institutions of higher learning, military academies and armed services visit <http://benniethompson.house.gov>

2019 College and Career Fair
Washington County Convention Center
1040 Raceway Road
Greenville, MS
October 11, 2019
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

MDWFP to launch full certification online hunter education class

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Beginning October 1 residents ages 16 and over will be able to complete their hunter education requirement online. The internet course, Today’s Hunter in Mississippi, may be found at the agency’s website, www.mdwfp.com. The class is video-narrated and interactive.

The certificate from the online course can be presented as a digital or paper copy to license vendors to purchase a hunting license.

Classroom courses will still be available statewide. Find a course here: <https://education.mdwfp.com/Web/Event/CountySelection>

Residents under 16 who choose to take the internet course will still need to attend a three-hour classroom course before being certified. <https://education.mdwfp.com/Web/Event/CountySelection>

The full online Hunter Education certification will be available at 10 a.m. October 1. <http://www.mdwfp.com/education-outreach/hunter-education/online-hunters-ed/>

Mississippi law requires all persons born after January 1, 1972 to complete a hunter education course before purchasing a Mississippi hunting license.

South Delta Deer Season set

The Mississippi Link Newswire

During spring and summer 2019, extensive flooding occurred in the South Delta region. Data collection, including hunter observation and harvest data, will be imperative over the next two to three years to properly assess the full impacts of the prolonged flooding. During the September 26 meeting of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, white-tailed deer seasons and bag limits were set for the South Delta Zone impacted by flooding. The framework for the South Delta Zone is as follows:

Season Framework
Dates: October 15 through January 31 (public and private land)
Bag limits: two antlerless deer and two bucks

On private land only, one buck must meet antler criteria and one may be any antlered deer

South Delta Zone
All Mississippi lands south of Bunge Road; south of Highway 14; west of Highway 149; west of Highway 3; west of Highway 61 from Highway 3 to Business 61 and to I-20; and east of the of state line (in MS River).

For more information regarding hunting or fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at (601) 432-2400. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

New state coordinator named for We the People in Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Advancing Responsible Young Citizenship (ARYC) has just been named as the Mississippi state coordinator for We the People, a national, congressionally recognized leader in constitution and citizenship education.

“We are delighted to have Advancing Responsible Young Citizenship join our network as the new We the People state coordinator in Mississippi, helping to improve constitution and citizenship education in Mississippi,” said Robert S. Leming, director of We the People at the Center for Civic Education.

Advancing Responsible Young Citizenship will begin learning activities on the constitution and citizenship in October 2019.

Individuals and organizations interested in improving constitution and citizenship education in their local communities can contact Advancing Responsible Young Citizenship by email at info@icareUSA.org or by phone at 662 483-0656.

Advancing Responsible Young Citizenship (www.icareUSA.org), a service program of Community Business Strategies Inc., collaborates with museums, libraries, schools and other organizations to promote Mississippi and U.S. Constitution and Citizenship education. Program activities curate, create and disseminate peer-generated responsible citizenship learning materials that are demographically attractive and engaging to young people ages 8-30 years, for use in both informal and in-school settings.

The Center for Civic Education (www.civiced.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries.

The Center’s programs are implemented with the assistance of public- and private-sector organizations and educational leaders throughout the United States and in more than eighty other countries, many of which are emerging and advanced democracies.



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Homelessness is a national crisis, research finds



The visibility of America’s homeless proves that the crisis deserves attention from every level of American government.



Homeless woman on the sidewalk only blocks from the U. S. Capitol in Washington, DC.

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

For more than a decade, economists, lawmakers and others have heralded the nation’s economy. Often citing how unemployment has declined as new jobs have been created, or Wall Street trading and major bank profits rising, some might be led to believe that all is well in America.

But as Sportin’ Life in the folk opera Porgy and Bess sang, “It ain’t necessarily so.”

On September 16, California Governor Gavin Newsom, joined by state officials representing cities and counties, wrote a letter that urged President Donald Trump to recognize homelessness as a “national crisis decades in the making that demands action at every level of government.”

“Mr. President – shelter solves sleep,” wrote the California officials, “but only housing solves homelessness.”

Newsom and company were absolutely correct. State and local officials across the country also reckon with limited resources to house the nation’s half million homeless and its accompanying persistent poverty. Whether eastward from Washington, DC to Baltimore, New York and Boston, or westward from Los Angeles, to San Francisco and Seattle, or even other locales – America’s homeless are a visible presence that not everyone has been a part of an economic recovery.

In 2018, 67 percent of America’s homeless people were individuals. The remaining 33 percent were families with dependent children, according to a report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Further, according to a new 2019 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Our nation is currently in the midst of a long period of economic expansion. Yet stagnant wages, rising housing costs and inaccessible job opportunities keep many children and

families trapped in impoverished communities. And despite economic growth, we have not seen significant reduction in poverty.”

The Casey Foundation report also found that between 2013-2017, black and Native American children were the most likely to live in concentrated poverty. For example, half of Michigan’s black children live in high poverty. Other states where child poverty runs the risk of homelessness are Mississippi (43%), Ohio, (43%), Pennsylvania (42%) and Wisconsin (44%).

Yet despite the availability of homeless and poverty research, HUD Secretary Ben Carson sent Newsom a stark rejection of California’s appeal for federal financial assistance to alleviate California’s homeless.

Carson’s September 18 reply said in part, “California cannot spend its way out of this problem using federal funds...More vouchers are clearly not the solution the state needs. To address this crisis, California must reduce its regulatory burdens on housing.”

Advocates for homeless and low-income people strongly disagreed with Carson’s assessment.

“We know that the number one cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing,” said Megan Hustings, managing director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

“Consumers are already struggling with crushing debt from student loans and medical expenses, or facing triple-digit interest rates when they attempt to access small dollar loans,” noted Marisabel Torres, director of California Policy with the Center for Responsible Lending, “When they also have to pay some of the highest housing costs in the nation, it is unfortunately unsurprising that there are such large numbers of homeless people in many of California’s large cities.”

“California’s homeless may be

the largest by state,” continued Torres, “but the problem is a national one that deserves to be recognized and acted upon.”

In 1987 there was an expression of national will to respond to America’s homeless through enactment of the McKinney Homeless Act. That statute created the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness dedicating the ongoing support of 19 federal agencies to prevent and end homelessness. HUD is one of the participating agencies. The Council on Homelessness even has a written plan, Home, Together, that lays out federal remedies over the fiscal years of 2018-2022.

