

# Runoff election for Hinds County District 2 Election Commissioner set for Nov 26

By Othor Cain  
Editor

Bobbie McClure Graves is determined to seal the deal Tuesday, Nov. 26, as voters in District 2 head back to the polls to decide who they want to represent them as election commissioner. Graves was the top vote-getter Nov. 5 in a four-person race. At press time, Graves had received 4,122 votes or 33 percent (the votes had not been officially certified). Mississippi law requires a candidate to receive 50 percent plus one of the votes in a primary or special election to be declared the winner.

“I am encouraged by the voters in Hinds County...I’m eternally grateful and I’m asking them to return to the polls and let’s seal the deal,” Graves said.

Going into the runoff election, Graves is excited about picking up support. “I feel blessed that so many people are helping me and offering their support to me. I’m especially grateful to a former opponent who has really worked to increase the voter turnout for me,” Graves said. “Beulah Kelly Jones has been a gift from God to me.”

Graves has also received the support of former Judge Ivory Britton. “This type of support means so much to me, I value relationships and I value voters,” Graves said.

Despite the false narrative that Graves’ opponent is spreading, she [Graves] is the only candidate seeking reelection. Graves is currently serving in the position as an appointed commissioner because the previous seat holder decided to seek another political office without fulfilling her obligations and duties to this office.

Graves is spreading a message of ‘commitment to the job.’

## Graves: Seal the deal



Graves

“For me, it isn’t about the next bigger opportunity, it is about doing the job we are elected to do,” Graves said. “The grass isn’t always greener on the other side.”

This is Graves second stint in this office, her opponent did not serve a full term. “I’m running because I am committed and dedicated to fully serving my time in office and doing what is in the best interest of the voters in District 2 and Hinds County as a whole,” Graves said. “Dedication, integrity and commitment matter.”

If Graves is successful November 26, it will be her third tour of duty.

A graduate of Lanier High School and Jackson State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and a Master’s degree in criminology and justice services, Graves has been working to inform voters in District 2 about election processes.

“I’m committed to ensuring that the voters in District 2 are informed by creating public education events, engaging and empowering voters with knowledge about election day procedures and deadlines,” Graves said. “When we know better we do better.”

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

Graves is running on a platform of:

- Bringing back confidence to the voters of District 2
- Maintaining polls, operating well-run elections, assisting voters and providing an adequate amount of ballots and surveys
- Managing polling registration; providing registration information; good record keeping, processing and grouping data as required
- Providing transparency and clarity with election compliance
- Working to increase poll worker(s’) compensation.

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

With just a few days before the election, Graves is hoping to continue spreading her message of committed leadership with

**Election**  
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## JSU Day at College Hill celebrating legacy and connection



JSU President William B. Bynum PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Jackson State University (JSU) President William B. Bynum served as guest speaker for the worship service at College Hill Church (CHC) which honored the connection between JSU and CHC. It was in 1907 that then Jackson College deeded a tract of land west of its’ campus to the people of West Jackson for the building of a church. This church became known as College Hill Baptist Church and Sunday the legacy continued as College Hill celebrated “JSU Day.”

It was standing room only at the service which included a host of JSU students, faculty and staff. First Lady Deborah Bynum was also present. Miss

JSU, Naysa Lynch, and Mister JSU, Grant Broadway, brought greetings during the service. Music was provided by the JSU Gospel Choir and MAD-DRAMA Performance Troupe delivered a dramatic presentation.

When CHC Pastor Michael T. Williams introduced Bynum as the illustrious president of “Thee I Love” there was a standing ovation and thunderous applause from the congregation. It was obvious that the congregation included a lot of JSU graduates and current students.

Bynum proudly described himself as God-loving, God-fearing, blessed and highly favored. Before getting into the

**JSU Day**  
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# Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick joins Senators Kamala Harris and Cory Booker in White House race

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

As doubts grow about the candidacy of former Vice President Joe Biden, other candidates have entered the race for the White House in 2020. In a surprise announcement November 14, former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, 63, tossed his hat in the ring. Only days before, former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg announced he would also join the crowded field of Democrats competing to take on President Donald Trump.

