

Getting Answers: Congressional Field Hearing on Immigration Raids

By **Levell Williams**
Contributing Writer

On August 7, 2019 the first day of school, nearly 700 Mississippi Hispanic and Latino poultry employees were arrested at seven poultry industries in a raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). According to Attorney Cliff Johnson of the University of Mississippi Law School, some 1500 or more children were affected by the raid, many coming home to find that either one or both of their parents had been arrested and detained, with no indication of their return.

In the following months, the needs of the many hundreds affected by the raids have been met only through various efforts of generosity by community members and immigrant rights advocates, such as Lorena Quiroz-Lewis, lead organizer for the Mississippi Immigrant Coalition and Working Together Mississippi.

“They’re American citizens, these children,” said Quiroz-Lewis.

According to Johnson, more than a dozen organizations have made organized efforts to alleviate the effects. “We’re not equipped to handle this,” he said.

In the aftermath of the raids, many local and state officials were left with no answers as to why their constituents and dependents had been targeted by ICE.

On November 7, at Tougaloo College, Congressman and Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie G. Thompson, held a Field Hearing on Immigration Raids to generate answers.

An audience of immigrant families, students and faculty of the Tougaloo community, and other Mississippi constituents, gathered at Holmes Hall. The large room was substantially



The first panel of witnesses (Attorney Cliff Johnson pictured in the foreground.) PHOTOS BY LEVELL WILLIAMS



Hispanic and Latino families present in support of the detainees and in opposition of the ICE raids

populated with members of the press surrounding the crowd on the wall. “Everyone we invited is here,” said Thompson in a warm welcome.

The field hearing would consist of two panels of testimonials from Mississippi government officials, knowledgeable civilians affected by the raids. Seated in

front of each panel, on the elevated stage where all could see them clearly, were the panel of

Immigration Raids
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The Black Press survives and thrives

Alcorn NABJ Lunch and
Learn featuring Miss. Link
publisher and editor

By **Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob**
Contributing Writer

This is a vital and prototypical epoch in human history, when ardent cynics and pessimists disparage the black press. This negative attitude is evidently akin to the gleeful prediction of its inevitable demise. To these adamant naysayers, especially during an era when the mainstream print media arguably reckons with its requiem, the status of the black press raises controversy. “It’s useless and irrelevant,” some arch opponents assert without guts or gumption.

Foremost champions: Hampton and Cain

However, two seasoned and distinguished Mississippi media giants, Mississippi Link publisher Jackie Hampton and editor Othor Cain, credibly argue that the black press is alive and well.

Speaking to Alcorn Mass Communication students in early November 2019, they submitted that despite daunting financial, social, cultural and technological hurdles, the Black Press battles along.

These media leaders convincingly contend that the Black Press’ role is as pertinent today as at its genesis in the 18th century. They assert that as in other historical eras, such as the Civil Rights movement, Reconstruction and slavery, the Black Press still performs a major role.

In championing the cause of the Black Press, speakers Cain and Hampton, urged staff and students who invited them, to

build on the solid foundation of Black Press pioneers.

During their presentation Hampton and Cain exhorted the importance of promoting the legacy of African-American media pioneers. And reminded them that even with challenges the Black Press grapples with, they are alive and progressing.

Bottom Line Profitability

Though the Black Press has a civil rights’ mission, the speakers noted that they must still practice the craft of journalism which is based on facts and not fiction; truth not lies and reality not myth. Black Press members must also survive and reckon with the quest for profitability and professionalism as imperatives for media owners and practitioners.

Hampton emphasized the importance of sales, noting that it is the life-line of most newspapers and other media outlets. She stressed that with the advent of social media, print sales and advertising have witnessed phenomenal changes.

Citing online transactions as the standard modus operandi today, Hampton added that media students must adapt to the new era and ways of conducting business.

Credible Stories

These speakers further updated students on media challenges, internships, job opportunities, trends and strategies. They said media practitioners, of any race or background,

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AT&T launches “Believe Mississippi” Initiative across the state

By **Jackie Hampton**
Publisher

On Tuesday AT&T launched its “Believe Mississippi” initiative to help fight hunger and food disparities in communities across the state. The launch took place in Jackson, Gulfport and Tupelo. Michael Walker, executive director of External Affairs kicked off the launch in Gulfport while Gunner Goad, regional director of External Affairs, kicked off the Tupelo launch. AT&T pledged \$200,000 to fight hunger and support in local communities.

In a packed conference room at the Mississippi Food Network location on Beatty Drive, AT&T President Mayo Flynt said “Through Believe Mississippi more than 2,300 AT&T employees are fighting hunger in Mississippi and closing food disparities in urban and rural communities across the state.” Of the \$200,000 pledged, \$50,000 will go to the Mississippi Food Network and \$75,000 will go to Sow Reap Feed to fund a mobile market.

Charles Beady, CEO of Mississippi



(L-R) Jackson Mayor Antar Chokwe Lumumba; Keith Elliot, Sow Reap; Charles Beady, MS Food Network; and Mayo Flynt, AT&T

Food Network, said the support of AT&T will help relieve poverty-related hunger

by supplying food to families who need help.

Keith Elliot of Sow Reap said “we look forward to an impactful partnership as we

hit the streets to fight hunger and food insecurity in Central Mississippi.”

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba said, “we operate in an area of scarcity, in a world where we have abundance.” He recalled a promise he made when elected mayor of the city of Jackson. “When I become mayor, you become mayor.” He said “We don’t have the capabilities to solve all the problems so we called on our corporate and community citizens to help.”

Mississippi Food Network Board Member Pam Confer was very pleased with the launch and what it means to those in need. She said, “Communities depend on a connection with corporate partners in order to lift and support faces and places that need us most. AT&T is a model for community collaborations that feed the mind and the body. Because of them, we all can “Believe in Mississippi.”

As part of the launch AT&T employees in Gulfport, Tupelo and Jackson went to the “Back Pack Room” and prepared items and packed meals for distribution.

Inside
Honoring veterans in word and deed: The Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Veterans Ministry



Pretty One



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Myricks new member on Student Advisory Council

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has announced Kaitlin Elise Myricks as a member of the inaugural State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council. The council includes students in grades 11-12 or first year of college to serve as members for a term of two school years.

More than 150 students from across the state applied for membership on the council and 83 were selected. The council consist of students from different backgrounds, school size and regions in Mississippi. Its overall purpose is to provide a forum for Mississippi’s students to offer diverse perspectives to Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. The selected students will act as liaisons between MDE and public-school students from across the state.

“I’m looking forward to hearing directly from students on issues of importance to them,” Wright stated. “As our clients, we want to make sure public education provides them with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. The council also allows students to interact with their peers from around the state and learn from one another.”

Myricks of Madison is a senior at Germantown High School. At Germantown she is an honor student and member



Myricks

of the GHS Legendary Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Mu Alpha Theta, choir, and theater. She is also an active volunteer with the Mississippi Children Museum.

She is the daughter of Ken and Katrina B. Myricks and a member of New Hope Baptist Church.

Fauna Foodworks presents Supper with Chef Carla Hall and Chef Enrika Williams



Hall



Williams

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Fauna Foodworks presents Supper with Chef Carla Hall and Chef Enrika Williams Friday, November 22, 5:30 p.m. at the Smith-Robertson Cultural Museum. The menu for the intimate dinner is inspired by local recipes that are featured in Chef Hall’s latest cookbook *Carla Hall’s Soul Food: Everyday and Celebration*.

Hall took a 10-day pilgrimage through the South to write her book. She and her co-author visited places like Jackson, MS (Sugar’s Place), Charleston, Savannah, Birmingham, and her hometown of Nashville to include these foods in her book. VIP guests will receive a signed copy of this cookbook and will get to chat with Hall during a cocktail reception prior to the dinner.

This dinner is sponsored in part by Bloom with Abigail, Poised Consultancy and Visit Jackson.

This event is open to the public. However, tickets are limited. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite at <https://carlaandysupper.eventbrite.com>.

For more information on this event, contact Chef Enrika Williams at 404 512-8499.



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Black Press

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must tell stories people can consume. Second, the Black Press operates from an alternative perspective, which is relevant and pertinent. Third, it is incumbent on HBCUs to train and equip students to tell alternative stories to mainstream reporting, especially as it pertains to the plight of African Americans.

“We provide a voice for the voiceless. We tell stories from different angles. We are black journalists, but we must tell the truth. No matter what path you follow, the most important thing is writing. Writing is life. In the multi-media age, you do everything. You write, you shoot and edit,” Cain said.

NABJ
Alcorn’s Branch of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) capitalized on the occasion to present their new executives: president Aerial Robinson; vice president Jazmin Green and secretary Gabrielle Terreet. Terreet, who serves as the adviser of Alcorn’s student’s branch, also helped in organizing the event.

The meeting, which ended with photographs and networking, enlightened attendees on the Black Press. Students posed insightful questions, which the two professionals tackled with excellence.

Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob is a mass communication professor at Alcorn State University, Lorman-Mississippi. A poet, author and journalist, Domatob taught at the University of Northern Iowa, Long Island University, Southampton-New York, where he was the director/coordinator for communications. He also served as a professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Fordham University, New York City and The College of New Rochelle, New York, as communications sequence director. He has published over five books and the latest ones are: Communication, Culture and Human Rights and Positive Vibration. He has published several newspaper features in Nigerian and American newspapers notably in the Jackson Advocate, The Mississippi Link, Harlem Times, Glory Journal and the Port Gibson Reveille. Contact him at domatobj@gmail.com. See photos from page 19.

Immigration Raids

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congresspersons, who would receive the testimonials for the record without objections, as well as question the testimonials given.

On the stage were four congresspersons: Congressman Bennie G. Thompson from Bolton, Mississippi; Congresswoman Shiela Jackson-Lee and Congressman Al Green from Houston, Texas; and Congressman Steve Cohen from Memphis, Tennessee.

The First Panel

The message of the first panel of testimonies is well characterized in the words of Johnson, the first to testify: “Mississippians did not ask for this. ... [and] Mississippi is not better as a result of what happened here.” Johnson said that Latino immigrants have had a place in the Mississippi poultry industry for some 20 years, and they have become familiar parts of their Mississippi communities.

Next, Reverend Odel Medina, who converted his parish into a makeshift counseling center for affected families, testified. He spoke of the children who shared their woeful confusion with him, and he referenced the community members of various religions and creeds, who extended their support toward the cause of helping those affected by the raids.

Rev. Medina’s sentiments were echoed by Judge Constance Slaughter-Harvey, a Tougaloo alum, and Quiroz-Lewis. Slaughter-Harvey drew correlations between the cruelty of the ICE raids and the pains of the Civil Rights Movement. Quiroz-Lewis testified of such cruelty, referring to one woman who was forcibly removed from her car by an ICE authority who cut her seatbelt and told her she would not be returning home, as well as one single mother, whom Quiroz-Lewis called “L,” who was not allowed to see her children. “L,” who eats only once a day in detention and suffers from a chronic ailment, according to Quiroz-Lewis, was unrecognizable to her young daughter, when she finally was allowed to see her much later after being detained.

The panelists were then questioned. When asked about whether ICE officials notified any local authorities about the raids, Slaughter-Harvey said not even the supervisors of the Mississippi Department of Children’s Protective Services were notified. She said the same about the principles and superintendents of five public schools in Scott county. When asked whether ICE officials made any contact with local authorities before conducting the raids, Slaughter-Harvey said, “I am certain that it did not happen.”

Further, Quiroz-Lewis noted that many of the detainees, like one woman she identified as “L,” spoke indigenous languages, not Spanish, and were therefore unfounded by a substantial language barrier. She noted that there is only bilingual licensed trauma counselors in the whole state, who is working “around the clock” to train others in cultural competency. On her efforts to reunite detainees with their families, she said, “We just kept losing people. ... We couldn’t trace anyone.”

Congressman Green asked whether the detained immigrants had been a criminal or economic burden. All of the panelists testified that there was no gang activity among the detained population. According to Johnson, the Latino and Hispanic immigrants are actually more likely to “under-report when they ... are victims of crimes.”

Concerning economics, Johnson noted, “they’re a vital part of an industry that creates 3 billion dollars in revenue each year in Mississippi alone,” noting also that most Mississippians do not desire the jobs that they worked. Slaughter-Harvey noted that Latino and Hispanic immigrant employees are actually crucial to the poultry industry, because, “no one will take the jobs that they took.” According to Quiroz-Lewis, after their bail bond hearings, “one of the first things they ask the judge is: ‘Can I go back to work?’”