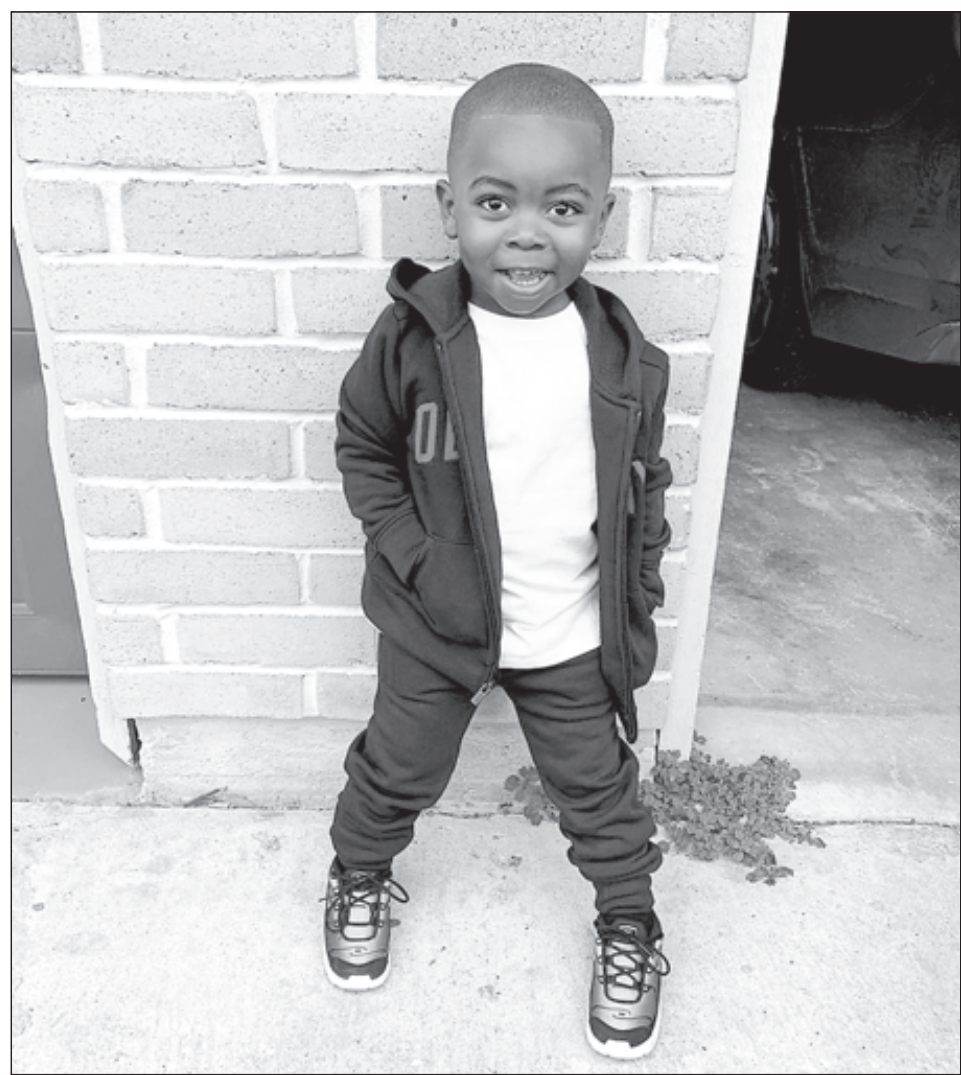
According to the 2018 report by the Council on Homelessness, “Crisis services are the critical front line of communities’ responses to homelessness, helping people meet basic survival needs while also helping them swiftly secure permanent housing opportunities.”

Someone should give Carson a copy. And if that takes a while, here’s what Congresswoman Maxine Waters advised the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee this past June:

“In the richest country in the world, it is simply unconscionable that this many of our neighbors across the country are living without a place to call home,” said Waters. “Several communities have experienced severe increases in their homeless populations, further illuminating that homelessness is a crisis. The federal government must recognize the national crisis at hand and support communities and local service providers who are on the streets helping.”

Charlene Crowell is the communications deputy director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

“Black Women for Positive Change” organization fights the normalization of violence



Two-year-old Ivory West Jr. was shot and killed and his father was wounded in an apparent robbery at their Harris County, Texas home in July.

By Barbara Reynolds
TriceEdneyWire.com

On average, about 19 children are shot daily in America and about 1,300 youths under age 18 die yearly from firearms with about 6,000 going to the hospital for non-fatal gun injuries, says the 2017 *Journal of Pediatrics*.

In one bloody weekend in Chicago this year, 60 people were shot, seven murdered, in all 1,998 people shot and 393 dead from firearms so far this year. In DC, home of the Pentagon that safeguards the world, 98 people were murdered this year with six of the victims younger than 18; one, bludgeoned to death, was only 2 years old.

To some, these are just numbers, statistics, nothing exceptional or out of the ordinary – if their significance can be judged by the time spent on these tragedies in presidential debates, news coverage or from the pulpits.

Such tragedies falling beneath the care line, are what keeps Stephanie Myers trying to shine the spotlight and national attention on violence, an urgent matter of life or death. It is why, as co-founder of Black Women for Positive Change, she is co-hosting a town hall meeting October 19 seeking solutions. The panel is called Violence is Not Normal – which raises the quick question of why it has become so normal, so accepting, that the idea that it is normal has to be refuted.

Looking deeper into the statistics, it is easy to see why Myers and others might wonder is race the reason for the apathetic response? The same *Journal of Pediatrics’ Study* shows that black children suffer the most from gun violence overall, making up 35 percent of its child victims in the United States, even though only about 13 percent of Americans are black. “About 400 black children under the age of 18 are thought to be killed in firearm homicides each year. In fact, black children are about 10 times more likely to die in gun murders as their white and Asian-American counterparts.”

Despite these heartbreaking facts, what pulls black murders out of the no-news file are when they serve a larger politicized issue, such as a white cop shooting an unarmed black person, but when its black on black homicide, the tears and hurts are hidden behind a wall of apathy, shame, fear or frustration.

Myers is trying to break through this wall by making “violence is not normal,” a household word that becomes the mantra of teens, law enforcement, faith institutions, schools and all parts of society. Myers, along with Daun S. Hester, are co-chairs of Black Women for Positive change and the Positive Change Foundation. Their Town Hall will meet from 2:30-5:00 pm/EST on the D.C. campus of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital,

1100 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

Myers is hoping that her national group of partners can help create a platform that each murder will be treated with the sensitivity that the fallen could be our own mothers, our daughters or sons, “While some of us have not suffered personally from the tragedies, we do not want this to get to our homes before we take it personally enough to act,” she says.

Susan Bro is one of the panelists. Her daughter Heather Heyer was murdered when a member of the Klan-Nazi hate group ran an automobile into the crowd of peaceful protestors in 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia .

Other speakers include: Bahiyyah Muhammad, Howard University professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Attorney Donald M. Temple; Kent Alford, director of Prince Georges Capital Region University Medical Systems and Care and Queen Afi, mental health/domestic violence consultant.

Youth will also participate from the Jim Vance Media Program at Archbishop Carroll High School, Luke Seymour Academy and the Purpose Program.

The town hall meeting is one of many events Myers and Hester, along with Good Brothers, such as Frank Malone head of 100 Fathers, have led in an effort to change the culture of violence nationally and globally. This year they will be holding their eighth annual Week of Non-Violence, which has chapters in eleven states as well as the UK.

Over the years the group has produced three films, On Second Thought, the Red Flags of Domestic violence and The Drop, stressing the importance of youth getting an education, was viewed in 52 schools in 18 states. Their work shops, media events, Congressional meetings, film screenings and essay contests all seek ways to de-escalate violence, control anger, eliminate racism and to respond to implicit bias.

Nationwide, the public is invited to participate in the free annual Week of Positive Change, nonviolence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019. Honorary chair is former U.S. Atty. Gen. Eric Holder; vice chair is Rep. Gwen Moore (WI); and honorary co-chairs are MSNBC reporter Michelle Bernard, Esq., Social Justice Activist Kembra Smith and Dr. Charles Steele, president/CEO of SCLC.