Patrick’s late entry onto the presidential stage means that for the first time in history, three African Americans are running for president from one of the two major political parties. They are Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and now Patrick. The late arrivals have reignited a debate

about “electability” and who can actually win in 2020. Biden’s poll numbers falling in Iowa started the debate.

The diversity of the field and Patrick’s late run only 80 days before the Iowa Caucuses have many insiders on team blue worried that a protracted primary fight may hurt the party’s chances of beating Trump. Concerns from Wall Street and the “one percent” about Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s “wealth tax” ideas have many Democrats who are more corporation friendly, such as Patrick, re-thinking their chances to compete. Billionaire Bloomberg joined billionaire Tom Steyer, who literally bought his way onto the debate stage, are trying to ignite interest with the moderate wing of the Democratic Party.

To add to the challenge, white candidates in the field must build the diverse Obama coalition of voters and ensure

excitement in the most reliable sectors of the Democratic base while minority candidates must thread the needle of attracting white support. The share of white voters supporting the Democratic Party decreases two or three percent each year.

“We have women in this race, we have an openly gay person in this race, we have (a) biracial person in this race, African Americans in this race,” Patrick said November 15 to the Associated Press. “It is an incredible moment in American history that our field is so diverse and that voters have such qualified folks to choose from.”

It remains to be seen whether Patrick can qualify for the debate stage next month. It also remains to be seen as to whether he can raise the millions need-

**Patrick**  
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Former Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts PHOTO: SCOTT LAPIERRE [CC BY 2.0 (HTTPS://CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG/LICENSES/BY/2.0)] / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



# Hinds CC crowns Miss Hinds Community College 2020

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Charity Lockridge, 22, of Vicksburg, will get another opportunity to represent Hinds Community College in the Miss Mississippi pageant in June after winning the college pageant for the second time.

Lockridge, a dental assisting student at Jackson Campus-Nursing/ Allied Health Center, was first chosen Miss Hinds Community College 2018 in November 2017. She competed in the Miss Mississippi pageant in June 2018 and tied for first in the talent competition.

She won Miss Hinds Community College 2020 Nov. 14. Her talent was a vocal performance of “Via Dolorosa” and her platform is Operation Smile, which is a campaign to increase the oral hygiene of children.

First runner-up in the Miss Hinds Community College pageant was Aarionna Dumas, 20, of Columbus, who also won Homecoming Queen in October 2019. She is a sophomore on the Raymond Campus and wants to become a pediatric nurse. Her talent was a dance called “Animal” performed while wearing a tiger suit.

Second runner-up was Raven Hayes, 19, of Byram. Hayes is a sophomore music major on the Raymond Campus. Her talent was a vocal performance of “Lasciatemi morire,” a Canto from the opera “Ariana.”



From left, second runner-up Raven Hayes of Byram, first runner-up Aarionna Dumas of Columbus, Hinds President Clyde Muse and Miss Hinds Community College 2020 Charity Lockridge of Vicksburg.



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## JSU Day

Continued from page 1

meat of his message he spoke of his humble background, having been reared by a single mother who raised 8 children, after his parents divorced when he was very young. He grew up in a Christian background and was therefore very comfortable serving in the church. He shared with much delight how highly ranked JSU is in various areas, including being ranked #1 in the nation as the producer of students receiving more doctorate degrees.

Bynum’s message of hope for the future was taken from Jerimiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Sounding like an ordained minister Bynum told the congregation, “it is not by accident that you are where you are today.” Just as it was not an accident, he ended up in the state of Mississippi, known to be the most religious state in the country. Bynum said God is responsible for students being lead to JSU, members being lead to JSU and all stops before and in between. Each stop-off point he said leads to one’s hope and future. “God needs champions not just on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, but they are needed to uplift God everyday,” he said.

Bynum said even though he has been critiqued in the past for uplifting God in his role of promoting education, he will always speak of how great God is and how He has blessed us as a people. He told the congregation they should uplift God at home, at work, in organizations such as sororities and fraternities.

Throughout his message there was applauding as Bynum continued to confess his love of God. He thanked College Hill for continuing to promote the legacy of the school and church and reminded the worshippers to always thank God for all the many blessings He has provided them.