Then, Congressman Cohen asked Slaughter-Harvey about the correlation between the events of this raid and her own work in the Civil Rights Movement. She responded, “I knew my rights as an American citizen. I could demand my rights. I could fight. They can’t. ... I could protect myself. They can’t.”

Cohen brought to the attention of the audience another raid that took place in Tennessee April 5, 2018. “It was so similar to this one, it’s eerie,” he said. Johnson agreed with Cohen that both the Tennessee and Mississippi raids are the result of the anti-immigration policy of the Trump administration. “What else might it be but the dictates of an administration that hasn’t learned the lessons of history; that when we round up people based on the color of their skin or their country of origin, we always look back in honor and shame,” said Johnson. “I think it’s demeaning of America,” said Cohen.

When asked about whether the raids were in his opinion a “good deterrent” to more immigrants coming from Central America, Johnson responded, “They’re driven by the human spirit, and I don’t think anything’s going to stop the effort to better your situation and help your children.”

Concluding the first panel, Thompson also noted that many detainees have not received their due pay because of their detainment period. “It cost \$478,000 to conduct that one day raid. We’re still trying to get some of the other costs,” said Thompson.

The Second Panel

Michael Lee, Sheriff of Scott County, Mississippi, and William Truly, Mayor of Canton, Mississippi, were joined on the second panel by Jerry Miles, special agent of the Department of Homeland Security, who has worked for ICE for more than ten years. Much of the questioning that would follow the three men’s initial testimonies would be directed at Miles.

Lee and Truly echoed many of the concerns of the first panel. Neither of them were notified of the raids’ occurrence. “As the mayor of the City of Canton, I was never notified,” said Truly, adding that he learned of the raids as they were happening. “It was

like an agency came in and took over our town,” he said. They also both agreed that their Latino and Hispanic constituents posed no criminal or economic threat to their communities. Lee noted that only three of the 125 inmates in his prison identify as Latino.

Miles’ viewpoints starkly contrasted with those of every panelist and congressperson, as he rather staunchly defended the ICE’s actions August 7. He said that the raid uncovered more than 400 cases of stolen identities.

In the course of delivering his testimony and answering questions, Miles contended some of the definitions being discussed. Among other ICE policies, he testified, “We do not conduct raids, sweeps or checkpoints.” Further, Miles said that children were not “separated,” because their parents were not with them at the times of their arrests. On the topic of cruelty, he said that to expect ICE authorities to exercise discretion “puts too much power in the hands of police,” deferring the authority to congressional legislation.

The congresspersons had various critiques of Miles’ testimony. Green ridiculed the ICE’s ineffective execution in what Miles called a “well planned” yet “not perfect” operation. Jackson-Lee noted in opposition, “Congress does not [legislate] the separation of families. ...”

Some facts of the raids were clarified through the questioning. ICE has not charged any employers for hiring undocumented workers. Also, ICE does not have a count of the children who are yet separated from their parents as a result of the raids. “Do you realize how indicting that is?” remarked Jackson-Lee. On the record, Miles was charged to address these issues. He was also asked to deliver works to Washington about the ineffectiveness of ICE’s actions.

In the conclusion of the second panel, Jackson-Lee summed the sentiment of the field hearing. “The President needs to know that in the places beyond the boundaries of Washington ... there is a great deal of disturbance.” Further, she extended her apologies to the families present, saying, “I have enough dignity to apologize on behalf of the United States. ... We can enforce the law [without being] perpetrators of injustice.”

After Thompson adjourned the field hearing, the room jumped abuzz with members of the press. In addition to a brief press conference held by the congresspersons, the present Hispanic and Latino families, led by Quiroz-Lewis, joined in a show of solidarity, which in ways became a press conference all its own.

All in all, the Congressional Field Hearing on Immigration Raids yielded significant information about the happenings of August 7. The formal introduction of this information may stand to bring change sooner than later. As said by Thompson, “We’ll do all we can. But we need to get it on the record.”

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NCBW planning 28th Holiday Top Hat Brunch

Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated, Central Mississippi Chapter, will celebrate its 28th Annual Holiday Top Hat Brunch Saturday, November 30, 2019, at the Hilton Jackson, 1001 East County Line Road, Jackson. The fun begins with seating at 10:30 a.m. and the program starts at 11:00 a.m.

This holiday tradition in the metro Jackson area serves as the primary fundraiser for the chapter's annual scholarship awards and other programs that impact our community in the areas of education, health, economic empowerment and leadership development. Over the years, more than \$250,000 in scholarships have been provided to deserving young ladies throughout Mississippi.

As one of the holiday season's most anticipated events, it promises to be an afternoon filled with live music, fun and door prizes.

This year's theme is Uniquely Us: Hat'n & Chat'n and all guests (men, women and youth) are invited to participate in the Legendary Parade of Hats competition in the various categories. Participants will be judged, with winners se-



2019 Holiday Top Hat Brunch Steering Committee. Sitting (left to right): Rita Wray, Jerelyn Butler. Standing (left to right): Brenda Cox, Terryce Walker, LaVerne Gentry, Andrewlene Darby, Jennifer Wallace Young, Corrine Anderson, Wilda Holloway, Wauline Carter

lected in each category. Not only is the excitement of the runway the center of attraction during this annual event but a holiday shopping extravaganza will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Vendors will be onsite to provide a selection of items to purchase as gifts, keepsakes and more. Tickets for this fun and festive event are \$50 and can be purchased in advance from members. For additional information and tickets, dial 601.955-8469.

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WE POWER LIFE®

Honoring veterans in word and deed: The Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Veterans Ministry

By **Levell Williams**
Student Writer, Tougaloo College

Americans honor US veterans on many days throughout the year, and they make special efforts to do so on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. However, while many make it a point to vocally honor the men and women who have served in the US armed forces, fewer people go as far as to provide monetary support for such veterans.

There is a need for financial support, as many veterans live civilian life in a state of financial and social strain. Often times aged and with few interests or abilities beyond their military training, these individuals can become physically and emotionally isolated. Absent of a caring outreach, many veterans come to live meager existence in civilian life that does not reflect the value of their armed service efforts.

In Jackson, Mississippi the Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Veterans Ministry is seeking to make a change in this matter. According to the ministry's chairman, Bishop James E. Calhoun, GBTC's Veterans Ministry is "a proud group of men and women" who are "dedicated to ... all veterans."

He expressly noted the support of GBTC Pastor Robert N. Fortson Sr. in making the ministry's work possible. "He's a very good man," he said. "He's not a vet, but you'd think he was one."

Composed primarily of veterans who attend GBTC, the ministry engages in various ef-



Bishop James E. Calhoun, chairman of the Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Veterans Ministry, pictured at the fundraiser cookout event November 8. PHOTOS BY LEVELL WILLIAMS



Members of the GBTC community participate in the Veterans Ministry fundraiser cookout.

forts to support local vets. They visit veterans' homes and supply needed items such as socks, toothbrushes and toiletries. He emphasized the important of showing them that somebody cares, because "they are away from their families," said Calhoun.

On November 14, the GBTC Veterans Ministry held a cookout fundraiser to contribute to the ministry's future service plans. More than ten people

were on hand to cook, serve and take orders as members of the community and church came out to support the ministry. On the menu were fried wings, hamburgers and french fries, to name a few items.

According to Calhoun, the proceeds of the cookout fundraiser will go towards the ministry's upcoming events. They plan to visit veterans' homes in Collins, Mississippi for Christmas and travel to Washington



(From left to right.) Lugene Cooley, Larry Henderson and Buford Moore pictured at the GBTC Veterans Ministry fundraiser cookout.



Members of the GBTC community prepare food for the Veterans Ministry fundraiser cookout.

DC for Veterans' Day next year. As the DC trip will take significant funding, the ministry intends to secure a sponsor in coming months to support their trip.

Some of the attendees at the cookout, veterans and non-veterans, shared the significance of the event and of the veterans ministry. GBTC members and non-veterans, Larry Henderson and Hastings Williams Sr., agreed that the fellowship enjoyed at events like the cookout

is of paramount importance. "There's just nothing like them," said Williams about his faith community.

Buford Moore and Lugene Cooley, GBTC members, talked about the importance of the veterans ministry to them, as veterans.

"There have been times that I wish I had joined the military," said Henderson, noting that he did not learn certain lessons in discipline until he became dedi-

cated to his faith.

The Veterans Ministry also gives veterans a space to relate with other veterans about topics that only former members of the armed force can well understand.

"We learned in the military that if you didn't follow orders [the way they were given] there's going to be consequences," said Moore, veteran and GBTC member.

"Some of them are still angry," said Calhoun on this topic.

"The process of regaining social normalcy is something that comes about over time," added veteran and GBTC member Cooley.

When asked how someone can best contribute to the mission of the GBTC Veterans Ministry, Calhoun clearly responded: "financially." "Any amount would be accepted," he said. The ministry chairman added, "You're giving to a wonderful ministry."

As the holiday season draws near, many veterans will face yet another year without the social and economic care and support that so many take for granted.

It is good that many Americans shared their goodwill towards vets November 11. However, what may go further than warmed feet, trimmed hairs and smiling faces is a financial contribution to the Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Veterans Ministry. Veterans of the US armed forces stand to gain many blessings, indeed, through the work of the ministry and other organizations like it.



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Progress being made on multiple bond construction projects

Mississippi Link Newswire

Facilities Executive Director Don McCrackin reported on progress being made on the 2018 Bond Construction Program during the November 4 regular meeting of the JPS Board of Trustees. Various projects at multiple sites were recently completed, while others are making steady progress. A summary of some of these projects is provided below.

Barack Obama Elementary School Parking Lot Improvements

Improvements were made to the entrance into the parking lot at Barack Obama Elementary School. Previously, conditions made it difficult to enter due to a steep incline from the North President Street entrance to the front apron of the parking lot. The completed project allows drivers to enter and exit with ease via the North President Street driveway.

Timberlawn Elementary School Parking Lot Improvements

At Timberlawn Elementary, the north and south surfaces of the parking lot were significantly deteriorated and were in need of considerable improvements. Drainage repairs and a new asphalt overlay were completed for the north parking areas. The south side of the parking area will receive similar improvements in Phase II, and the project is scheduled to be completed before the end of the school year.

Van Winkle Elementary School Site Improvements

Van Winkle Elementary's bus staging walkways were riddled with heaved areas caused by soil (Yazoo Clay) contraction and expansion, resulting in the need for extensive repairs. The entire length of all covered walkway areas, where students arrive and depart from school daily, is being replaced with new concrete walkways. Other areas around the school, especially concrete stoops and landings at exterior classroom doors, are being removed and regraded to allow unobstructed passage for students, teachers and staff.

Wingfield High School Second Floor Restroom Upgrades

Upgrades to the second floor boys and girls restrooms at Wingfield High School are underway. At the beginning of the school year, the first floor restrooms were renovated as a part of Phase I. Improvements include installing new fixtures, doors, partitions, lavatories and lighting.



New and improved parking lot entrance at Barack Obama Elementary



Timberlawn parking lot



Van Winkle



Upgrades to boys and girls restrooms at Wingfield High School



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MVSU announces Fall 2019 Commencement, President Briggs to serve as speaker

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For the first time in several decades, Mississippi Valley State University students who complete their degree requirements during the fall semester won't have to wait until May to walk across the stage and realize the dream of earning a college degree.

MVSU has announced plans to host a Fall Commencement Exercise at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, in the R.W. Harrison Complex.

Jerryl Briggs Sr., the university's eighth president of MVSU, will serve as the commencement speaker.

"According to Valley alumni, the fall commencement is not new," shared fall commencement chair Curressia Brown, who also serves as the acting chair/assistant professor in the MVSU Department of Business.

"The return was initiated by President Briggs in response to a desire by those completing their requirements in December to enjoy the pageantry of the commencement exercises," she added.

According to Brown, the desire to prioritize students' needs played a major factor in reinstituting the fall commencement.

"For those who would immediately begin their careers or transition into the next level of graduate or professional education, and for international students or those who reside outside our region, the cost of returning to campus in May was



Graduates

prohibitive. Fall commencement allows these students and their families to share in the joys of their celebration," she explained.

Brown said the entire campus has really "bought" into the addition of the fall commencement exercise.