The week’s activities in cities around the nation, will provide opportunities for individuals, organizations, youth, millennials, faith institutions, business leaders, athletes and educators to organize large and small events, around the United States and the world that promote non-violence, de-escalation, peace and getting along.

To register sign up at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

Be submissive and keep growing

PART 2

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



Now a days people want to change the Word of God, but God is looking for men and women who want the Word of God in their hearts and want to live the Word. If you call yourself a Christian but do not live it, shame on you. God wants you to live the Bible. Truth cannot go far until it has a body. You can pass out all the literature you want, but truth does not go anywhere unless someone shows the truth being lived. You may talk about holiness, talk about how wonderful the preaching and talk

about how the people love one another, but are you a working model? A person can make his mouth say anything, but God wants His Word to be lived. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:14-15: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” That means to go right into the community among the people and tell them the glad tidings of the Gospel.

When something goes wrong, they see how you act, and they see how you act when things are going well. They see how you act when people do not like you and curse you. The Word becomes flesh when you live it right among the people. Paul, talking about the church, wrote in 1st Thessalonians 2:1 “Ye are witnesses and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behave ourselves among you that believe.” In essence, he said, “Brethren, you know how we have lived.” People can tell you about doing this or that, but it is a blessing when you know someone who lives it. The man or woman on the job

or your next door neighbor may not understand anything about the Bible, but they can see how you live. They can see that you live a righteous life. They can see how you act and talk. You cannot fool people; they are watching your life. When you lift up your flag and say, “I am a Christian,” they are watching how you live. Again, you can say anything, but how do you live? Next week, Part III – “Be submissive and keep growing.” Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

PRESERVED


Right or in relationship

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” — James 3:18 A few years ago, I wrote about some experiences I had with having to apologize to people that I’d offended. I remember how hard it was for me to do as a friend said and “see how much Jesus I had” when one that fussed me out about how I’d offended her came to me for moral support during a difficult situation.

A very important lesson. It went beyond the lesson of humility and the importance of taming my sharp tongue. It even went beyond an equally important lesson of being wise enough to seek forgiveness regardless of whether I thought it was necessary. It seemed as though the important lesson centered around my honestly answering the questions: Was it more important to be right or to have a relationship? Was the value of the friendship worth more than the value of being able to say I’m right? Another thing that I had to admit is that because of my arrogance that in the past I was more concerned with being right. Foolishly, I was willing to sacrifice relationships with the excuse that if the person couldn’t handle being wrong, then maybe I didn’t need them to be in my circle of friends. But thank God for growth, change and deliverance. No longer do I think that way and I’ve learned to better treasure the friendships that God blesses me with. I’ve learned by reassessing myself and my friendships that they are not about what others can add to my life, but for what things of value that I can add to my friends’ lives. And being “right” may add to your life, but often times it adds nothing to the lives of others. 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. When I hung up the phone with her nearly two hours later, I then realized that I’d learned




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The answer is obvious

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Is there one rational person who honestly still questions whether Donald Trump should be impeached by the House, convicted by the Senate and removed immediately from the people’s house? The answer is obvious to everyone except crooks who operate in the same way as Trump. When my good friend Dick Gregory was still with us and Donald Trump and those around him had begun the really crazy stuff, Gregory, knowing my curiosity about nearly everything, told me all of the Trump craziness was white folks’ business and I should stay out of it. I really tried to do that, but as things got more chaotic, it became impossible for me not to at least comment on the chaos. Surely Gregory would forgive me for not taking his advice just this one time. The lawyer part of me kept reminding me that silence gives consent.

Trump ran a reckless campaign for president, and he has become even more reckless since he used Russian and whatever other unsavory help he could muster. Hardly a day has ever gone by when Trump didn’t give the American people great cause for concern about what he might do to bring more shame on our country. Trump’s behavior has become increasingly dangerous to our national security.

I closely watched his twisting and turning and observed his crude behavior at the United Nations a few days ago. Aside from being bored, it was painful to listen to him as he denigrated leaders of nations and spoke like a middle school bully. It’s hard to believe that a man who stood before the world three years ago and swore to defend and protect our country and without shame has done so much to destroy everything we stand for. How do the people of any nation allow such abuse of the power of the office of president to repeat itself time after time without taking action to say “enough is enough?”

If Trump is not the epitome of a traitor to our country, then as Congresswoman Barbara Jordan once said of another Republican president who decided to resign rather than face certain impeachment, “A president is impeachable if he attempts to subvert the Constitution. If the impeachment provision in the Constitution of the United States will not reach the offenses charged here, then perhaps that 18th century Constitution should be a 20th century paper shredder.”

She concluded her brilliant remarks by saying, “Has the president committed offenses and planned and directed and acquiesced in a course of conduct which the Constitution will not tolerate? That is the question. We know that. We know the question. We should now forthwith proceed to answer the question. It is reason, and not passion, which must guide our deliberations, guide our debate and guide our decision.”

We’ve seen the misconduct over and over again. We, the people, are exhausted by the repeated and unpunished conduct. One presidential election has been stolen. Black people, brown people, Native people, Muslims, women, Democrats, Africans, the disabled and so many of us have been denigrated so many times by Trump and his kind that we do not need a lot more investigations to show massive wrongdoing. We, the people are ready for a decision.

We need someone like Rep. Jordan today, but we’re grateful that Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to the conclusion that the time for impeachment is now. More than one half of the Members of the House of Representatives agree. As the days go by, Republicans who love the country more than they fear the scoundrel in the White House will find the courage to vote in favor of impeachment.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. She is also host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPMF 89.3.

High student debt threatens our nation’s future

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



The student debt crisis in our country is worsening. If nothing is done, its size threatens our nation’s future. Young people saddled with student debt often postpone adult decisions, like purchasing homes or getting married, hoping to start “real life” with a clean slate.

When these folks delay buying homes, they also postpone the purchase of everything that goes with home ownership – furniture, appliances and more. Millions boomerang home, living with their parents into their late twenties, or even longer. Some default on their loans, ruining their credit, and impeding other purchasing.

How bad is it? Student debt in our country totals almost \$1.6 trillion in 2018, \$521 billion more than credit card debt. More than two-thirds of all students take out student loans, with an average debt of \$29,800. A total of nearly 45 million Americans have student loan debt. And if it is bad for the overall population, it’s worse for African-American students, who recently graduated with \$37,000 in debt, more than \$7,000 more than the overall average.

According to Ashley Harrington, of the Center for Responsible Lending, 85 percent of all African-American graduates carried student loan debt in 2016, compared to the 2016 overall average of 68 percent. “Black students take out more loans and often take longer to pay them back,” she said. The result? A decade after college graduation, African Americans who had student loan debt owe twice as much as their white counterparts.

This is not at all surprising. African-American median incomes are lower than white incomes. African-American wealth is less a small fraction of white wealth. African-American unemployment rates are higher than white rates, even for college graduates. On average, African Americans are stuck at the economic periphery, with every indicator showing black folks lagging others in our economy.

And while the student loan crisis hits the black community hard, it so profoundly affects our national economy that Democratic Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are getting major traction from their plans to reduce or eliminate student loan debt. Indeed, Sanders gets more support among those in the 18-34 age group than any of his competitors (Biden gets little support from younger people, and Warren

garners a healthy 25 percent from young people in recent polls), partly because he has been extraordinarily vocal in addressing student loan debt.