Though not a minister of the gospel, there was one worshipper who gave his life to Christ after Bynum ended his message.

Other students participating in the service from JSU included Jordon Jefferson, JSU Student Government Association president who lead the responsive reading; Indiah Stinson-Jordon extended the welcome; John Higgins II was in charge of collecting tithes and offerings, with Kayla Day giving the offertory prayer.

Church members and visitors extended congratulations to Williams and Bynum for such an inspirational service.

*See photos page 16.*

# IN MEMORIAM

## Alfreta Louise Peterson Johnson

### October 24, 1952 - November 6, 2019



Alfreta Louise Peterson Johnson, born October 24, 1952, to Isaac and Eldra Harvey Peterson, began her life in Mound Bayou, MS as the youngest of seven children. At an early age, she began her journey as a Christian at First Baptist Church, where she served as a junior usher and as a youth choir member.

Alfreta began her early education at the age of two, attending Cleggs Private School. She

developed a love for basketball and was an outstanding player at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School. She also played clarinet in the band. Alfreta was a member of the JFK Class of 1968.

Alfreta would go on to play college basketball at Belmont College in Nashville, TN, where she received her bachelor’s degree. While at Belmont, she was chosen to tryout for the US Olympic Women’s Basketball Team. Alfreta formed what became a loving, lifelong bond with her coach, Betty Wiseman. She continued her education at the University of Tennessee -Knoxville, where she received a master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Alfreta began the next chapter of her life in Jackson, MS, where she met and married Preston Johnson. They were blessed with three children, Rahsaan, Marcus and Leanna. Alfreta became a devoted member of College Hill M. B. Church, where she served as director of Christian Education, as a Sunday School teacher and as a member of the choir. She also served in various other capacities at College Hill.

Alfreta worked as a disability examiner and hearing officer for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services for over 30 years. She also operated a business along with her husband – Pyramid Barbeque.

During Alfreta’s retirement, she enjoyed at-

tending and assisting with church functions at College Hill and faithfully worked in her yard and garden. She also lovingly spent time with her granddaughter, Taylor Rai.

Alfreta Louise Peterson Johnson passed away, peacefully, at home November 6, 2019. She is survived by her husband, Preston Johnson; two sons, Rahsaan (Tewana) and Marcus Johnson, both of Jackson, MS; one daughter, Leanna Johnson, also of Jackson; one granddaughter, Taylar Rai Johnson; five siblings, Isaac (Mary) Peterson Jr. of Memphis, TN; Legora M. (Willie Edward) Norwood of Mound Bayou, MS; Addie Peterson of Norfolk, VA; Eulah Peterson and Donald (Carlene) Peterson of Mound Bayou, MS; another sister-in-law, Mary (Elbert-deceased) Peterson; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, a special lifelong friend – Mary Pope-Abron, one godson, Kwesi Martin, and numerous friends whose lives she touched.

May she rest well, knowing that she brought much joy and wisdom to others, during her time on Earth.

She was laid to rest Friday, November 15, in Wanderers Home Church Cemetery, Mound Bayou, MS

*The publisher and staff of the Mississippi Link Newspaper extend deepest sympathy to our graphic artist Marcus Johnson, son of Alfreta, and to the Johnson and Peterson families.*

## Election

Continued from page 1

the voters. “I want to connect with as many voters in my district as possible, if you see me in the grocery store, please stop me and let’s chat...let’s chat at church or wherever, that’s important to me,” Graves shared.

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

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

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 26.

## Patrick

Continued from page 1

ed to mount a serious effort for the White House. But with the current field in flux because of Biden’s faltering in the polls, Patrick may have a chance to compete in a crowded field.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke)*

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# Mayor Lumumba calls on community to report illegal dumping activity

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba along with Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks and Solid Waste manager, Lakesha Weathers, urged residents to not illegally dump trash at the old Casa Grande Apartments after this site was found over-run with debris just one day following the city's cleanup efforts.