"Thanks to the outstanding personnel on our campus who do the 'work' of commencement, preparation has been an exciting process. Those behind the scenes are experts at their tasks, and each area and auxiliary unit involved is working diligently to ensure that the fall commencement under the leadership of Dr. Jerryl Briggs Sr. will be a remarkable tribute to a phenomenal graduating class," she said.

Ultimately, Brown said the goal is to help students and their families commemorate the special occasion.

"Graduation, at any level, is a sacred celebration – not just for the individual obtaining the degree, but for the 'village' standing with and behind that graduate. Our goal, like those tasked with planning and executing this ceremony, is to ensure that the service is distinguished," she said.

With more than 30 years of professional experience in higher education, Briggs was unanimously selected to become the president of MVSU Oct. 19, 2017. Before being named president, he served in the capacities of acting president and as executive vice president/

chief operating officer at the university.

During Briggs' tenure as president, he has prioritized campus safety and infrastructure with the completion of a \$500,000 outdoor lighting project and upgrades to the university's video surveillance system.

He also solidified a partnership with FedEx Logistics, a subsidiary of FedEx Corporation, to launch its Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program, making MVSU the prototype as the program's first HBCU partner.

Briggs managed a \$17 million capital improvement project for the university's athletic complex. He also oversaw the renovation of two campus residence halls with additional



Briggs

planning underway for renovations to other campus buildings.

Before joining MVSU, Briggs served as vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Central State University in Ohio. Prior to Central State University, he has held various positions within higher education administration, including serving for ten years at Lincoln University (PA) as vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Dean of Students. He has also held positions at Clark Atlanta University, the College of William and Mary, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign and North Central College.

Briggs earned his Bachelor

of Science degree in chemistry education from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master of Arts degree in human relations and supervision from Louisiana Tech University and both an educational specialist degree in higher education administration and a doctorate in educational policy, planning and leadership from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. He also completed Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management program.

Briggs is a native of New Orleans and is the father of two sons – Isaiah and Jerryl Jr.

For questions or more information about MVSU's fall commencement exercise, contact Curressia Brown at 662 254-3609 or cbrown@mvsu.edu.

Tougaloo SGA Social Media Campaign #TougalooProud

By Sierra Phillips
Tougaloo College Student Writer

Tougaloo College's 150th Founder's Week was October 14-20, 2019, and the week was full of wonderful events. That Saturday, students and alumni attended a tailgate that featured great food and a live DJ. The colors royal blue and scarlet were flashing through the crowd with many wearing their Tougaloo apparel, as if they had specially coordinated for the 150th Founder's Week.

Unfortunately, the weekend after the 150th Founder's Week celebration, pictures were sent to 16 WAPT News "exposing" deteriorating dormitory conditions at Tougaloo. Some of the pictures shown were visuals of rainwater pouring into a dorm room through the roof, and broken toilets along with broken outlets.

Of course, the Eagle Queen's new president, Carmen Walters, did not take a liking to the negative attention Tougaloo was receiving. As she began her presidency July 1, she has made numerous strides to improve Tougaloo for the eaglets that are here and for future eaglets.

Walters has replaced lights on campus, and cleaned dorms. Last week an email went out



Victor Tate showing off his Tougaloo pride.

to enlighten students that \$600,000 was raised to renovate historic Galloway Hall, which is the social science building. Because Tougaloo is a private HBCU, it is very difficult to raise money for the institution to continuously satisfy the students. HBCUs in general

are fighting to remain sustainable, let alone private ones.

Many students and even alumni have expressed their dissatisfaction on social media about the living conditions at Tougaloo College. To combat the negativity, Tougaloo College Student Government Association



A'mon Haynes, SGA VP, wearing Tougaloo apparel showing he is #TougalooProud

sociation started a social media campaign asking Tougaloo students and alumni to change their profile pictures on their various social media accounts to a solid red picture to show that they are #TougalooProud despite the negativity and struggles the institution faces.

Student Victor Tate (Class of 2021) was asked about his initial reaction to the 16 WAPT story. "It was overwhelming," he said, and he felt as if the story "should not have been publicized." When asked about what makes him proud to be a student at Tougaloo, Tate responded,

"[it is] the history of the institution. Knowing what Tougaloo was and what it is now and how it was transformed from a slave plantation to an institution of higher learning is what makes me proud."

Another student A'mon Haynes (Class of 2021), the vice president of the Tougaloo College Student Government Association, was asked about his initial reaction to the 16 WAPT story. He said he was "surprised and disappointed to see the story get that far." He also expressed how the complaints were taken to the president about two days before it was taken to the news and that two days was not enough time to fix every problem on campus. When asked about the significance of the social media campaign, Haynes said "we are reclaiming and writing our own narrative of Tougaloo College."

No institution is perfect, and Tougaloo College does need improvements. However, despite the struggles they face as an institution, the students at Tougaloo College are proud to be a part of the Tougaloo family and legacy. All in all, they will get through every battle because they "enjoy the test."

To date, approximately 3500 Americans have won Rhodes Scholarships representing over 300 colleges and universities. Some notable Rhodes Scholars are MSNBC show host Rachel Maddow, actor and singer Kris Kristofferson, former President Bill Clinton, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, NFL player Myron Rolle and former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Democrat Mike Espy starts 2020 US Senate bid in Mississippi

By Emily Wagster Pettus and Jeff Amy
The Associated Press

Mississippi Democrat Mike Espy announced Tuesday that he's running again for U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith, setting up a 2020 rematch of a race that churned up the state's painful racist history.

"I can and will do a better job for the people of Mississippi and the United States," Espy told supporters by email, after telegraphing the move for months.

Espy is a former U.S. House member and former U.S. agriculture secretary. He lost the November 2018 special election to fill the last two years of retired Republican Sen. Thad Cochran's six-year term.

Hyde-Smith was Mississippi's agriculture commissioner when Republican Gov. Phil Bryant appointed her to temporarily succeed Cochran in the spring of 2018. She is the first woman to represent Mississippi in Congress.

The 2018 campaign was rocked by a video showing Hyde-Smith, who is white, praising a supporter by saying she'd attend a "public hanging" if he invited her. She called it an "exaggerated expression of regard."

The comment made Mississippi's history of lynching a central theme in the campaign. Espy mentioned those remarks in his announcement video, emphasizing his pathbreaking role as Mississippi's first black congressman since Reconstruction.

"We can't continue the change



Espy AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

we need if we have a senator who openly laughs about public hangings and makes statements supporting voter suppression," Espy said. "Cindy-Hyde Smith is hurting Mississippi – our progress and our reputation – and we simply must replace her."

If elected, Espy would become Mississippi's first African-American U.S. senator since Reconstruction. In the video, he says his great-grandparents were slaves brought to Mississippi from Georgia and Virginia. Their son, his grandfather, founded Mississippi's first hospital for African Americans.

Espy told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that he believes he can win by building a diverse coalition of voters. He said his campaign hired a firm to analyze which precincts can be flipped from Republican to Democrat.

"We're going after everybody – white, black, Democrat, persuadable Republican, persuadable moderates and those in the middle," Espy said. "But I know where

they are now. I'm not flying blind."

Espy says he wants to reduce poverty, make health care more affordable, increase well-paying jobs, improve schools and end President Donald Trump's trade war that's pressuring farmers financially.

Candidates' qualifying begins Jan. 2, and Mississippi's U.S. House, Senate and presidential primaries are March 10. If primary runoffs are needed, they will be March 31, leaving a long stretch until the November general election.

It's unclear if Hyde-Smith will have any opposition in the Republican primary. During her time in office, Hyde-Smith has focused on rural issues and remained loyal to Trump.

In a statement released through her campaign spokesman, Hyde-Smith said she looks forward to discussing her vision to move Mississippi and the country forward.

"I'm proud to have helped lead efforts to transform our federal

courts with conservative judges, improve border security, continue modernizing our military and pass pro-growth policies that have created new jobs and better wages," Hyde-Smith said.

Espy's announcement comes a week after Democrat Jim Hood lost the governor's race to Republican Tate Reeves, highlighting continuing weakness for Democrats in Mississippi. More voters turned out for the runoff between Espy and Hyde-Smith than for the 2019 general election, and other Democrats also lost badly in statewide races.

As he did in the 2018 campaign, Espy said he'll be independent and put Mississippi's needs over loyalty to a party.

"Too often, our current senator puts party over country instead of doing what's best for our state and even our national security," Espy said in his statement.

Trump campaigned for Hyde-Smith in Mississippi in 2018, and he praised her when he held a rally Nov. 1 in Tupelo, days ahead of the gubernatorial election. Hyde-Smith was at that rally with Reeves and other Republicans.

"Cindy Hyde-Smith – she's incredible," Trump said. "She's tough and smart and strong, and she's with us all the way."

Hyde-Smith is likely to have a substantial financial advantage over Espy. Federal Election Commission documents show Espy raised \$100,000 through Sept. 30 and had \$131,000 on hand, while Hyde-Smith raised nearly \$1 million and had \$583,000 on hand.

Mississippi woman seeks pardon in crash that killed couple

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A Mississippi woman is seeking a pardon, years after pleading guilty in a crash that killed two doctors.

But Republican Gov. Phil Bryant has not issued any pardons during nearly eight years in office.

Karen Collins was named Karen Irby in 2009, when the crash occurred in Jackson. At the time, she was married to a wealthy businessman. She was driving when their Mercedes sedan crashed into another vehicle, killing Dr. Lisa Dedousis and her fiancé, Dr. Mark Pogue.

Karen Irby pleaded guilty to culpable negligence manslaughter in 2010 and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. Republican Gov. Haley Barbour released her from prison as he left office in early 2012. He ordered that she serve three years on house arrest, plus two years under the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Corrections. She was released from house arrest in early 2015.

The Clarion Ledger reported that the former Karen Irby, using her current name of Karen Collins, has been publishing legal notices saying she is seeking a pardon.

Applicants for an executive pardon must post notice in a newspaper in the county of conviction 30 days before making an application to the governor. Cases filed with the governor's office are sent to the Parole Board for investigation. The Parole Board usually requires letters of recommendation from the community and family and a statement of unusual circumstances.

The Parole Board can conduct a hearing on applications.

In an unrelated case, a former doctor recently sought a pardon from Bryant, and his office wrote in response that Bryant has granted no pardons and: "He has made the decision that he is not going to grant any pardons during his term as governor."

Authorities said that the night of the crash, Karen Irby was traveling at least 70 mph in a 40 mph zone and her blood-alcohol level was above the legal limit. She later said her then-husband, businessman Stuart M. Irby Sr., was physically assaulting her when the accident happened.

The Irbys divorced while she was in prison. Authorities said Stuart Irby, who suffered a brain injury in the crash, took his own life in January 2012.

Former Mississippi House Speaker Billy McCoy dies at 77

By Emily Wagster Pettus
The Associated Press

Former Mississippi House Speaker Billy McCoy, an advocate for public education and economic opportunities for the less fortunate, died Tuesday after an extended illness. He was 77.

Rep. Steve Holland of Plantersville said McCoy died at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, where he had been hospitalized for about two weeks. Holland's funeral home is handling arrangements for the funeral, which will be Friday.

McCoy was a Democrat from the north Mississippi town of Rienzi. He had worked as a vocational education teacher and spent much of his life as a worm farmer.

McCoy was first elected to the state House in 1979 and served 28 years. He was speaker of the 122-member chamber from January 2004 until January 2012.

McCoy was known for his down-home turns of phrase — and for his occasional hot temper.

In a March 2004 interview, he chuckled when asked about comparisons between raising worms and leading the diverse and sometimes contentious group of lawmakers.

"They both require a heck of a lot of work and a certain amount of luck and the blessings of the good Lord," McCoy said.

Before he became speaker, McCoy served as chairman of both the Education Committee and the tax-writing Ways and



McCoy AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

Means Committee.

He chose not to seek reelection to the House in 2011, and Republicans won a supermajority in the chamber that year.

"Billy McCoy was the epitome of what was good about the state of Mississippi," said Holland, who was McCoy's desk-mate in the House chamber for 28 years. "He had a keen vision of what was good for Mississippi and an innate Appalachian love of the state and its people. He would fight a circle saw with the gusto of a hound dog to see that that vision was done."

McCoy was sidelined for several months in 2004 when he suffered four strokes after undergoing colon surgery. Holland said McCoy had lingering health problems. McCoy's survivors include his wife Edith and their children, Sam and Kim.