The presidential candidates have not been the only ones, who have expressed concern about the heavy burden of student loan debt. Congress implemented the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. After paying a percentage of their income for 120 consecutive months, public servants like teachers and firefighters, and people who work for non-profit organizations, could qualify to have the remainder of their loan forgiven.

From the legislation, the first to receive loan forgiveness would get it in 2017. By March of 2019, however, fewer than one thousand people (of 55,000 that applied) were granted loan forgiveness. This is mostly attributable to sloppy administration of the program by the current Department of Education.

Indeed, the current administration has proposed eliminating the forgiveness program. Congressman Robert “Bobby” Scott, the Virginia Democrat who chairs the House Education and Labor Committee, held hearings on this matter. Witnesses cited conflicting information that they received, payments

that were not credited so that the loan relief that they expected has not been forthcoming.

The heavy student loan debt that black students carry broadens an already wide wealth gap. Besides race, it also broadens the class inequities that exist in our society. Access to affordable higher education is one of the ways to narrow gaps, but the keyword is affordability.

Both the federal and state governments have decreased their investments in higher education. The maximum Pell grant amount, at \$6195, does not cover the cost of tuition at a four year college, not to mention the cost of attendance (tuition, room and board).

While high student loan debt may be debilitating for the individuals who incur it, it is essential also to note that this debt has an impact on our nation’s economic futures. If we think that education is critical, then we must take steps to make it more affordable. Warren and Sanders get rousing cheers when they talk about forgiving student loan debt. It’s time to turn talk into action.

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

Memo to Candidates: We need a plan for the affordable housing crisis

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



“The lack of affordable housing is perhaps the greatest challenge to successfully ending homelessness and lifting millions of people out of poverty ... This administration’s callous attempts to rollback funding for affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs has left more than half a million people without shelter on any given night. So long as there is a national housing shortage, the American Dream remains largely deferred.” –U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley

Housing affordability in the United States is undeniably a crisis.

Home prices are rising at twice the rate of wage growth. According to the most recent statistics, nearly half of renters are considered cost-burdened, meaning they spend 30 percent or more of their income on rent. About 11 million

Americans spend more than half their income on rent.

Yet the candidates for president are largely silent on the issue of affordable housing. During the most recent Democratic debate, not one of the candidates shared a plan for addressing this crisis.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition’s “National Housing Wage” for 2019 is \$22.96 for a modest two-bedroom home and \$18.65 for a modest one-bedroom home. That’s how much a full-time worker must earn to afford a rental home at fair market rent without spending more than 30% of income on housing.

The average renter’s hourly wage is \$5.39 less than the national two-bedroom Housing Wage and \$1.08 less than the one-bedroom Housing Wage, according to the NLIHC.

The problem is even worse for black and Hispanic households, who are much more likely to be both cost-burdened and low-income. Twenty percent of black households and 16% of Hispanic

households are extremely low-income renters, compared to just 6 percent of white households.

Even households who are not low-income are affected by the affordable housing shortage. The foreclosure crisis of 2008 exacerbated the shortage of affordable housing, forcing families out of the homes they lost and into the already-tight rental market. Those families who have recovered from foreclosure are competing for affordable homes to buy. And fewer of those homes are available because members of the older generation are living independently in their homes much longer than previous generations.

Confronted with a crisis of this magnitude, it is nothing short of astonishing that the Trump Administration – for the fourth year in a row – has proposed drastic cuts to affordable housing programs.

The poorest renters who live in subsidized housing would see rent hikes. The Community Development Block Grants program would evaporate, as would the Public

Housing Capital Fund, which is used to maintain and improve public housing buildings, HOME Investment Partnerships, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity program. Communities depend upon these vital programs for community development funds.

These policies are destructive, for American families and for the American economy, and counter-acting them should be a top priority for the candidates vying to oppose President Trump next year. Yet the public debate has virtually ignored the fundamental issue of affordable housing.

The National Urban League has championed safe, decent and affordable housing for more than a century, but without a comprehensive plan to address the crisis, our work is at risk. We call upon every candidate to elevate the issue during these important debates and over the coming months. Housing is a fundamental right, and our political process must recognize that right.

Republican senate stands in the way of moving America forward

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



Americans are disgusted that Washington has become dysfunctional, even as Americans struggle with ever greater challenges – from stagnant wages and growing inequality to catastrophic climate change to soaring health-care costs to a decrepit and dangerously aged infrastructure.

President Donald Trump blames House Democrats, saying they are “getting nothing done in Congress.”

Don’t believe it. The record is clear: The Democratic majority in the House has passed major reforms that would begin to address America’s challenges. All of them have been blocked by Republicans in the Senate, led by Mitch McConnell, who calls himself the “grim reaper” dedicated to killing reform.

As of July, in their first half year as the majority, House Democrats had passed a total of 569 bills that are blocked in the Senate. These include major reforms that would make America better.

Consider: The For the People Act – HR 1 – contained the most comprehensive campaign finance and voting reforms since the 1965

Voting Rights Act.

It would have made it easier to register to vote, harder to gerrymander districts, forced disclosure of secret funds, required paper ballots to limit election interference and would have begun to counter the influence of big money in our elections. McConnell refuses even to allow a vote in the Senate. HR 5 – the Equality Act – extends civil rights protections to members of the LGBTQ community.

This is long overdue. McConnell refuses to allow a vote in the Senate. HR 6 – the American Dream and Promise Act – would have protected the Dreamers and offered a path to citizenship to 2 million immigrants without of-

ficial status. McConnell refuses to allow a vote in the Senate. HR 7 – the Paycheck Fairness Act – would have strengthened measures to counter the growing pay gap between men and women. No vote in the Senate. HR 8 – the Bipartisan Background Checks Act – would have required universal background checks in the sale of guns, a reform supported by the vast majority of Americans. No vote in the Senate.

This list can go on. The Raise the Wage Act would have raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025. House Democrats passed a bill to return the U.S. to the Paris Climate Accord, which Trump scorns. House Democrats

have passed legislation that would protect those with pre-existing conditions and lower prescription drug prices.

They’ve acted to save net neutrality. They’ve passed nine bills to aid veterans, including extending childcare to veterans with young children. House Democrats put forth a major plan to rebuild our infrastructure; Trump stormed out of the meeting set up to discuss it. When the Senate actually passed a House resolution to get U.S. forces out of the Yemen catastrophe, Trump vetoed it.

The House isn’t paralyzed; the Senate is. As House Speaker Nancy Pelosi summarized, “the Senate is the graveyard where bills that

pass in the Congress, that have bipartisan support in the country, go to die.”

For McConnell and Republicans, paralysis is a partisan political ploy. McConnell openly brags about the strategy. With Trump dominating the air waves, they believe that they can pin the blame for legislative paralysis on the Democrats.

Now Trump uses paralysis as part of his defense strategy, arguing falsely that Democrats can’t investigate his crimes and legislate good reforms at the same time. McConnell doesn’t even deign to offer an alternative agenda and the Trump administration doesn’t have one.

Better experience at Merit Health Madison key for UMMC surgery patients

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Like hundreds of Mississippians, Harry Miggins is on dialysis while waiting for the kidney transplant that will greatly improve his quality of life.

But pending that, several of his vessels have been widened and strengthened to make it easier for his blood to flow to and from a dialysis machine. Dr. James Wynn, University of Mississippi Medical Center professor of transplant surgery, performed two outpatient procedures to better accommodate needles required for dialysis.