"I want to issue a challenge. The last time we cleaned up this site, people took it upon themselves to dump in this site the very next day. So we're

calling on the community to patrol this. We're calling on our police department to patrol this and to work hand in hand to make certain that dumping doesn't take place in our community," said Lumumba during the press conference.

Banks said that he is excited to see change happening in this area. "It is good to see this complex is getting cleaned up to get rid of the eyesore," said Banks.

"I want to thank the public for bringing this to our attention and being vigilant in their

actions about this property. I also want to thank the Community Improvement Department along with Planning for assisting us with this property," said Weathers.

If caught, citizens will be fined up to \$25,000 for illegally dumping trash, garbage and waste in the City of Jackson. This policy is being aggressively enforced.

In an effort to continue combatting illegal dumping, the Solid Waste Division is encouraging residents to "Curb It, Don't Dump It." This means

if it's bulky items such as mattresses and household furniture, residents can curb it outside of their home and Solid Waste will pick it up on their 2nd collection day. For example, if your collection days are Tuesdays and Fridays, your 2nd collection day is Friday.

Our goal is to prevent illegal dumping and litter in the City of Jackson by informing residents on what can be placed curbside and how to properly do so.

For more information, please contact the Solid Waste Division at 601-960-1193.



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# Suit seeks to block prosecutor from excluding black jurors



In this June 14, 2010, file photo, prosecutor Doug Evans holds a photo during a trial for Curtis Flowers in court in Greenwood, Miss. Several black voters and a branch of the NAACP sued Evans, a Mississippi prosecutor, Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, asking a federal judge to order him to stop excluding African Americans from juries. TAYLOR KUYKENDALL/THE COMMONWEALTH VIA AP, FILE

By Jeff Amy  
Associated Press

Four black voters and a branch of the NAACP sued a Mississippi prosecutor Monday, asking a federal judge to order him to stop excluding African Americans from juries. The lawsuit against District Attorney Doug Evans is an outgrowth of a case where the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a murder conviction of an African American man, citing racial bias in jury selection.

Evans has tried Curtis Flowers six times for murder in a 1996 slaying, charging that he gunned down four people execution-style in a Winona furniture store.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Greenville, asks U.S. District Judge Debra Brown to permanently order Evans and his assistants to stop using peremptory challenges to remove African-American jurors because of their race. The district is a rural expanse of northern Mississippi that includes Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Montgomery, Webster and Winston counties.

“Other than voting, serving on a jury is the most substantial opportunity that most citizens have to participate in the democratic process,” the complaint says. The plaintiffs are represented by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the MacArthur Justice Center.

Evans didn’t immediately respond to an email seeking



Flowers

comment late Monday. He has previously disputed allegations that he sought to exclude black jurors because of their race.

The complaint cites an analysis of jury strikes by Evans from 1992 to 2017 by American Public Media’s “In the Dark” podcast. It found Evans office used peremptory strikes, which lawyers typically don’t have to explain, to remove 50% of eligible black jurors, but only 11% of eligible white jurors. The analysis was performed as part of a series of episodes questioning Flowers’ conviction in a sixth trial, after three earlier verdicts were thrown out and two trials ended in hung juries.

“The statistical disparity in the cases from 1992 through 2017 is inexplicable on non-racial grounds, and court records from jury selection in the fifth circuit court district since 2017 suggest that the practice continues now,” the lawsuit states.

Among the plaintiffs are the Attala County branch of the NAACP, former NAACP state

president Charles Hampton and Sharon Young. She was struck from the jury by prosecutors in 2004 in one of Flowers’ trials – a case in which the plaintiffs say Evans used all 15 of his strikes to remove African Americans.

Evans’ exclusion of black jurors from Flowers’ case was at the center of Flowers’ appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. In an opinion by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the court ruled 7-2 that during more than 20 years, Evans pursued a “relentless, determined effort to rid the jury of black individuals,” with the goal of an all-white jury.

“The numbers speak loudly,” Kavanaugh said in a summary of his opinion that he read in the courtroom, noting that Evans had removed 41 of the 42 prospective black jurors over the six trials. “We cannot ignore that history.”