Funeral services are 2 p.m. Friday at Gaston Baptist Church near Booneville.

House members unanimously elected McCoy as speaker, their presiding officer, in January 2004, when Democrats still held their decades-long control of the chamber. He immediately reminded his colleagues to re-

member the less fortunate as they set public policy.

"There is an ever-widening gulf between affluence and those that struggle to meet the basic needs of life," McCoy said. "How much is too much? How much is too little? What is our responsibility to balance?"

After a tumultuous four-year term in which McCoy butted heads with Republican Gov. Haley Barbour over taxes, Medicaid and other issues, a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats tried to oust McCoy from the speakership. McCoy won his second term as speaker in a dramatic 62-60 vote that took place within the opening hours of the 2008 session.

Thirteen Democrats split from McCoy and sided with all 47 Republicans to vote for Jeff Smith of Columbus, who challenged McCoy for the top leadership job. At the time, Smith was a conservative Democrat; he later became a Republican.

Ten days after surviving the challenge to his leadership, McCoy named Democrats as chairmen of every House committee and gave Republicans only about one-quarter of the vice chairmanships. The committee assignments are important because chairmen have great leeway in deciding whether bills live or die.

McCoy had received strong support from members of the Legislative Black Caucus, and he named a record number of African-American committee leaders. He created a Poverty Committee to study what he called one of Mississippi's most pressing problems.

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Vietnam vet fighting for the rights of black soldiers

By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Vietnam War veteran Ari Merretazon spent another Veteran’s Day fighting for fellow soldiers in Philadelphia.

A court is expected to hear soon more arguments in a case Merretazon has brought against the city.

Philadelphia officials have failed to follow a 1955 provision in the city charter that created a budget for an Office of Veterans Affairs with a salaried director, Merretazon’s suit claims.

While there’s a Veterans Commission, an Office of Veterans Affairs could have reached more local returning soldiers and helped them receive more substantial benefits.

Merretazon, who founded the Pointman Soldiers Heart Ministry, wants Philadelphia officials to formally establish a Veterans Office.

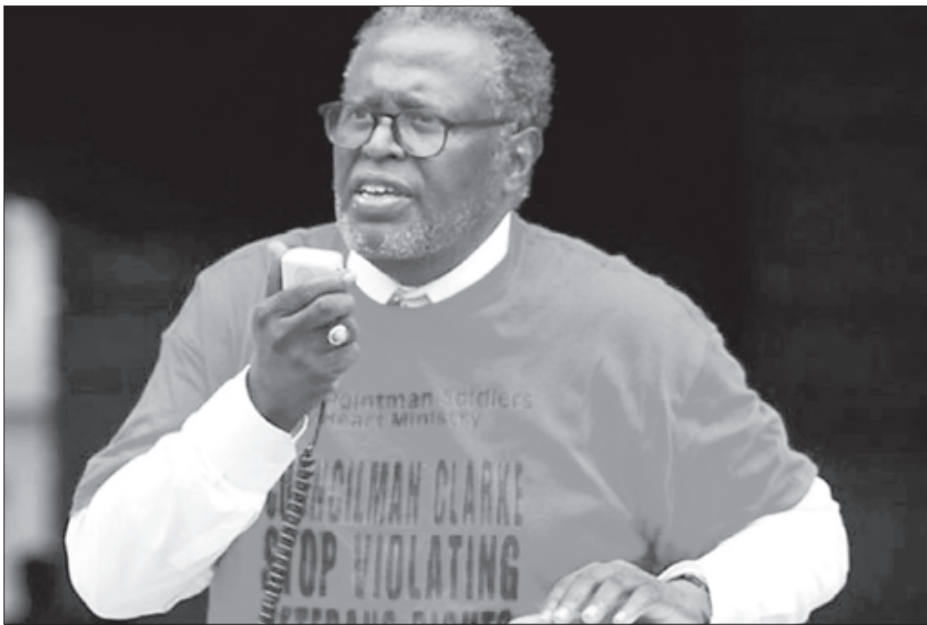
“They are not in compliance with the law,” said Merretazon, whose story of the Vietnam War was highlighted in the 1984 book, “Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War, An Oral History,” by Wallace Terry.

The book was later the inspiration for the 1995 motion picture “Dead Presidents,” which reviewers called the most powerful depiction of black veterans in the history of American cinema.

The film starred Terrence Howard, Larenz Tate and Chris Tucker as returning Vietnam War veterans whose lives after discharge were plagued by crime, addiction and a host of psychological challenges.

“As bzlack veterans, we not only face post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), but we have racially induced PTSD as well because there’s so much racism in the military,” Merretazon said.

He believes race has played a significant role in his battle with Philadelphia that’s led to the cur-



Ari Merretazon COURTESY OF NNPA NEWSWIRE



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee pins Merretazon with the 50th Year Commemorative Vietnam War Pin during a salute to veterans on Capitol Hill during a 201718 Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust acknowledgment of Black Veterans involved in the Vietnam War.



Acknowledgment by the White House, President Jimmy Carter, for establishing the first Veterans Affairs Office inside of a prison (D.C. Dept of Corrections, Lorton Reformatory, 1978)



Merretazon (center) testifies in support of Resolution 120042, to determine the readiness of the City of Philadelphia to serve and assist returning soldiers from Afghanistan, Desert Storm and Iraq, City of Philadelphia, City Council, September 11, 2012



Receipt of the 2013 Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust Award, presented by Ron Armstead, director, at Triumph Baptist Church, Philadelphia

rent court case.

“Philadelphia needs to acknowledge that racism in the military is a PTSD injury,” Merretazon said.

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have conducted various studies of PTSD in ethnic minority Vietnam Veterans. The results of the research are not entirely consistent. Still, VA officials noted that the overall finding seems to be that most ethnic minority veteran groups have a higher rate of

PTSD than white veterans.

According to the VA, some of this may be due to psychological conflicts related to identification with the Vietnamese. Another factor may be higher exposure to war zone stressors, VA officials said.

“It’s been years, if not ever, that Philly hasn’t met any of its obligations to veterans,” Merretazon said. “My anger is based on the fact that we have had to fight two wars. One was in the field of battle in Vietnam. And,

the other at our base where rebel flags flew and black soldiers had the worst jobs. They threatened us with going back to the field with those who were less qualified.”

Merretazon said his court battle had progressed well. An appeals panel earlier indicated that the only thing keeping him from prevailing was that he lived outside of the city.

“I live in a neighboring county, but I do my work in the city of Philadelphia,” Merretazon said.

“But, it’s clear that Philadelphia is trying to cover up their misdeeds toward veterans. The fact that there’s no office of veterans affairs is wrong. Philadelphia, in particular, City Council President Darrell Clarke, has messed up the money for veterans, and that’s why we are where we are.”

A spokesperson for Clarke declined to comment, citing the pending lawsuit.

Merretazon has obtained full benefits, but, he must continue to fight for others.

“The veterans who come home to Philly have nobody saying what to do, and through our ministry, we’ve been able to provide direction on direct services,” Merretazon said. “It’s well-known that many are hurting. There are significant guaranteed benefits for the veterans and their families, but they aren’t getting them. “I’m 100 percent disabled. I’ve got mine. I’m trying to help other people get what they deserve.”

America’s veterans deserve better from for-profit colleges

By **Charlene Crowell**
TriceEdneywire.com

Every year, the 11th day of the 11th month is observed as Veterans Day. It’s a time to honor the 18.2 million men and women still living who served in at least one war. Though observances vary across the nation, each celebrates the American ideal of service to country.

It’s also a time to remember that our nation makes promises to these patriots that must be kept.

From health care to home loans and educational benefits, our nation supports the well-being and financial security of those who have served and their families. For example, VA (Veterans Administration) home loans enable veterans to have their own American Dream. And who wouldn’t want a federal assurance that the nation would pick up the tab on health care?

When it comes to the transition from military to civilian life, many veterans rely upon GI benefits to financially support their efforts to receive higher education and better incomes without incurring thousands of dollars of student debt.

So why is it that veterans seeking to gain updated and marketable skills in a technology-driven economy become prey to for-profit colleges?

Major Chris Davis with the United States Marine Corps observes that these valued educational benefits are making targets out of vets.

“The GI Bill is a promise between Americans and the service members



who protect our freedom from all threats,” wrote Davis in a recent blog. “My friends and fellow veterans did not spill their blood on foreign lands to return home and be taken advantage of by collegiate con artists.”

Many of the “con artists” Davis refers to are for-profit colleges that typically charge higher tuition and fees for enrollment than do public or nonprofit institutions. Many of these schools have low graduation rates and/or lower earnings than those promised – even after 10 years in their respective fields. Beyond these significant concerns, since 2012, for-profit college closures have left many veteran students with few, if any, of their GI educational benefits left. College credits earned at these closed schools frequently are not ac-

cepted at other institutions.

“That VA has not invoked their authority to ban schools that engage in deceptive marketing for almost 50 years is a missed opportunity to do what is right for military-connected students in higher education,” said Tanya Ang, vice president at Veterans Education Success, a veteran advocacy organization dedicated to advancing higher education success for veterans.

“We urge VA and their Office of General Counsel to review the relevant statute and act now to protect veterans from predatory schools,” added Ang.

Ang’s concerns are bolstered by a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that found more than 7,000 veterans receiving Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits were attending schools op-

erated by Corinthian Colleges and ITT Educational Services when the institutions respectively closed with little to no notice in 2015 and 2016.

At the time of Corinthian Colleges’ closure, over 72,000 students were enrolled. The next year, ITT’s closure of 136 campuses affected 35,000 students. Other for-profit closures by Education Corporation of America in 2018 and The Art Institutes and Argosy University – both owned by Dream Center Education Holdings – literally added thousands more exploited veteran students.

According to the GAO report, “[V]eterans can face challenges transferring credits and continuing their education at a new school. This may make it more difficult for veterans to complete their degrees before exhausting their eligibil-

ity for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.”

For-profit schools had lower 4-year program graduation and retention rates, according to the GAO report, compared to public and nonprofit colleges.

Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, since 2009, the VA has paid \$94 billion in two ways. College tuition and fees are paid directly to schools, while an additional monthly housing benefit and stipend for books is paid to vets. Those who served on active duty for 36 months can access this benefit that amounts to \$24,477 for the 2019-2020 academic year. Depending upon other circumstances, veterans could also be eligible for Pell Grants and/or Direct Federal Student Loans available through the Department of Education.

For-profit institutions that enroll veterans accessing both federal loans through the Department of Education and Post 9/11 benefits can derive nearly all of their revenues and subsequent profits from federal taxpayer dollars. Such scenarios exploit the original intent of the 90/10 rule which requires that no more than 90% of all funds received by for-profit colleges from federal sources. Post 9/11 benefits are not counted in the 90%, hence the term, “the 90/10 loophole” and the practice of targeting veterans by for-profit colleges.

It’s enough to make a sensible taxpayer question whether for-profit colleges are in the business of educating veterans and other consumers or simply gouging the goodwill of taxpayers.

Is God pleased with your life?