Miggins' surgery took place not on UMMC's campus in Jackson, but at Merit Health Madison, thanks to a business venture between the two hospitals. It allows Medical Center physicians to perform low-risk, non-complex surgeries and provide post-operative care and clinic visits at Merit Health's facilities in Canton, effectively expanding UMMC's adult hospital capacity and operating room availability.

And, it allows UMMC providers to be more easily accessible by patients and families.

Miggins loves it. Each of his surgeries were in the morning, and he was home by early afternoon. "I got in and out pretty fast. It was a good experience," said Miggins, who lives in Jackson.

Parking at Merit Health Madison, a quick jog off the Nissan Parkway West exit, "is really good," Miggins said. He and his father were able to park just steps from the visitors' entrance.

At a time when competition for patients can be fierce in the health care market, the relationship between UMMC and Merit Health Madison is just the opposite. UMMC surgeons work side by side with Merit Health Madison's surgical nurses, anesthesiologists and surgical support staff in providing select short-stay procedures.

UMMC daily copes with constraints on operating room space, hospital bed space and ambulatory clinic space. The agreement allows room for more high-acuity cases and specialty procedures to take place at University Hospital.

"Merit Health Madison is proud to partner with the University of Mississippi Medical Center to facilitate access to health care while allowing growth of services for patients in central Mississippi," said Brit Phelps, Merit Health Madison's chief executive officer.

"Our community is benefiting from UMMC specialists, such as Dr. James Wynn, who can operate and follow up with their patients at Merit Health Madison."

Dr. Thomas Helling, professor and chief of the Division of General Surgery, frequently performs procedures in the ORs at Merit Health Madison.

"What's been a pleasant surprise for patients is the ease in which they can maneuver through the system," Helling said. "It's a light, airy environment, and it's not crowded. Patients are having a good experience as they work through the surgery, post-operative care

and discharge."

Along with general surgery procedures, UMMC specialists are performing orthopaedic, breast, breast oncology, plastic, general and pediatric ENT, and vascular access surgery such as that performed on Miggins.

UMMC physicians are seeing breast, plastic and general surgery patients at clinic appointments there.

"If it's a serious problem, there's no question that patients would want to be where the facilities and expertise are, and that's the main campus," Helling said. "But if it's a fairly quick operation with low risk, they'd prefer to be in a hospital that doesn't have as much activity. Patients enjoy being out here, and they come from all over."

Dr. Claude Harbarger, assistant professor of otolaryngology and communicative sciences, performs pediatric surgeries at Merit Health Madison every other Thursday. Most of the procedures are for ear tubes and tonsillectomies, he said.

"The patients and families who've gone there have had a very good experience," he said. "It's more of an in-and-out experience, and the check-in process is quick."

It also loosens up operating rooms at Batson Children's Hospital for children with more serious illnesses, Harbarger said.

It's important to remember that Merit Health Madison is a free-standing hospital equipped with an emergency department, full radiology and anesthesia services, ICU services, and a full front-line health care team, Wynn said. "It's great to have all of those capabilities, if something did arise in a surgery," he said. "That patient could be admitted, if necessary, to a full-service hospital."

Wynn performs kidney transplants at UMMC's Jackson campus, and he's providing a wide variety of procedures at Merit Health Madison to help kidney failure patients begin dialysis or continue on it.

"Being able to further expand our surgical capabilities is a great thing, and access is easy for everyone," he said. "Patients from the northern part of the state like to come here so that they don't have to drive into Jackson."

Merit Health Madison's surgical staff, including veteran nurses and anesthesiologists, "are literally bending over backward to provide patients and families with a good experience," Helling said. "Everyone seems very appreciative that we are out there and contributing to the success of the medical complex."

Long-range plans are to explore care for UMMC inpatients at Merit Health Madison and to perform surgeries there with a higher degree of complexity, Wynn and Helling said.

"We're focusing now on developing a familiarity with the hospital and personnel, and we hope to expand that as we become more acquainted with the resources and support staff," Helling said.

New dean of JSU's School of Public Health to rely on Big Data for better health outcomes

Jackson State University

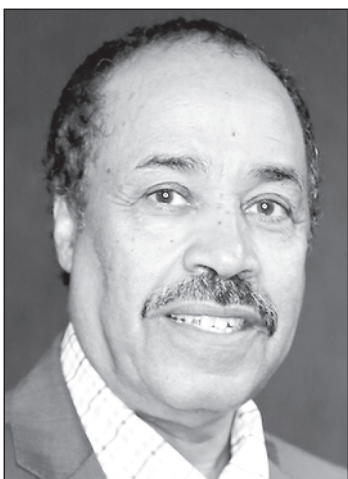
Dr. Girmay Berhie is the new dean of the state's only accredited School of Public Health, and he aims to infuse 21st-century technology into academic programs at Jackson State University so that health professionals can better serve the world.

Berhie, a native of Ethiopia, was educated in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his doctorate in Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation from Saint Louis University, where he also received his master's in social work. As well, he's completed a master's in information systems from Marshall University and studied biostatistics and epidemiology at John Hopkins University.

In the following streamlined interview, University Communications spoke to Berhie about his new role at JSU and his life outside of work:

UC: What led you into the health profession and research?

GB: Given the digital transformation, I have been interested in making a difference in health care research using technology. With the data we have, we need to prepare students with the skills needed to function in the 21st century.



Berhie

UC: Public health is comprehensive. How do you define the profession?

Public Health prevents diseases and unintended injuries.

UC: Discuss your most significant research project(s) and the outcome?

GB: The Affordable Care Act of 2010 and Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act) have not been fully understood in their moral and financial dilemmas. As such, I was involved in several research projects by using technology to enhance patient outcomes and prevent illnesses. I worked on

electronic health information systems, computing racial and ethnic approaches to community health and developing a strategic prevention framework for prescription drugs.

UC: While improvement in overall health for individuals and communities is the goal of any practitioner or social work advocate, which areas are you especially focused on?

BG: Public health, social work, etc., have more commonalities than differences. My focus is on professional and extensive experiential learning opportunities using necessary skills, values, informatics and analytics.

UC: What do you see as Mississippi's greatest challenges?

GB: The greatest challenges are economic and social issues and health care. The School of Public Health will create partnerships with community stakeholders in finding common grounds for research, dialogue and reflection on important public and health policy matters. The school will assist in attracting federal, state, local and private funds that will aid public and health policies, teaching and community awareness.

UC: Compared to your previous state of residence, how does Mississippi rank with West Virginia?

The social determinants of health in West Virginia are similar to Mississippi.

UC: Any particular plans for buttressing SPH's curriculum and expanding accessibility to academic courses, especially online?

A school of Informatics and Analytics; several programs are ready for submission, an epidemiology/biostatistics online certificate program

UC: Are there other innovative plans for increasing the number of public health professionals?

GB: Currently, several faculty members are exploring concepts on stroke, pre-term birth, first-generation students, telemedicine and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). We will be broadening the range of grants. We will create an easier means of collaborative research between academia and the community. Also, we will streamline the academic structure and develop future leaders and problem-solvers using Big Data.

Bancorp South makes kind donation to Forrest General's cancer center



Photographed (left to right): Patricia Phillips, vice president, Bancorp South; Anna Morgan; Lucy Domergue; Priscilla Sharrock; Ramona Martin, RN, nurse navigator, Forrest General Cancer Center; Joe Marcello, oncology service line administrator, Forrest General Cancer Center; Mary Clare Royals, first vice president, Bancorp South; Larry Royals; Debbie Hudson; and Morgan Willis

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Several members of the Bancorp South family have been effected by cancer in recent years, so employees came together to donate 75 kindness bags for patients at Forrest General's Cancer Center.