Flowers is jailed in Winston County as his lawyers seek bail on the still-pending murder charges and ask to have those charges dismissed. They’ve also asked a state court judge to exclude Evans from the case.

The high court tried to prevent discrimination in the composition of juries in a case known as Batson v. Kentucky in 1986. The court ruled then that jurors couldn’t be excused from service because of their race and set up a system by which trial judges could evaluate claims of discrimination and the race-neutral explanations by prosecutors.

# Ole Miss enrollment down for third straight year

Associated Press

Enrollment is down at the University of Mississippi for the third straight year.

The Oxford Eagle reports that 2019 enrollment numbers for all six Ole Miss campuses show a 3.5% decrease from 2018. That’s the highest percentage drop over the last three years.

Numbers released by the Institutions of Higher Learning show the system now has 22,273 students, which is a decline of 817 people from last year.

“We recognize that it is a challenging environment to recruit students because of declining numbers of college and university students nationally, and we are addressing this challenge through additional investments in technology, marketing and recruiting,” Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce said.

Most Ole Miss students — 58.3% — are Mississippi residents.

“We are proud to offer an unsurpassed learning environment

and life-changing student experiences,” Boyce added.

This year’s first-year retention rate was 86.8%— a historical high for the Oxford campus, the newspaper reported.

Statistics show enrollment at rival Mississippi State University rose slightly, increasing by 1.1% to 22,226 students.

Enrollment is down overall at Mississippi’s eight public universities, declining 1.6% from last year to a total of 29,193 students.

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# JPS alum Zeita Merchant making Coast Guard history



Participating in the program honoring Zeita Merchant are (from left) Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis, Asst. Principal Charles Lesure, Cmdr. (Promotable) Merchant and Col. (Ret.) Regal Perry.

## Mississippi Link Newswire

Lanier High School welcomed home graduate Zeita Merchant to honor her for her most recent accomplishment in the United States Coast Guard.

A 22-year veteran of the Guard, Merchant has been selected for promotion from commander to captain. This will make her only the third African-American female captain in Coast Guard history. To recognize this and her other extraordinary accomplishments, the City of Jackson presented a resolution at the request of Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes.

Led by the Lanier High School JROTC, the program to honor Merchant included an introduction by JROTC instructor Col. (Ret.) Regal Perry and remarks by District JROTC Director Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis as well as Cmdr. (Promotable) Merchant.

“In the Coast Guard, presently, there are only two African-American female captains,” said Willis. “She [Merchant] is about to be promoted to the grade of O-6, and that’s a history-making position. But she has earned that. She’s earned it through her performance in every capacity. She’s earned it through her educational endeavors. We are proud to call her one of our own.”

“Thank you for this great honor,” said Merchant. “It’s so important to me that I’ve gotten it here at Lanier High School. It’s important to see what you want to be. It’s not about be-

ing in the military, it’s about seeing someone come from the same place you did that went to the same high school that you did. There are no limitations on where you can go.”

## Biography of Commander Zeita Merchant

Cmdr. Zeita Merchant was born in Chicago and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She attended Lanier High School and graduated from Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Science in biology. While at Tougaloo College, she joined the United States Coast Guard through the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative in June of 1997.

Merchant holds a Master of Science in biology from Tougaloo College, a Master of Science in quality systems management from the National Graduate School, a Master of Arts in public administration from George Washington University, and a Doctorate degree in business administration from George Washington University. In addition, she served as a Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Fellow. She is currently assigned to Harvard University where she serves as a National Security Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Merchant has served over 22 years in the Coast Guard at various units across the nation. She was recently selected for promotion to Captain (O-6), only the third African-American fe-

male to do so in the history of the Coast Guard. Merchant is one of only 30 designated Type 1 Incident Commanders currently active within the Coast Guard. Naturally, she is a highly demanded expert sought to cultivate the next generation of responders.

## Notable Assignments

**Military Congressional Fellow:** As a Coast Guard Governmental Affairs Officer, she previously served as a Military Congressional Fellow for the U.S. House of Representatives on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## Hurricanes Harvey and Irma:

Deployed as an incident commander to Port Arthur, Texas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Merchant’s leadership empowered rapid triage and unity of effort that helped reconstitute one of the largest petrochemical port complexes in the world. Shortly thereafter, she was requested in Puerto Rico to exercise her unique talents toward guiding over 750 Coast Guard responders to facilitate order and orchestrate relief in the devastating wake of Hurricane Maria.