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



Once I read an article entitled “All that glitters is not gold.” It was about a man who wanted to buy his wife a new pair of shoes for a special occasion. He was living in New York City and rushing back and forth from one office building to another. One cold, winter day, he walked past a famous department store known for their beautiful window displays, and his eye caught some glitter. He stopped and looked, and there against the billowy white clouds of cloth and the shimmering snow and speckles of gold flakes all around, the lights were shining down on the most beau-

tiful pair of golden shoes he had ever seen in his life. The man rushed into the store and told the clerk, “I need that pair of shoes in the window.” The clerk went to the backroom and brought out a box, but when the clerk opened the box, the man said, “Those are the most drabbed looking shoes I have ever seen.” When taken away from the light, the glitter, and the snowy scene, he was so disheartened and disappointed. The life of many a person, removed from the church setting and the atmosphere of holiness and righteousness and the influence of godly associations becomes drab and disappointing as others see their true self. Away from that setting, their true colors come out. It is easy to say you are a

Christian when you are in the sanctuary. All you have to do is smile, look pleasant, and talk right, and most people will accept you as being right. The question is, in the walls of your own house, how do you treat your wife or your husband? How do you treat your children? Young person, how do you treat your parents? Are you disrespectful and hateful? Do you get angry when you do not get your own way? How do you act on the highway if someone cuts you off? What is your attitude? Do you react with road rage and pull up beside the other driver and shake your fist? How do you live when no saints are looking at you? Remember, you need to live to please God. He is not fooled. He understands, sees and

knows every single action of your life. What about the internet or what you watch on DVD’s? God knows everything about you. Is God pleased with your life or are you in danger of experiencing His wrath? You must lay hold on eternal life. Live everyday as though it will be your last. It is good to be clear and happy. It is a real blessing to be saved from all sin, and it is a wonderful blessing to be pure in heart and to know that ‘I am right with God.’ If you have a need, won’t you earnestly seek the Lord? *Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.*

P R E S E R V E D Testimonies of God’s greatness

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Thirty years ago I began my career in journalism as an intern at a gospel radio station in San Antonio. I went every Sunday for about 6 months and my job was very simple: answer the phone. One of the benefits of the job was that I got to meet so many interesting people like local pastors and funeral directors who ran commercials on the radio station. One lady evangelist, Sis. Angnet Norman, hosted a weekly show called “Testimonies of God’s Greatness” where she shared her personal testimonies about how God blessed her life. For example, more than once she shared how she’d be in the grocery store line with a full shopping cart and no money. But because she had faith, God would always send someone at the right moment who would offer to pay for her groceries. After hearing one too many testimonies like this, my 20-year-old brain started to think, “That’s crazy. Ain’t no one buying a full cart of groceries for a stranger.” She also shared how sometimes she would get a check in the mail that she wasn’t expecting that ended up being just what she needed to pay a bill. God was always on time for her. She was a nice lady and a great story teller. But I thought her stories were a little unbelievable. But guess what happened to me in the last two weeks? A complete stranger gave me money in the grocery store and I got a check in the mail that I was not expecting. The money in the grocery store paid for about half of my groceries. I was excited and

immediately thought “God what a blessing.” On the other hand, when I got the unexpected check in the mail about a week later, my response was very different. First, I stared at it confused about whether it was real or fake. I then did some research on the internet to make sure it wasn’t a scam check from some hacker trying to get my bank account information. Nothing came up in my searches and I finally accepted it was real. Even though I was glad I got the check, I was surprised that I was so skeptical about what was a great blessing from God. It’s funny how sometimes we don’t want to receive God’s blessings. Then I laughed because I was now like Sis. Norman and had an amazing testimony about the greatness of God. Luke 12:6-7 reminds us that God cares for us like he cares about the sparrows “Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Also, just like her faith was increased after every miracle she received, my faith was increased. Recently, I’d been feeling a little forgotten and discouraged. Both of these miracles made me see that God had not forgotten about me. And that’s the beauty of when God chooses to bless us. He does it to remind us that even if it seems like others have forgotten, He hasn’t. *Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)
*The call will last only 30 minutes

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arrangements for Sister Alfreta Johnson:
Thursday, November 14th
Viewing, Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home,
Jackson, Mississippi
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 15th
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Viewing, First Baptist Church, 301 NW Main
Avenue, Mound Bayou, Mississippi


1:00 p.m.
Graveside Services, Wanderer’s Home Cemetery,
504 East Mound Bayou Road, Mound Bayou,
Mississippi

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:
The Johnson Family
3205 Copperfield Street
Jackson, MS 39209

Please continue to pray for the Johnson family
during this difficult time.

ERA soon and very soon

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



White women got the right to vote in 1920. It has taken many of them awhile to vote in their own best interest. We black women did not get the right to vote when white women did, but we quickly learned the importance of voting in our best interest. Since we first gained the right to vote, we have struggled to have the right to vote unhindered. That hasn't happened yet through no fault of our own.

There's constantly somebody wanting to water down our ability to vote by closing polling places for us to vote, by making it difficult to register to vote, by deleting names from voter registration rolls for innocuous reasons. We, black women, have always had to struggle for whatever we've been able to achieve – but we persist. When we win a victory, it's usually a gain for all people. Through the years, we've struggled for something as simple as equal rights for all without regard to sex or race or economic status in life.

When we didn't have enough courageous elected officials to make that happen, we didn't give up. We rallied. We protested. We hoped, and often we begged our white sisters to vote with us to elect people who were more likely to vote for things like the Equal Rights Amendment. We continued to be told that if only suburban women (meaning white women because we're called urban women) would vote like black women, we could get the ERA passed. Well, we've kept on working, and finally our suburban sisters saw the light.

Unfortunately, year after year, many suburban women voted to elect candidates they knew would vote against their best interests. So often, we came up empty on an ERA. Recently, it looks like suburban (white women) finally get it and we can pass the Equal Rights Amendment and any other amendment we wish to pass.

I'm still nervous about passing ERA, but one thing is clear, Virginia gave us hope with the victories in their election of November 5. We need that one state to clear a hurdle that has stood in the way of women having equal rights. Another way of putting that is to say we will not be discriminated against just because we are women.


The ERA has taken a long way around passage – but we are so close now. The amendment was first offered in 1972. We need 38 states to ratify it, but somehow because the wrong people were constantly elected or re-elected, it took us from 1972 to 1977 to get to 35 of the 38 required states to become law. That vote of 35 was won on a bi-partisan basis. We then got to 36 by a vote from Indiana. That vote came in 1977 and not withstanding that victory, we've waited for years to get another vote. The vote in Virginia has brought us new momentum not only for ERA, but also for gun control and justice for all – especially for immigrant children.

If we want equality for the young women coming behind us, it's our duty to make it happen. If we truly want an Equal Rights Amendment, then all of our sisters – black, brown, yellow, red and white – will stick together to continue registering more voters, planning more get-out-the-vote efforts and helping reluctant people understand the importance of every vote, so that in 2020, we cannot only get the long awaited ERA, but we can also get more attention on climate change, education, improved health care, justice for all and respect not only for ourselves, but also for our children and our nation.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. www.nationalcongressbw.org. She is also host of WPFW-FM's "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

Let's suspend the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Even as our legislators grapple with impeachment, they are also charged to pass a dozen budget bills, including a bill on "defense." Recent elections suggest a paradigm shift in the way we view budget spending, what with Democrats taking charge in both Virginia and Kentucky (I'm not counting Mississippi, Dems aren't likely to capture that one until lightning strikes). Some are suggesting that the government might shut down if Congress can't get its act on the budget together in the next couple weeks. Alternatively, Congress might look differently at our priorities.

A post-Trump America might include a Green New Deal, Medicare-for-All, and free or subsidized higher education. These programs cost. How will we pay for them? One place to look for massive government waste is in the Pentagon, which has too frequently couched in "national defense" but is nothing more than the government providing massive profits for inefficient corporations who have well-paid and highly effective lobbyists.

The \$1.5 trillion budget for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program is an excellent place to start. Tom Pennington at Truthout.org was spot on when he wrote in a piece titled "The F-35 Fighter Jet Will Cost \$1.5 Trillion. It's Time for New Priorities" April 11, 2019. The article opened with "It began with such promise, too, as far as airborne weapons of mass destruction go. First conceived by Lockheed Martin in 1997 and built-in collaboration with Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems, the F-35 first took wing in 2006. The all-purpose fighter was intended to stand as the replacement for the A-10 Warthog, F-15E Eagle, the F-16 Falcon, the AV-8B Harrier, and the F/A-18 Hornet." The plan was for this aircraft to be everything to everybody in the Air Force, and this would replace all other fighter jets.

This idea was great on paper, but not so good when they started to build the F-35s. Pennington wrote, "It did not take long for a series of fantastically pricey problems to pile up. The production plan had the planes being built before all the highly technical, often brand-new systems had been tested. When these began failing, fixing them in an aircraft that had already come off the production line rapidly turned the program into a financial sinkhole. The eight million lines of code that make up the software controlling vital elements like the aft tails, electronic warfare systems, and flight control were bursting with bugs and subject to malicious hacks. The helmets were too big. The ejection seats didn't work. The four-piece wings met with assembly difficulties, and the supporting bulkheads suffered from structural fatigue. The plane itself was 2,000 pounds too heavy."

Those problems were merely the start of challenges that bring us to today where the aircraft has been seldom used and is way over budget. And we are spending \$1.5 trillion for that when we could use that money to feed people, provide education and provide environmental relief? Who are the lobbyists pushing this ill-advised investment?

If you believe President Trump (and I don't), we will be spending less money overseas in the upcoming years. The Balance reported June 15, 2019, that "the war in Afghanistan began in 2001 and has cost the U.S. \$975 billion, including estimates for 2019," yet "the number grows even more when taking into account increases in the base budgets for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The George W. Bush administration launched the war in Afghanistan and the War on Terror in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks by al-Qaida. The United States attacked the Taliban in Afghanistan for hiding al-Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden. In addition to the \$975 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funds specifically dedicated to the war, the base budget for the Department of Defense has increased by about \$250 billion, and the Department of Veterans Affairs budget has increased by more than \$50 billion. Some of these costs also are attributable to the War in Iraq. There is another pot of money that could be used to make Americans healthy and to help them out of poverty.

Taking one year off from the F-35 and ending the overseas wars would

pay for the Green New Deal, Medicare-for-All, and free higher education for all. If Democrats prevail in 2020, and progressives rule Washington come 2021, we will need a comprehensive effort to push our priorities in the face of right-wing obstructionism.

Those who talk about waste, fraud and abuse, cannot defend the \$1.5 trillion F-35 and overseas wars that are costing lives and taxpayer money. If deficit hawks are so opposed to the rapidly increasing deficit, why can't they slash the government contracting that is directly taking away money that could be used to help the poor and underemployed?


The F-35 is being funded in the name of "national defense," but it is a national offense for an unnecessary, inefficient, boondoggle to absorb \$1.5 trillion that could be much more appropriately spent. After the F-35 has proven ineffective, it is unconscionable that some legislators are willing to continue to fund it.

Let's eat our losses and move on. Let's direct these precious funds to the hungry, those who clamor for education and those who want a more sustainable future for our nation. And let's draw a line in the sand on useless "defense" spending that simply enriches profit-maximizing manufacturers.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX!

Automation threatens the future of black workers in America

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



"Black America's collective response to emerging technology will determine whether it is an opportunity – or an existential threat" – George H. Lambert Jr., president and CEO, Greater Washington Urban League

A new report about the future of work in the United States casts a somber outlook about the effects of artificial intelligence on African-American employment – particularly for African-American men.

According to a recent headline: Artificial intelligence is slated to disrupt 4.5 million jobs for African Americans, who have a 10% greater likelihood of automation-based job loss than other workers.

The report, titled "The Future of Work in Black America," was produced by the management consulting company McKinsey & Company.

African-American men are over-represented in the jobs most likely to be lost, such as food services, retail workers, office support and factory workers.

Many fast-food restaurants, for example, have implemented self-serve kiosks, reducing the need for workers at the counter. McDonalds has even acquired an artificial intelligence company focused on speech recognition which could displace workers on the drive-through lines.

African-American men also are under-represented in the jobs least likely to be lost to artificial intelligence. These include educators, health professionals, legal professionals and agricultural workers.

According to the report, "Only half of the top ten occupations that African Americans typically hold pay above the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four (\$25,750), and all ten of those occupations fall below the median salary for a US worker (\$52,000). Many of these occupations are among the top 15 occupations most at risk of automation-based displacement and are also projected to affect young African-American workers without a college degree."

Geography plays a role, too. African Americans are underrepresented in the areas of the country where job growth is predicted to be the highest: places like Seattle, Washington; Sarasota, Florida or South Bend, Indiana.

"Distressed americana showed negative net job growth from 2007 to 2017 and is projected to show negative job growth through 2030," according to the report. "African Americans in these distressed areas may disproportionately feel the negative effects of impending economic and technological changes, see fewer new opportunities, and face additional challenges in transitioning to the economy of the future."

The National Urban League addressed these concerns in our State of Black America® report, "Powering the Digital Revolution," shining a spotlight on African Americans' underrepresentation in the kind of jobs that are least likely to be displaced by artificial intelligence. We calculated a Digital Inclusion Index – a variation on our traditional Equality Index™ that measures the relative economic an social status of black Americans as compared to whites. We found a Digital Inclusion Index of 74.1 percent, with 100 representing true equality between black and white Americans.

African Americans are far less likely than whites to be employed in social media and technology companies – less than 5 percent of the workforce, vs. more than 50 percent for whites. Less than 6 percent of total black employment in 2017 was in the tech industry, vs. 8.5 percent for whites.