"Mary Clare Royals, whose husband, Larry, is in treatment right now, suggested this idea to me. I recently lost a

daughter-in-law to colon cancer, and she also received her treatment here. So Mary Clare is doing this in honor of Larry, and I'm doing it in memory of Noel. From there, we just enlisted our friends at the bank; several of whom are doing this in honor or memory of a loved one," said Patricia Phillips, vice president, Bancorp South.

Every bag contained small

care items such as tissues, snacks, mints, water, hand sanitizer, pens, etc. along with an encouraging note.

"Cancer can be a difficult illness to fight, and our patients need all of the encouragement they can get. Knowing they have the support of not only family and friends, but also the entire community can make a huge difference in their lives,"

said Joe Marcello, oncology service line administrator.

Throughout the month of October, keep an eye on Forrest General's Facebook account for live chats with oncologists about breast cancer and related issues.

For more information about Forrest General's Cancer Center, visit forrestgeneral.com.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

9/26/2019 10/3/2019

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

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

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

9/26/2019, 10/3/2019

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The Mississippi Link

please call:

601-896-0084

or e-mail:

jlinkads@bellsouth.net

www.mississippilink.com

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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, 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

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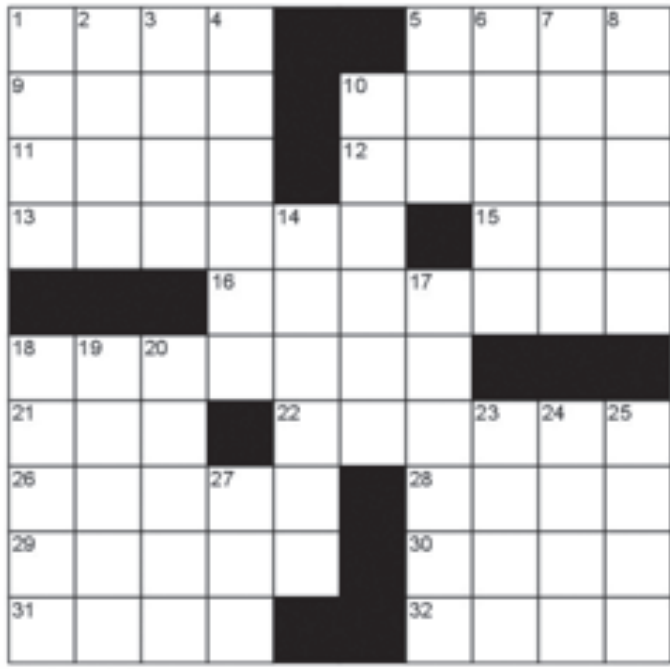
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Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Stir

5. President (abbr.)

9. Avouch

10. Verity

11. Mom

12. English King

13. N. American river

15. Elver

16. "___ is the best policy"

18. Investigation school subject

21. Border

22. Sequential

26. Jewish religious leader

28. Lazy

29. Regular

30. Tip

31. Was

32. Grassy area
1. Tap in lightly

2. Ovate

3. Bod

4. Path through grass

5. Before (prefix)

6. Ancient German letters

7. Heron

8. Not assertively

10. From that fact

14. Throat part

17. Strangely

18. Plant

19. Finish

20. Color with dye

23. Thought

24. Winged

25. Allow to borrow

27. Outlaw

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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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2030 N Siwell Rd
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4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
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Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

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Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
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BULLY'S STORE
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507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

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Terry Road

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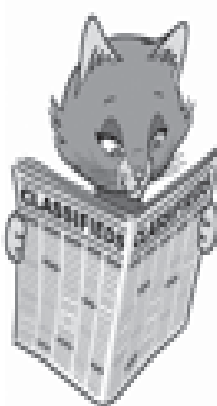
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Week of September 29

Mississippi Museum of Art presents vibrant survey of work by Nick Cave



Nick Cave: Feat. features an array of the artist's dynamic work in a variety of mediums

Exhibition on view: October 26, 2019 - February 16, 2020

Media preview tour: Thursday, October 24, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Museum of Art presents Nick Cave: Feat., an exhibition of 17 works examining the artist's socially engaged practice. On view October 26, 2019 through February 16, 2020, the survey of Nick Cave's (b. 1959) work includes sculpture, video and installations providing visitors with a range of immersive interactions with color and sound that bring to light urgent issues of our times.

"By exploring themes of identity, humanity, equity and social justice, Cave prompts viewers to consider their own civic responsibilities, imaginations and aspirations, through a creative lens. His goal is to both inspire and empower, inviting people to look at one another without judgement," said Museum Director Betsy Bradley.

Among the works featured are 10 of his signature "sound-suits" – a series of anthropomorphic sculptures made from a

variety of repurposed everyday objects and materials that can be worn or displayed. They are based on the scale of his body.

The soundsuits were originally created by Cave as a response to the 1991 beating of Rodney King, an African-American man, by Los Angeles policemen. The horrific event was caught on camera and widely broadcasted on news programs. Cave conceived the suit as a protective covering against police brutality, preventing the wearer from being profiled by race, gender or socio-economic standing.

Today, the exuberantly colored and textured soundsuits incorporate fabric, beads, buttons, toys, twigs and scavenged items. They are part of Cave's ongoing series that has become a display of resistance to police profiling and gun violence across the country. The sculptures have been worn by the artist in his performative works, incorporating choreography and drawing

on traditional, ceremonial and folkloric attire from around the world.

Cave's installations are immersive experiences designed so viewers can pause and enjoy a contemplative moment.

Button Walls (2013) are made with a myriad of sparkling buttons affixed to dark colored material to suggest a star-filled night sky.

Blot (2012) is a video projection of a figure wearing a black raffia soundsuit in constant motion against a white backdrop.

The large-scale installation Architectural Forest (2011) comprises thousands of colored beads and strands of bamboo hung from the ceiling suggesting a hallucinatory landscape.

An exhibition highlight is a set of sculptures mounted on the walls made up of beads, ceramic birds, metal flowers, decorative objects and castoffs found in thrift stores and flea markets.

These works convey the im-

portance of preserving and sharing memories, an important element of Cave's work.

The exhibition was organized by the Frist Art Museum, where it debuted November 10, 2017. Its presentation in Jackson is made possible by Ford Foundation, with additional support from Busby Companies.

This is a ticketed exhibition.
\$15/Person
\$13/Advance Purchase until October 25 (ON SALE NOW)
\$13/Seniors & Groups of 10+
\$10/College Students with School ID

Free for members and children ages 5 and under

Free for K-12 students on Tuesdays and Thursdays thanks to Feild Cooperative Association & BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi

Publication

An unorthodox exhibition "catalogue" accompanies the exhibition. It is a large tapestry or spreadsheet of sorts, made

of a durable, weather-resistant material that, unfurled, can potentially serve an array of functions – wall art, a picnic blanket, a tablecloth – depending on the user's imagination and preference.

In the spirit of Cave's sculptural work and public performances, it also offers the viewpoints of multiple perspectives from a cross-section of disciplines. Collaborators on past projects, including choreographer Bill T. Jones, and current Nashville creatives, both established and emerging, were invited to reflect on aspects of Cave's practice, such as justice and transformation. (Available for purchase in the museum store.)