## Marine Safety Unit Chicago:

Served as the Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Chicago from 2016-2019. She was the first woman to command MSU Chicago and the first African-American female to command a marine safety unit in the Coast Guard.

# Provine wins JPS Junior Varsity Football Championship



2019 JPS JV Football Champions – Provine High School: Coaches (adults starting from middle back row) Tavo Gilkey, Diante Riddle, Keith Gray, and Vernon Price

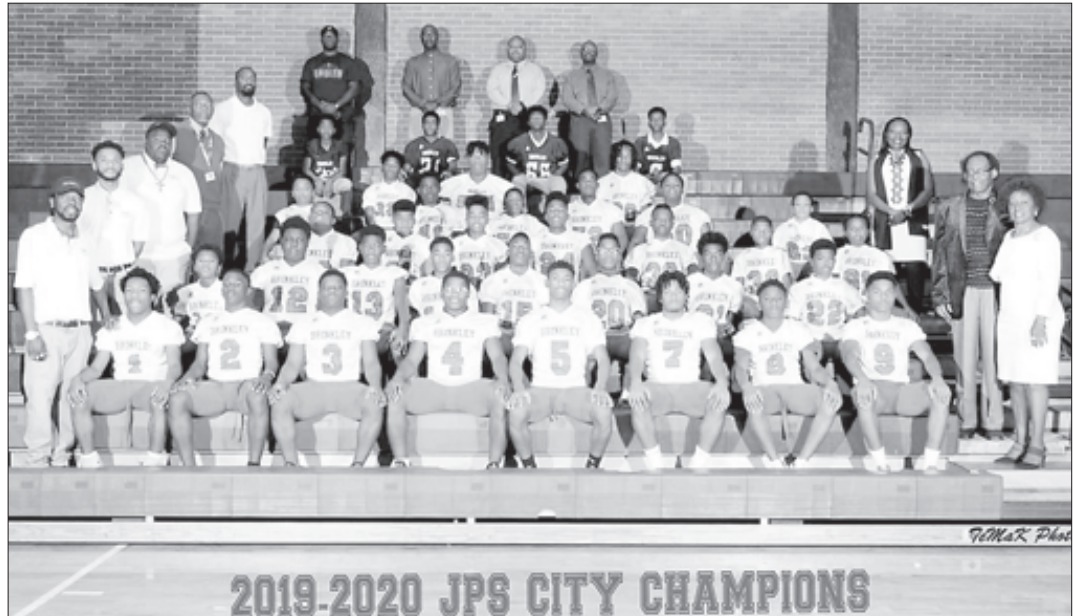
## Mississippi Link Newswire

Congratulations to the Provine Rams JV football team on winning the 2019-2020 JPS Junior

Varsity Football Championship. The Rams defeated the Mustangs of Murrah Monday, October 14, by a score of 16-12. The Rams

JV head coach is Vernon Price. He is assisted by Keith Gray, Diante Riddle, Tavo Gilkey and Dexter Thomas.

# Brinkley wins Middle School Football Championship



2019 JPS Middle School Football Champions – Brinkley Middle School: (front row from left) Head Coach Willie H. Jones II, Jaylon Haralson, Jordan Magee, Marquivious Hughes, Antwan Adams, Derreon McGowan, Demarious Wakefield, James Flowers, Julia Minor-Harmon (sponsor); (2nd row) Assistant Coach Glen McInnis, Jarvis Haralson, Dylan Phelps, Kadarain Smith, Corday Scott, Joseph McClinton, Joshua McLaurin, Johnathan McLaurin, Jordan Robinson, Larry Harmon (sponsor); (3rd row) Assistant Coach Kareem Roberson, Jamiaerran Willis, Jamor Jackson, Ronnie Cooper, Leroy Cooper, Jacoby Friday, Tymarous Schaffer, Cordarius Baker; (4th row) Assistant Coach LaVerne Rankin, Azarian Thompson, Jaquez Johnson, Demarco Buckley, DeSean Wolfe, Mason Brown, Javion Melton, Errika Jones (sponsor); (5th row) Assistant Coach Jeffery Spencer, Cincere Robinson, Kristen Edwards, Elyjah Wiley; (6th row) Trainers Daylian Myles, Cameron Spencer, Montrell Howard, and Jordan Norwood; (back row) Javarious Russell (security), Principal Jeffrey Mumford, and Assistant Principals Jon Coleman and Mark Townsend