Black families continue to remain less likely than white families to have dedicated internet access at home, yet African Americans are the second-largest multicultural group, after Asian Americans, for mobile device ownership, with 91 percent owning

smartphones. Black millennials are influential, leading users of mobile technology and platforms, and voracious consumers and creators of digital content, but lag behind in tech employment.

The McKinsey report included recommendations to avert a crisis, including:

- More economic investments into high-skilled jobs in cities and markets where blacks are currently over-represented can directly pave a path of job stability.
- Mobility of black workers into new geographical markets with higher projected job growth.
- Focused initiatives by university/collegiate education to recruit and retain black students
- Financial investment into Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Employer investment in re-skilling programs and training courses can meaningfully help offset skill gaps among under-represented groups.

These recommendations reflect the long-standing positions of the Urban League Movement. Elected officials, business and community leaders and educational institutions must be mindful of the risk to the African-American workforce and work together to insure that the job opportunities of the future are available to everyone.

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What's at stake in Allen's Supreme Court showdown with Comcast

By Maurita Coley
President and CEO of MMTc



The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in a suit between Comcast and Byron Allen, a prominent African-American programming executive. What began as a fairly routine television carriage dispute has turned into a risky gambit that may give the court's conservative majority an opportunity to roll back fundamental civil rights protections.

The lawsuit arose out of Comcast's decision several years ago not to carry several Allen-owned television channels, such as Pets.TV and Recipe.TV. Comcast has argued its rejection of Allen's channels was purely a business decision, reflecting what it viewed as the channels' limited audience appeal. Allen then promptly filed a \$20 billion lawsuit against Comcast, alleging that the company's refusal to contract with Allen's company was racially motivated, in violation of Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

District Court Judge Terry Hatter – a well-respected African-American judge with an apparently strong record on civil rights – dismissed the case three times, finding that Allen had not established a plausible argument that Comcast would have contracted with his company “but for” Allen's race.

Allen appealed to the 9th Circuit, which remanded Hatter's dismissal with a new guideline to the lower court that a plaintiff can state a viable claim under Section 1981 if discriminatory intent plays any role in a defendant's decision not to contract, regardless of whether race discrimination was a “but for” cause of that decision. Comcast petitioned the Supreme Court to review the 9th Circuit's decision, and the Supreme Court agreed; oral argument is scheduled for Nov. 13, 2019.

Carriage disputes between cable operators like Comcast, and programming content providers like Byron Allen, are exceedingly common. In my more than 30 years in the industry, I've represented both sides – networks seeking distribution and distributors seeking content – and in the early days of cable, I even represented minority-owned distributors such as Barden Cablevision of Detroit, and minority-owned programmers such as Black Entertainment Television.

In my experience, this Comcast-Allen case doesn't fit the usual framework for a race discrimination case. As best I can surmise, Allen's channels are not ethnically or culturally diverse; he claimed the alleged race discrimination was that, “but for” the fact that his channels are black-owned, his channels would have been carried because Comcast was already carrying similar white-owned food and pet-themed channels.

His suit rejected Comcast's defense that its decision not to carry his channels was not racially motivated, saying that it had other non-racial reasons, such as better ratings, higher-quality programming, or other business considerations for not carrying the channels owned by

Allen.

In any event, the parties were not able to resolve their content carriage dispute, and now this case, which started as a private contract dispute, now puts at risk the civil rights enjoyed by all Americans, because a conservative Supreme Court majority hostile to civil rights has a chance to fundamentally re-examine Section 1981.

The court will get to decide – not just for this case, but in a precedent that will impact all future discrimination cases – whether a plaintiff must prove that intentional race discrimination was the decisive factor in a decision (the “but for” standard of proof), or whether race just needs to be one factor in the decision (the 9th Circuit's “mixed motive” standard, which civil rights leaders strongly support).

If the Supreme Court gets to decide this case, it seems very likely that – at a minimum – the court will choose the “but for” standard that is currently used in most jurisdictions outside the 9th Circuit. That would be a major setback to the civil rights community's advocacy for establishing nationwide the 9th Circuit's broader “motivating factor” standard.

It's even conceivable that this conservative Supreme Court could go even farther, exploiting the facts of Allen's private contract claim to justify an even more regressive outcome by applying the “but for” standard in EEO retaliation, fair housing, voting rights or other claims.

Civil rights groups such as NAACP have jumped into this case, filing amicus briefs that seek to convince the court not to embrace the “but for” standard.

What I suggest now is that the civil rights groups try to persuade both parties to help get us out of this precarious place in history. To do that, it's essential that Allen withdraw his \$20 billion lawsuit, and that Comcast withdraw its petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court – ideally before the oral argument or soon after.

Given Allen's huge success as an African-American businessman, these channels cannot be so important to him that it's worth placing all of our civil rights at risk. Likewise, Comcast, which ranks No. 2 on Fortune's list of 100 best workplaces for diversity and has one of the strongest records of programming diversity in the industry, should demonstrate those values by withdrawing its petition for Supreme Court review if Allen also agrees to step back from the ledge.

Both parties should close their eyes, take a leap – and hold their noses if they must – but do their part to take this case off the docket of a deeply race conservative court. Otherwise we might all find ourselves facing an uncertain future, stripped of key civil rights protections.

No contract or channel is worth the risk.

The op-ed was first published in the *Morning Consult* November 13, 2019.

Maurita Coley, a veteran communications attorney and former executive at BET Networks, serves as president and CEO of the Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council.

The Medicare for All Debate is long overdue

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



Affordable health care for all is now at the center of the presidential debate. Two of the top three contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination – Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders – support Medicare for All. The third – Joe Biden – and those hoping to take his place as the leading centrist in the race – Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar – have attacked the plan to contrast their candidacies from Sanders and Warren.

Donald Trump, who wants to eliminate the Affordable Care Act itself, and has already added some 10 million people to the ranks of the uninsured, scorns it as “socialism,” just as earlier Republicans libeled Social Security and Medicare itself when they were under consideration. In 1984 and 1988, I made a single-payer Medicare for All plan central to my presidential campaign. As a policy, it has always made the most sense.

The question has always been whether the politicians had the nerve to weather the fierce attack that insurance and pharmaceutical drug companies will unleash against the proposal and any candidate who supports it, and whether voters would be scared off by the attacks. Sanders brought Medicare for All back into the national political debate in his remarkable run for the Democratic nomination in

2016 against Hillary Clinton.

The National Nurses Association and others have helped build a movement out of that momentum. Sanders has “written the bill,” and in the House, Rep. Pramila Jayapal has introduced a detailed complement to the Sanders bill. Warren, who signed onto the Sanders bill, now has produced a clear plan on what Medicare for All would cover, and how it would be paid for. The basic principles and values are clear and widely popular.

Health care should be a right, not a privilege. No one should go without the care they need because they cannot afford it. No one should go bankrupt simply because they get sick. Yet our current health care system offends each of those principles. We spend almost two times per capita on health care as other advanced nations.

If you have a lot of money or a strong union, you can get excellent health care. For the rest, care is rationed by money. Twenty-four million go without insurance, up 10 million under Trump. Another 65 million are underinsured, one serious illness away from bankruptcy. Health care costs are the leading cause of bankruptcy.

Medicare for All is popular at first look. Then the insurance and drug companies and the opponents unleash their arguments: government will mess it up, it will raise your taxes, it will take away your current insurance.

Presented with that information, people's doubts grow. So most of the opponents fly un-

der a false flag: they lay on the arguments against Medicare for All, but claim they support health care as a human right and support some version of a public option, giving people the illusion of choice. The reality is that those plans will still leave millions without coverage and many millions more underinsured.

Warren came under particular attack in the debates and the media for not detailing how she would pay for her plan (Sanders has been clear on his plan).

Now Warren has answered her critics. Her plan covers the cost of Medicare for All by raising taxes on the very wealthy – largely a 3 percent surcharge on the wealth of billionaires – and by requiring big companies to pay almost what they now pay for providing health care to their workers. Her plan would save some \$7 trillion of the \$59 trillion it costs to provide health care to all over a decade, according to the Urban Institute, by reducing overhead, eliminating insurance company profits, reducing monopoly and negotiating bulk discounts for drugs like every other advanced nation does.

She would eliminate co-pays and premiums, returning \$11 trillion to the pockets of working people, what she hails as the largest middle class tax cut in history.

Once voters learn that under Medicare for All they can always keep their doctor, they won't be faced with co-pays or premiums, and they will be guaranteed comprehensive health care, support begins to

build back up.

Now Sanders and Warren have doubled down on their argument. Warren now puts it to Biden and the other critics: “Every candidate who opposes my long-term goal of Medicare for All should put forward their own plan to cover everyone, without costing the country anything more in health care spending, and while putting \$11 trillion back in the pockets of the American people,” she writes. “If they are unwilling to do that, they should concede that they think it's more important to protect the eye-popping profits of private insurers and drug companies and the immense fortunes of the top 1 percent and giant corporations.”

It's been over three decades since I sounded the call for Medicare for All.

Since then, healthcare costs have soared faster than wages, more companies have found ways to avoid covering more workers and more people have died or gone bankrupt because they couldn't pay for the care they needed.

Now with Sanders and Warren, the debate is joined again. The naysayers say that Medicare for All isn't popular, that voters love their insurance companies. Sanders and Warren say voters love their doctors but are getting savaged by the drug and insurance companies.

In the coming primaries, voters will have the opportunity to sort out what makes sense and what does not, and to show what is popular and what is not.

This is a debate that is long overdue.

Black folks must use common sense in 2020 and beyond

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



As we enter the last quarter of the 400th anniversary of our African ancestors being forcibly brought to enslavement in North America, here are my suggestions for 2020 and beyond:

That we as a people stop trying to claim people who don't want to be claimed. We are not so lacking in quality people that we have to lay claim on people who regularly insist that they are not black artists, writers, scholars, etc. but ones who just happen to be black. It's time we let such people be what they want to be and call them whatever they want to be called.

It's time that:

Black people speak out in a loud voice against those writers, singers, film makers, playwrights and rappers who pass off their crude, sleazy and vulgar products as shining examples of being “black.” They're being “American” to sell their creations with crudeness, slea-

ziness and vulgarity – not being black.

That we recognize that our collective economic resources are a potentially powerful weapon on the struggle for equal justice and equal opportunity that we rarely, if ever, use effectively. For instance there was much talk recently about banks that seldom provide loans to black applicants. Immediately there was a call from some for a big, loud protest. Much more effective than that would be for 500 blacks to turn up at that bank one morning and withdraw all of their money. That's the proper use of economic power.

That Black folks will realize that we are sitting on top of a gold mine of black history which, if properly mined, can be very productive for us both educationally and financially.

That black people recognize that there is no more valuable member of any community than a master teacher. Much more needs to be done to show such a person how much he or she is appreciated for taking on the absolutely essential task of edu-

cating our children.

That those black folks who are insensitive to the attempts of Native Americans to change the name of the Washington Redskins ask themselves how they would feel if the team was called the Blackskins.

That we recognize that predatory street criminals and selfish me, myself and I black professionals are equally destructive to efforts to build politically, economically and culturally powerful black communities throughout the country.

That black students reject any notion that striving for academic excellence is somehow trying to be white. The fact that even a few black students believe such stupidity is a victory for our enemies.

That black people refuse to attend any conference or seminar dealing with “The Problem of the Black This or That.” They should attend and participate in such events that focus on “How to Build Stronger Black Families, Communities, Schools, etc.” That way they will be discussing possible solutions rather than weeping and wail-

ing and moaning and groaning with “can-you-top-this” horror stories as so often is the case in the first set of gatherings.

That we let the whole nation know that the emphasis on black self-help did not begin with the so-called black conservatives. People such as Martin Delaney, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, among a host of others, were emphasizing self-help long before it was discovered by Clarence Thomas, Walter Williams and Thomas Sowell.

One of the major differences between the approach of those like Malcolm X and the latter is that while advocating self-help, they didn't believe in letting the government off the hook. Black people pay much more in taxes than they get back in goods and services so they have a right to demand their share of public monies.

Finally, that we remember what my grandmother once told me when I was over-complicating a problem. “Use your common sense, boy,” she said. We as a people need to use our common sense in 2020 and beyond.

Hepatitis C provider education ECHOes throughout Mississippi

By Ruth Cummins
UMMC

Nurse practitioner Darryl Adams sees many uninsured patients who aren't likely to get an appointment with a physician who specializes in infectious diseases.