Opening weekend schedule

Thursday, October 24
5:30 p.m.

Opening panel discussion for members

Moderated by publisher Kimberly Griffin, the opening panel will feature artist Nick

Cave, Hinds County Sheriff Lee Vance, and former Jackson Mayor, Harvey Johnson, in a discussion of how the themes of race, gun violence and civic responsibility, explored in Cave's artwork, impacts their own work in the community and the lives of black boys and men.

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Opening reception for members

Friday, October 25, 2019
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exhibition open to museum members

Saturday, October 26, 2019
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exhibition open to the public

Non-members who wish to attend the opening panel discussion, the members' opening reception or view the exhibition during its opening weekend will receive a 10% discount on all museum membership packages through Sunday, October 27, 2019.

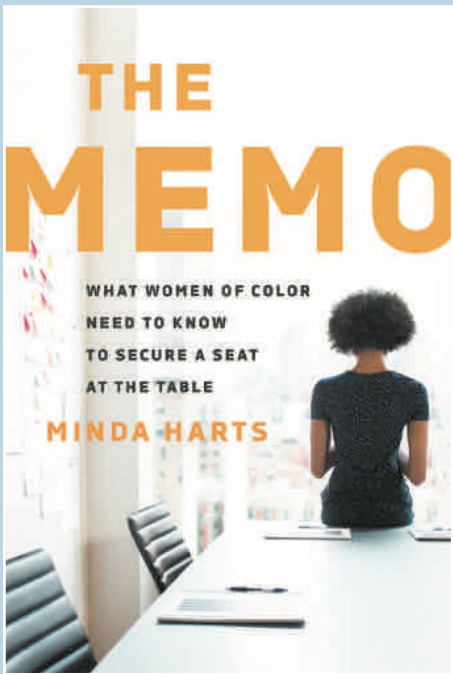
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BOOK REVIEW: “THE MEMO: THE MEMO: WHAT WOMEN OF COLOR NEED TO KNOW TO SECURE A SEAT AT THE TABLE”

BY **MINDA HARTS**
C.2019, SEAL
\$27.00 / \$35.50 CANADA • 221 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your seat is down there, right at the end.

You know, though, it’s not close enough to where you want to be. You need to be where decisions are made and careers are launched. No, your place at the table is close to the head and with “The Memo” by Minda Harts you’ll see how to get there.

Several years ago, a book circulated among businesswomen that advised them to “lean in,” speak up and coalesce. Harts

says she eagerly read the book but, once finished, she was confused. Like most women of color in business, she’d always “leaned in” because she had to. That book spurred her to come up with The Memo.

“The Ugly Truth,” she says, is that few organizations teach women of color how to deal with mostly-white workplaces. It’s not just a matter of showing up and doing the work; you need to survive and build “your squad.” In business-speak, that’s networking, and it’s top of the list in importance.

You may not feel like going to Happy Hour with coworkers who’ve irritated you all day but go anyhow. By joining in, even for a minute, you give people a chance to get to know you. You might find an office friend.

For women of color, office politics are two-pronged: you must learn “respectability politics” in addition to the other kind. Having a mentor will help; in the meantime, don’t burn bridges, don’t gossip and watch your emotions at work.

It sounds like just another platitude, but know your worth.

Invest in yourself and stand out, then get the self-confidence you need to ask for what you want. Just remember, salary isn’t the only thing to request: more vacation, a company car and flex-time are all nice bargaining chips.

Finally, if you’re white and reading this book, pay attention.

Says Harts, “... women of color will be the majority of the workforce by... 2060; if I were a white woman, I would do better.”

There is no denying the usefulness of this book, nor its

truth. “The Memo” offers helpful words for those who are the lone women of color at their workplaces. It teaches strength in the face of racism, on hair issues, self-confidence and for anyone who needs to school coworkers while keeping her job. It gives young women of color a sisterhood, albeit one made of paper.

And yet, there’s discord in this book that a deeper look exposes.

At two particular points here, author Minda Harts chastises white women for making assumptions and “sweeping gen-

eralizations about ‘women’” without addressing any of the unique challenges that women of color face at work. This creates a paradox, since readers may notice over-generalizations about white women that don’t allow room for those who are not clueless. That sets up further conundrums, to be sure.

Overall, go into “The Memo” looking for help and you’ll absolutely find it, just as you’ll find that you’re not alone. Go in eyes-wide-open when you take on this book.

And then, take a seat...

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Lynch Lodge No. 2 10th Annual Charity Bowling Tournament



Finishing first place and earning a donation was team Once Again. Team members are (from left) James Pope, Mike Walker, Melvin Pace and Bob Jefferson. Their charity of choice was Gateway Rescue Mission which received a \$900 donation.



Second place winners are from team Wiley Spence Lodge No. 704. Team members are (from left) Curtis Gray, Kilvin Griffen, Harlen Cavett and David Bean. Their charity of choice was American Cancer Society which received a \$700 donation.



Third place winners are from team Solely Greatness. Team members are (from left) Donald Parker, Natalie Cura, Violet Kirk and Dreshon Sanders. Their charity of choice was Community Nursing Home which received a \$500 donation.

HCSO National Bullying Prevention Month events - UNITY DAY

Mississippi Link Newswire

The HCSO will observe Bullying October 1–25. On October 7 we are asking all students, faculty, staff, parents and community individuals to wear and share blue to support the World Day Of Bullying Prevention which is observed on the first Monday of each October.

The goal is to encourage schools, communities and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages.

Listed below are the dates, sites and times of our events

October 16, 2019 / Carver Middle School – Restart – Life Skills Academy / Time: 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

October 16, 2019 / Raymond

Elementary School / 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

October 16, 2019 / Byram Middle School / Time: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

October 22, 2019 / Gary Road Elementary School / Time: 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

October 23, 2019 / Terry High school / Time: 10 – 11:30 a.m.

October 23, 2019 / Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School / Time: 1:30 -2:30 p.m.

October 24, 2019 / Raymond High School / Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

October 24, 2019 / Utica Middle School / Time: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

October 25, 2019/ Gary Road Intermediate School/12:30-2:30

Thank you for your continued support to bullying prevention in the HCSO.

AARP now recruiting volunteers for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation’s largest volunteer-run tax preparation service

Mississippi Link Newswire

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation’s largest volunteer-run tax-preparation service. The foundation is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season and is accepting new volunteers through the end of October.

Tax-Aide offers free in-person tax preparation and assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals nationwide. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by helping taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they’ve earned.

There are a variety of volunteer roles, including tax preparers, client facilitators, those who can provide technical and management assistance and interpreters. Every level of experience is welcome. Volunteer tax preparers complete tax preparation training and IRS certification.

Last year, 124 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 13,157 people file their federal and state tax returns. The program is offered at approximately 29 sites in Mississippi, including senior centers, libraries and other convenient locations.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968, and has served over 68 million taxpayers since its inception. The program now involves 35,000 volunteers and serves over 2.5 million taxpayers annually at nearly 5,000 sites nationwide. In 2019 taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received \$1.4 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$200 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). Taxpayers do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use Tax-Aide.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

About AARP Foundation Tax-Aide AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable older adults build economic opportunity and social connectedness. As AARP’s charitable affiliate, we serve AARP members and nonmembers alike. Bolstered by vigorous legal advocacy, we spark bold, innovative solutions that foster resilience, strengthen communities and restore hope.