But if they suffer from Hepatitis C, a viral infection that attacks the liver and can lead to serious liver damage, Adams wants to help them immediately, especially with medications that offer a cure.

"We need to have the ability to treat them where they are, so that they don't have to go miles and miles down the road, and so they don't have to wait for the referral process," said Adams, who practices at Coastal Family Health in Bay St. Louis.

Adams is able to remove those roadblocks for Hepatitis C patients through Project ECHO, a national telehealth initiative that uses interactive video technology to connect community providers and specialists for real-time collaborative discussions.

The goal is to empower and educate primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, registered nurses and physicians' assistants on how to recognize and treat Hepatitis C in their communities. In turn, those providers can help ensure that patients get high-quality treatment locally, from people they know and trust, without delays.

Adams is one of the Mississippi caregivers getting medical advice and Hepatitis C education from expert facilitators taking part in Project ECHO, which stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes. Project ECHO is offered via national hubs. UMMC's Center for Telehealth coordinates Mississippi's participation with Centro San Vicente, a federally qualified health center and Project ECHO hub in El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Svenja Albrecht, UMMC associate professor of infectious diseases medicine, is



Dr. Svenja Albrecht, right, scans a patient record as Darryl Adams, nurse practitioner on screen, discusses the patient's Hepatitis C. Joining them is Peyton Harrington, a clinical pharmacy specialist.

leading monthly hour-long sessions, with the next two set for Nov. 18 and Dec. 16. They're free and offer continuing medical education credits, and participants can offer up for discussion their own patient cases, with identifying information excluded. Providers also are free to observe without entering the discussion, Albrecht said.

Ideally, about 20 providers take part in each session, said Morgan Davis, the Center for Telehealth's Project ECHO program coordinator. "You can join the monthly sessions at any time," she said.

Project ECHO began in 2003 as the creation of Dr. Sanjeev Arora, a University of New Mexico liver disease specialist. He was alarmed and frustrated because a growing number of rural Hepatitis C patients were coming to him after their disease had dramatically progressed. Patients were traveling hundreds of miles to see him, often at too late a stage in their disease for him to help them.

He wanted clinicians in rural and medically underserved ar-

eas to learn how to treat patients sooner at home. Today, training programs offered through Project ECHO are allowing thousands of providers to learn best practices and build expertise in treating Hepatitis C and other chronic diseases.

The Mississippi Department of Health doesn't keep data on Hepatitis C cases reported in the state, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the infection epidemic nationwide. The CDC estimates 2.4 million Americans are living with Hepatitis C, with infections rising because of the opioid crisis, increasing the urgency for diagnosis and treatment.

The ease of Project ECHO and the opportunity it gives providers to improve care is invaluable, said Patricia Gallegos, Centro San Vicente's director of strategic initiatives. She is assisting Albrecht and the Center for Telehealth in taking part in the initiative.

"Providers log on and learn how to treat and recognize Hepatitis C in their own prima-

ry care setting," she said. "Everyone learns from each other in collaboration with infectious diseases specialists."

During the hub's Oct. 21 Project ECHO videoconference, Albrecht began the session by welcoming participants, including Adams. "We have seven cases to present today," she said. "I want to talk to you about treatment and diagnosis. I know a lot of you treat, but it's still important to go through some of the information."

Albrecht led the group through identifying who needs to be screened for Hepatitis C, which also is a leading cause of liver cancer. Among them: baby boomers, people who are incarcerated, people with chronic liver disease, those with HIV infection, those who have used illicit drugs in the past or who currently use them, and men who have sex with men.

"Most of the time, we don't get a patient's history in great detail," she told them. "It's very rare that we sit down and talk to our patients about every one of these factors."

Adams presented two cases, seeking the thoughts of the group on how she should treat each patient. "His labs are really unusual," she told them as the patient's records, presented anonymously, flashed on the screen. "His liver enzymes are really, really high. We need to get him taken care of."

All the while, Albrecht guided the conversation as providers joined in the discussion, free to ask questions or offer advice. Albrecht weighed in after that, giving her expert advice on a treatment plan for each patient presented during the call and later providing a written summary of recommendations.

"We want the interaction between the providers," she said. "A provider might have a proposed plan, but just needs help."

If you don't know someone has Hepatitis C, you can't cure them of what can be a deadly disease, Adams and Albrecht say.

For most patients, the treatment consists of a once-daily medication in pill form for either eight or 12 weeks. "Hepatitis C is completely curable," Albrecht said. "Well over 95 percent of patients respond, and if not, there are still other medications that can work."

Hepatitis C anti-viral drugs, however, are costly. Just one daily sofosbuvir pill costs \$1,000, and a full 12-week course of treatment with the same drug costs \$84,000. Insurance coverage varies, depending on the carrier.

At her federally qualified health center, Adams said, "we are doing a big push to see that baby boomers are screened, and folks who have used IV drugs or had a needle stick in a health care setting in the past.

"Targeted screening is important, but it's easy to miss in people who don't disclose their risk factors, and sometimes a challenge if a patient is coming in for something else entirely," she said. "We can't cure the hepatitis if we can't find it. If we miss a screening opportunity, that's one more person who

is not cured."

Through Project ECHO, Adams said, she's learned that a patient visit might need a little adjusting to ensure a hepatitis screen when necessary. "There's so much going on in that little bit of time we have for an office visit," she said. "I try to make sure I address it on a visit where it makes sense, like an annual wellness check."

Adams is encouraged by the growing number of referrals she's receiving for patients diagnosed with Hepatitis C or who need screening. "The more we screen, the more we will find. That means more people will be cured.

"Having the ECHO available for one of my cases that isn't quite as straightforward, just to get that expert advice, is invaluable," Adams said. "I'm not a specialist; none of us in primary care are specialists. Knowing when we get to that line that we don't have to cross, and having Dr. Albrecht available, is wonderful."

Peyton Herrington, a UMMC clinical pharmacist, and Davis are on Albrecht's Project ECHO team. Albrecht hopes to include other UMMC caregivers, such as a hepatologist for more advanced liver disease cases and a psychiatrist, in future sessions. "A lot of the time with Hepatitis C patients, mental health is discussed," she said.

Project ECHO is especially valuable to Mississippi's rural caregivers, Albrecht said. "The idea is to grow it, and that depends on providers and their caseloads," she said.

Thanks to Project ECHO, Adams said, her patients are getting specialist-level care "because we can put (Albrecht's) expertise into my cases.

"I don't know how some of my patients would do that otherwise," she said. "I'm just so grateful to her, and for her careful attention to our cases."

Mississippi providers wishing to join Project ECHO can contact Davis at Mdavis11@umc.edu or 601 815-4226.

Dropping temperature could mean rising fire risk

Heating equipment to blame for 15 fire deaths in 2019

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippians should check their heating equipment now to make sure it's safe to use, as the temperature may dip into the 30s and 20s across much of the state in coming days. Using the equipment as it is intended and following safety guidelines cuts your risk of fire in your home.

There have been 52 fire deaths in Mississippi so far this year. Fifteen of those deaths were caused by placing flammable material too close to space heaters, plugging heaters into malfunctioning extension cords, or using equipment as a heat source when it was not designed for that purpose.

"We are going to see cold days and nights in the near future and some people may be getting out their space heaters for the first time this year," State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said. "National reports show the leading factor in home heating fire deaths was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered

furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding."


Every home should have multiple smoke alarms. If you need smoke alarms, ask your local fire department.


The State Fire Marshal's Office recommends the following heating fire safety tips:

- All heating equipment should be UL® approved and cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional prior to being used each year.
- Remember to keep clothes, drapes and anything else combustible at least 3 feet away from all heating equipment, especially space heaters.
- Inspect the space heater's power cord for damage, fraying or heat. If the cord inspection reveals any of these issues, the heater should be replaced. Proper cleaning is essential and should be done regularly.
- Never use space heaters while you sleep or in areas where children may be without adult supervision.
- Do not leave space heaters on

when you are away from home.

- Always unplug space heaters when they are not in use. The heater should also be equipped with a tip over shut-off switch.
- Never use a stove or oven to heat living spaces. Kerosene is a poor choice for heating as it will give off poisonous fumes.
- Have chimney flues cleaned and inspected by qualified personnel.
- Have a spark screen that is age appropriate for all individuals if using a fireplace.
- Burn only approved materials in a fireplace or wood-burning stove; never burn paper or trash in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Should a fire break out in the home, have an emergency evacuation plan for the family to follow and have a designated meeting place for all family members. Once everyone is outside the burning home, call 911 and don't go back inside the home under any circumstances.





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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Frank Sinatra

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

ORXSFOE ZOVJR PV CZFP RA
NAFXKKO ZJRGX HK KTKA JRXSAC
HK KQUKIX NSKO FX PRKC

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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.

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

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Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

1. The alphabet
5. Parent teacher groups
9. Saucy
10. Share
11. France & Germany river
12. __ ray
13. City in W. Oregon
15. Have
16. Dole
18. Revive (2 wds.)
21. Escape
22. People from Asia
26. Separate
28. Type of dressing
29. "I dream of __" (old TV show)
30. Fat
31. Origination
32. Tails

DOWN

1. Niche
2. Boyfriend
3. Cliff
4. Scattered
5. School group
6. Island nation
7. Ham
8. Slide across the ice
10. Refines ore
14. Depart
17. Imperfection
18. Gloats
19. Indian monetary unit
20. Witless
23. Actor Alda
24. Goody two shoes
25. Soap bubbles
27. Free of

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Cryptogram Solution

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

NOTHING ANYBODY'S SAID OR
ORXSFOE ZOVJR PV CZFP RA
WRITTEN ABOUT ME EVER BOTHERS
NAFXKKO ZJRGX HK KTKA JRXSAC
ME, EXCEPT WHEN IT DOES.
HK KQUKIX NSKO FX PRKC

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Crossword Solution

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY





Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year.



Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)

To Qualify:

- * Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- * Family must reside in Hinds County
- * Must be a low-income family (based on the federal poverty level)

"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."

"Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)"

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

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- * Dental
- * Nutrition
- * Mental Health
- * Disability
- * Literacy
- * Leadership Development
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To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W-2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-5935.

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BOOK REVIEW:

“THE PRETTY ONE:
ON LIFE, POP CULTURE, DISABILITY, AND OTHER
REASONS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME”

BY KEAH BROWN

C.2019, ATRIA

\$17.00 / \$23.00 CANADA • 243 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It’s what’s inside that counts. There’s a sentiment you’ve heard since you were a small child: don’t judge someone by their outward appearances. Look at their mind, see their heart, know who they are before you decide how you’ll act. As in the new book “The Pretty One” by Keah Brown, look past what they can’t do, and see what they can. Keah Brown is cute. Check it: #DisabledAndCute. It wasn’t always that way: for much of her life, she’s “felt aver-

age, plain and wrong” and sometimes embarrassed but today, she loves her body despite her cerebral palsy. And why not? She can’t escape it, nor does she want to; in fact, she says her “disability is not a thing to see past but instead a thing to acknowledge and accept...” You don’t even have to pretend to be PC with Brown; euphemisms, she believes, are for the discomforted able-bodied, not for those with a disability. You can, however, apologize for the way people like her are

treated when they’re minding their own business, living their lives. Strangers, for example, often approach Brown with unsolicited cures for her CP, but she’d rather we all use our energy to help ensure black people with disabilities aren’t “invisible.” Even better: make sure that nobody who’s black is invisible. Period. Brown grew up with a brother and a twin sister and she was treated the same as they were; she was a kid who just needed to take breaks, that’s all, no big deal.

Well into grade-school before she realized that she had a disability; she still remembers the boy who made fun of her, who cruelly pointed out her CP. She wonders if he remembers what he did that day, because she surely does. In this book, Brown writes with sorrow about the years she wasted being jealous of her able-bodied sister, and with gratefulness that they’re close now. She tells of the simple “freedom” that comes with figuring out how to style her own hair, and she wonders when she might find

romance. If she can love herself, then surely someone else “will follow suit.” No doubt, “The Pretty One” is a quirky kind of memoir. When laying things out plainly, there aren’t many people more straightforward than author Keah Brown. She talks candidly about her disability, no beating around the bush or hinting at anything, and facts are slapped on the table like a palm. There’s a dash of humor inside some of her chapters, and solid rants elsewhere. On the other hand, readers will

find some weird, weird things in this book, including a chapter in which Brown gives human names to furniture; and extended references to some pretty off-the-beaten-path pop culture. Neither these, nor frequent repetition will endear readers to this book. And yet, the overall narrative is quite eye-opening, especially for able-bodied readers who squirm in the presence of a wheelchair or a disability. Brown admits that she doesn’t speak for everybody, but “The Pretty One” has a lot to say inside.



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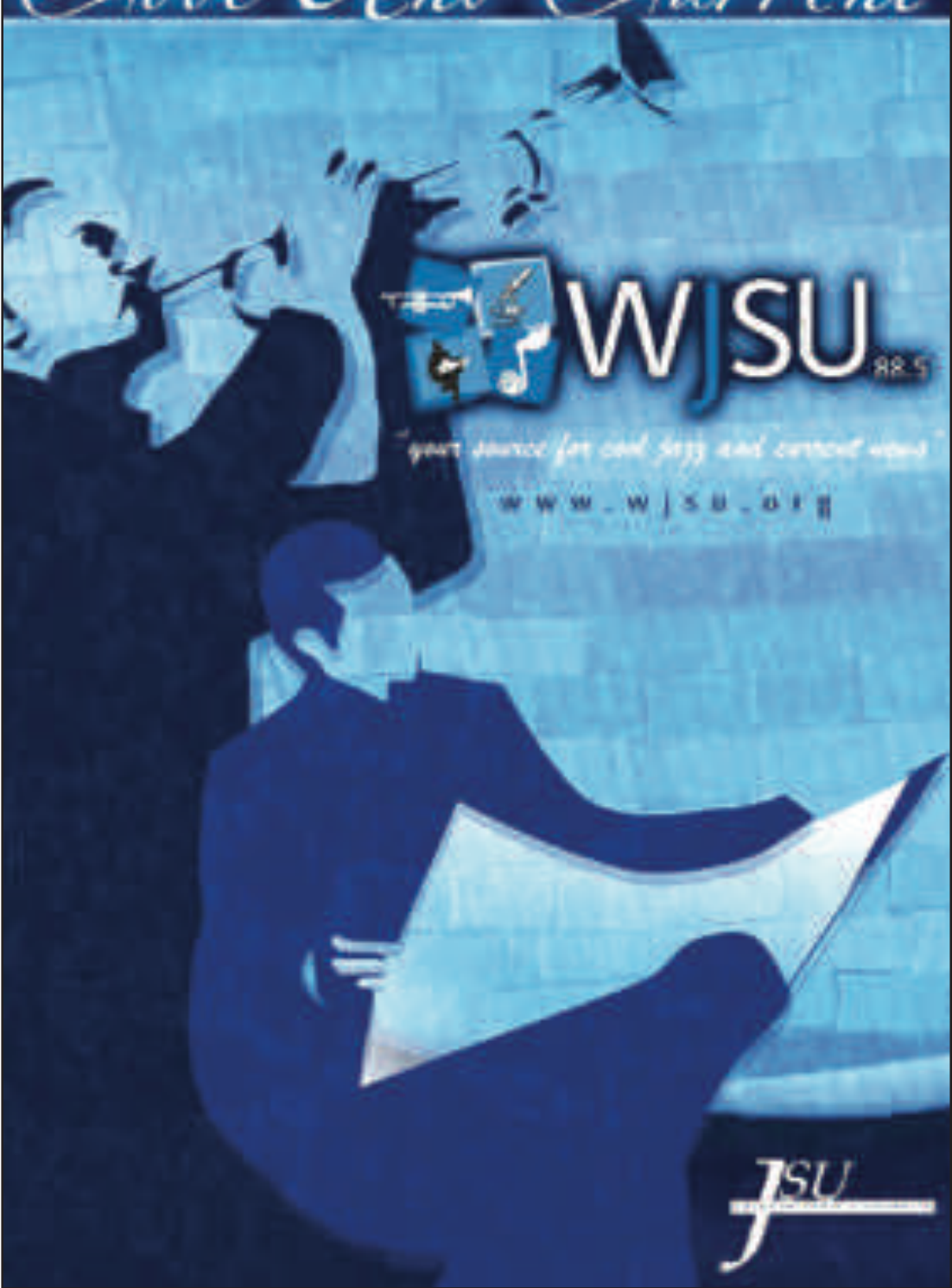
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2019 Cadillac XT4

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

We spent a short week test driving Cadillac’s XT4 crossover and came away impressed. We had the 2019 XT4 AWD Sport.

They said the all-new compact is tailored for the next generation of luxury buyers. We have no idea what that means. However we do know that the XT4 had expressive styling. It sported The Cadillac grille and badge. The grille was in gloss black, there were gloss black window moldings and 20-inch alloy wheels with 10-spoke diamond cut and satin finish.

The XT4 had LED lighting fore and aft including low and high beams. The LED-illuminated vertical light blade formed the daytime running lamps and was stretched horizontally. The crossover certainly had the familial look.

Under the hood was a 2.0-liter four cylinder engine that Cadillac engineers managed to get 237 horsepower out of along with 258 pound-feet of torque at 1,500 rpm. This gave the 2019 XT4 plenty of oomph from just about any speed.

The four-cylinder had what Cadillac has branded Active Fuel Shutoff, meaning two cylinders would deactivate when not needed. The engine had direct fuel injection and start/stop technology.

It was mated to a nine-speed automatic transmission with manual shift capabilities and of course there were paddle shifters. Depending on the gear, sometimes there was a little bit of a jolt when downshifting. But it was barely noticeable.



What is important is that this powertrain accelerated the XT4 with authority. Often it drove like a sports sedan rather than a crossover. We had the all-wheel-drive model and it got 22 mpg in the city, 29 mpg on the highway and 24 mpg combined.

The ride was great and adjustable. The XT4 had three drive modes: touring, sport and all-wheel-drive, this marks the first time we’ve seen the latter feature in drove modes. Putting more traction to the ground at all times made handling a tad sharper.

There was a Macpherson strut with direct acting stabilizer bar in the front, with an active sport suspension with continuous damping control which activated

when you put the XT4 in sport mode. In the rear was a five-link independent suspension with coil springs and fully isolated cradle. This suspension dampened and deadened many of the thumps and bumps in the pavement here.

Inside was a spacious cabin made more so by a low dashboard. Sight lines were great all round. They anchored the sideview mirrors to the doors rather than the A pillar. That cut down on sight obstructions and blind spots especially when cornering.

The XT4 had a smart key and loads of luxury features. There were heated and cooled front seats as well as heated rear seats. A heated steering wheel and au-

tomatic high beams were just the start to the technology.

The luxury crossover had a distance indicator, low speed forward automatic braking, front pedestrian braking and forward collision alert. None of which, thank goodness, we needed.

There was a touch infotainment screen that going against the trend was embedded in the dash. At the base of the center console was a compartment behind a sliding door where two USB jacks and a 12V plug were housed. The wireless smartphone charger was in a slot that led to the interior of the center console.

Cadillac has gotten good at hiding buttons in plain sight. The

bulk of them were underneath the infotainment screen but they weren’t that noticeable. On the center console was a rotary controller for the screen. But it was also touch, thus it was a redundant system. There were controls on the TFT screen between the odometer and speedometer as well.

We thought that was a mix of old and new technology. The gauges which also held the fuel and temperature gauges were analog. And the digital TFT was in the middle. And the rims around the gauges were three dimensional semi circles. It was nicely done.

We still have not gotten used to the pulsating seats which activate

as a cross traffic alert or when the XT4 ventures outside of the lane with the lane departure warning system. But with ownership comes familiarization.

We climbed into the back seat and found plenty of headroom. However, we did think the seat backs were a little upright. But after a while we found those back seats were more like sitting in soft chairs. It was not a bad feel. There was plenty of hip room but the tunnel would make three people seating abreast cramped at the least.

In addition to Bluetooth, satellite radio, voice controls, navigation, streaming, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, the 2019 XT4 had OnStar. It supplied navigation direction that could be downloaded, an in-vehicle Wi-Fi hotspot, safety and security features including roadside assistance and automatic crash response, marketplace that lets you make purchases from your car or make reservations and in vehicle apps. And that is just some of the stuff you can do with this technology.

We thought the power tilt and telescoping steering wheel as well as the power automatic liftgate were also nice touches. But nice touches, well some of them aren’t free. Though our test vehicle had a base price \$41,795, it had \$9,295 worth of options. To us, that meant you could outfit an XT4 to your taste and your pocketbook.

Anyway, add the base price, the options and the \$995 freight charge and our test vehicle had a sticker of \$51,585. What’s more, the 2019 Cadillac XT4 didn’t seem overpriced.

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The Trump Impeachment Inquiry: What is it about and why should you care?

By Congresswoman
Frederica S. Wilson
TriceEdneyWire.com

It's an historic week on Capitol Hill during which time hearings on the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump will move from behind closed doors to must-see TV.

Millions of Americans who have not had the time or a desire to read the more than 2,000 pages of testimony from the confidential briefings released by the House Intelligence Committee will finally get to see what the fuss has been all about.

So, what is it all about, why the initial closed-door depositions and why should you care?

Trump is being accused of urging Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in a telephone conversation to investigate alleged corruption by former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, and to also look into debunked conspiracy theories that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 presidential election, both for his own political benefit.

To gain leverage against Zelensky, Trump for a time withheld a \$391 million aid package to push the foreign leader to do



U. S. Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.)

his bidding.

This gross abuse of power, which put at risk Ukrainian lives and our own national security, was first brought to light by a whistleblower whose initial al-

legations have since been corroborated by an unimpeachable group of high-level State Department officials who have devoted their careers to public service and American democ-

COMMENTARY

racy. More importantly, they have first-hand knowledge of the shakedown.

This next phase comes after weeks of false accusations by GOP lawmakers that they were being squeezed out of a fact-finding process that they also claimed lacked transparency. The witnesses' initial testimonies were delivered in a secure, confidential setting to prevent them from comparing notes and preserve the integrity of their depositions.

Now the public will have an opportunity to hear from them directly and make their own decisions about their credibility.

Republicans have for weeks complained about the process but have had little to say about the actual substance of the inquiry because of unassailable facts.

Fact one: President Trump asked a foreign government to dig up dirt on the Bidens, who are American citizens, in exchange for money that Congress had already appropriated for Ukraine to defend itself against Russia.

Fact two: He admitted on na-

tional television that he and Zelensky had discussed the Bidens.

Fact three: During a White House briefing, Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, acknowledged on national television that the aid had been withheld in part until Ukraine investigated the theory that Ukraine, not Russia, hacked the Democratic Party emails in 2016. "And that is absolutely appropriate," Mulvaney said.

Don't believe the hype. It is not only not appropriate; it's extortion.

Like every member of Congress, Trump has taken an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. Yet since day one in office he has broken that promise. He has in fact made more than 13,000 false or misleading claims – from the mundane, such as the size of his inauguration day crowd, to the insane, like the one about former President Barack Obama initiating the policy of separating children from their families at the border. He has even lied about me.

The president has little to no respect for the rule of law nor any for those who do. Indeed, he believes he is above the law,

which to our nation's detriment, his Republican allies reinforce daily.

Former national security advisor John Bolton has likened the pact Trump tried to make with Zelensky to a "drug deal" and it has been deeply dismaying to witness Republican lawmakers figuratively contort themselves in an effort to sell it to the American public. Clearly, they all stepped away for popcorn during that infamous scene in the movie Scarface, when Tony Montana was advised to "never get high on your own supply." The trope is not exclusive to drug dealing and Republicans on Capitol Hill have clearly entered an alternate reality.

Donald Trump is set to become the third president in our nation's history to be impeached by the House. It may not immediately push him out of office, but it hopefully will yank him and his allies back into the real world where no one is above the law and drive home a lesson at the polls that there's a price to pay for those who believe that they are.

A blue wave in 2020 could make the one in 2018 seem more like a ripple.

Highlights from NABJ Alcorn: The Black Press survives



NABJ Adviser Gabrielle Terrett (left), The Mississippi Link publisher Jackie Hampton (right), with student.



Journalism students at Alcorn



Dr. Eric Dogini (right) with Mass Communication students at ASU NABJ Lunch and Learn seminar



Hampton with students PHOTOS BY JERRY DOMATOB



Students studying photography and news reporting



Cain with ASU Mass Communication students



Dr. Jerry Domatob, ASU and Othor Cain, editor, The Mississippi Link

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

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