To learn more about AARP Foundation visit aarpfoundation.org.

Volvo’s Scandinavian Adventure

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

We came here to see some of the product highlights that Volvo has planned for the 2020 model year. We also heard about how the company is doing. The short story is that sales are up in the U.S. even though the market is down from last year. Global sales are up too.

The name of the auto game is product, product and product. And Volvo has been rolling out top-notch vehicles for the past four years. You need look no further than the new crossovers, sedans and wagons the company has been churning out to pinpoint the cause of its sales increase.

Specifically, we were going to drive the new XC60 T8 Polestar Engineered, the new Volvo V60 Cross Country and the refreshed 2020 Volvo T8 Twin Engine Plug-In Hybrid. It had 400 horsepower and 472 pound-feet of torque.

Among the tweaks for the XC90 was a new color, Birch Light Metallic, and third-row seats. Depending on the second-row configuration, the 2020 XC90 can now be configured for four, six or seven passengers.

Volvo staffers said the addition was made because American consumers wanted a third row. And Volvo promised easy access to that row. Alas, we just didn’t get the chance to check it out; even though the XC90 T8 was the first vehicle we put on the road. We had the six-seat model.

Volvo had a pretty long list of tweaks for the XC90 in the upcoming model year. Among them were a new concave front



grille design, restyled front and rear bumpers, a new gloss black theme for the R-Design trim and all-new wheel designs.

Volvo said the electric motor sits on the rear axle of the T8s and provides 87 hp driving the rear wheels. The placement allows room for a large electric motor, which is useful in stop-and-go city traffic. The rear placement also makes all-wheel drive more efficient by providing the rear axle with an independent power source.

The XC90 T8 comes with what Volvo calls a TurboCord, which is a dual voltage (110v & 220v) charging cable. This allows customers to charge at home using a standard 110v or 220v wall outlet. The flexibility of the vehicle’s industry-standard J1772 connectors means customers can recharge their vehicle at thousands of public charging stations. With a 200v power source, the T8 can fully recharge in 2.5 hours.

We started our test drive in the 2020 XC90 T8 E-AWD Inscription. This crossover was super

smooth. It was quiet and it seemingly glided down the road. At first, we thought there was too much power for the wide openness of the roads here. Then a colleague said it wasn’t the power, it was that the speed limits were too low.

Although we didn’t know it initially, we were on the Trans-Canada Highway, which, at almost 5,000 miles long, spans the country from east to west. And in this area, it was straight with gentle curves and hills but relatively flat, even though we were in the Canadian Rockies.

The fastest speed limit we saw was 90 kilometers per hour that’s about 55.9 miles per hour. On one stretch it was 100 KPH but that didn’t last long. And since we had been warned that the police were operating several speed traps in the area, we pretty much stuck to the speed limit.

The road may have been boring but the XC90 was not. Some of its features were Napper leather seats that were heated and cooled; the second-row seats were also heated too and there

was gray ash wood trim. The front seats had cushion extenders, there were 21-inch alloy wheels, an air suspension and full LED headlights. Oh, those front seats would also massage too.

Volvo increased the battery size on the T8 to 11.6 kWh and added automatic braking to the blind spot information system with cross-traffic alert.

Interior enhancements included wool contour seats (we didn’t have them), a restyled crystal gear shift knob and a 1,400-watt 19-speaker premium sound system. And that was just the beginning.

The Volvo XC90 had Volvo’s double-wishbone front suspension. This means the wheel is attached to the car by two transverse links. The front suspension design also counteracted torque steer (the tendency to pull to the side during acceleration). Since we maintained constant, meaning slow speeds, there weren’t many places to aggressively accelerate. Most of the suspension parts were made of aluminum to

reduce weight.

About the only thing we didn’t like was that the captains’ seats in the second row did not have armrests. The vehicle we were test driving had a sticker of \$86,990.

We crossed into British Columbia and headed to the base of Kicking Horse Mountain. It’s a high-in-the-sky resort and we switched into the 2020 Volvo V60 Cross Country wagon.

It’s got some big treads to fill; station wagons are a Volvo specialty. This V60 was two and a half inches higher than the regular V60. The Cross Country sat on a unique chassis too, it had extended wheel arches (cladding around the wheel wells) and a studded chrome grille.

All-wheel drive was standard as were hill descent control, electronic stability control, corner traction control and a special off-road driving mode. It had a specially developed chassis and suspension that enhanced the car’s off-road capability.

Under normal conditions, the V60 Cross Country’s power was distributed to the front wheels. The system constantly calculated the need for torque and could redistribute up to 50 percent of the engine’s power to the rear wheels. When at a standstill, full all-wheel drive is always engaged to prepare for maximum traction during acceleration.

It had a turbocharged 2.0-liter 250 horsepower four-cylinder under the hood that made 285 pound-feet of torque. TheV60 Cross Country had a standard panoramic moonroof, standard LED headlights with Volvo’s signature “Thor’s Hammer” day-

time running lights, advanced safety technology, including available pilot assist driver assistance system and an intuitive infotainment system with standard Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

It is important to take note of where we were at 5,000 ft. in elevation. We were going to the summit of the mountain to a place called Eagle’s Eye Restaurant for lunch. It was at 8,000 ft. and to get there we drove up the access road which was a trail, not a road.

It was covered with gravel, there were stretches where over time rocks had become embedded in this path, in most places it wasn’t wide enough for two vehicles to pass each other simultaneously and it was, of course, hard-packed with dirt. The only thing to be grateful about was it was dry as in not raining. Oh, it was twisting too.

Before we began the ascent we set the 2020 Volvo Cross Country in off-road mode, one of five of its drive modes. The accelerator adjusted to reduce the risk for inadvertently exceeding 25 mph, hill descent control was automatically activated, steering was set to comfort mode, the engine and gearbox were optimized for traction, electronic stability control was set to traction/sport and the start/stop function was shut off. This wagon also had skid plates and 20-inch alloy wheels.

We were advised not to do more 20 kph that is kilometers per hour. Our speed ranged from 10 to 18 kph – most of the time, less than that.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District Host Parent Engagement Network Seminar

Theme: Acting for Impact: Schools, Parents, & Communities

Working Together to Ensure Students are College and Career Ready

Dr. Delesicia Martin, Superintendent of the HCSD invited parents to the district’s second Parent Engagement Network (PEN) Team Seminar at Hinds Community College Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond, MS September 26, 2019. Dr. Martin stated that one of the primary goals of establishing this team initiative is to foster deep relationships between the schools and parents. This group will also serve as ambassadors and connectors to make sure all of our parents are informed and engaged throughout the year. Topics discussed included: Curriculum-instruction-assessments; what can we do to improve the school & district for parents; and what can we do to improve communication between parents and the school? Parents were also given the opportunity to bring their kids who were entertained by Phillip Weisenberger from the Mississippi Children Museum.

Highlights from the Opening Session



Highlights from the Children’s Session

Facilitator: Phillip Weisenberger, Mississippi Children Museum



Highlights from the Parent Working Session

Facilitator: Natalie Collier, creative consultant, Fahr-heit Creative Group, LLC



Highlights from the Curriculum-Instruction-Assessment Session

Facilitator: Bobbi Burdett, executive director of Curriculum/Instruction and Team



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