## Mississippi Link Newswire

Congratulations to the Brinkley Eagles on winning the 2019-2020 JPS Middle School Football Championship. The

Eagles defeated the Panthers of Hardy by a score of 20-14 October 22 at South Jackson Field. They finished the season with a record of 6-1. Willie Jones is the

team’s head coach.

Ed Clarke serves as head coach of Hardy Middle School. His team finished the season with a record of 5-1.

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## The Mississippi Link™

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## Hinds CC student signs apprenticeship agreement

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Kendrick Hines had his eye on Hinds Community College's Diesel Equipment Technology program for several months before he was finally able to get in and complete the program.

Hines this week hit another milestone when he signed a three-year apprenticeship agreement with Stribling Equipment, the first agreement for the company, that is part of a partnership between Hinds Community College, Stribling Equipment and the U.S. Department of Labor.

"This really means a lot to me. A lot of hard work and long nights in school went into it," said Hines, 21, of Bolton. "This program was good to me. I've done everything I could to get in it. I tried to put my heart into it."

Josh Bower, assistant career-technical education dean for Hinds' Raymond Campus and district workforce and talent development liaison, said Hinds Community College is the sponsor of the registered apprenticeship program with Stribling Equipment as the industry partner.

"Of course, you can't have an apprenticeship without industry. Industry makes it happen," Bower said. "It has a related technical instruction component, which is the Hinds side. These are the classes that Kendrick has completed. It also has an on-the-job training component, which will be with Stribling."

This type of apprenticeship program "is the direction we're going in America," said Hinds President Clyde Muse. "This program, and the programs at KLLM Driving Academy and Empire Truck Sales, are ideal for apprenticeships."

Brian Henson, chief of staff for the Delta Regional Authority, who attended to support and learn more about the Hinds apprenticeship activities, agreed with Muse's assessment.

"This is what we're looking for today with apprenticeships. Peo-



Kendrick Hines, sitting center, signed the first apprenticeship agreement between Hinds Community College and Stribling Equipment. With him are, sitting left, Hinds President Dr. Clyde Muse and, right, J.B. Swanson, director of continuous improvement at Stribling Equipment in Richland. Earlier in the day, Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB), State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA) representatives toured KLLM Driving Academy and Hinds Diesel Technology Academy with Hinds Community College officials. Standing from left are Josh Bower, assistant career-technical education dean for Hinds' Raymond Campus and district workforce and talent development liaison; Dr. Krystal Thurman, interim assistant executive director for apprenticeship and special initiatives for MCCB; Dr. Rachel De Vaughan, interim executive director for SWIB; Diesel Technology Academy Navigator Laurie George, Vice President Sherry Franklin; DRA Program Manager Aury Kangelos; back row, Robert Allen, work-based learning coordinator; Vice President Dr. Chad Stocks; Joel Thomas, general service manager for Stribling Equipment, DRA Chief of Staff Brian Henson and Joseph Sullivan, diesel heavy equipment instructor.

ple need to understand that, today, the four-year degree is not always the way to go. There are very good apprenticeship programs that can provide you with a fruitful, valuable and great career. You can provide for your family and make a difference," Henson said.

Students in the Diesel Equipment Technology program spend a year in the facility on Highway 18 near the Raymond Campus taking basic courses. The second year, they choose between the heavy equipment option and the diesel truck option when they move to the Diesel Technology Academy off Highway 49 in

Richland. Some students want to do both and attend classes for an extra year.

Laurie George, navigator for the Diesel Equipment Technology program, said Hines tried to get in the program several months earlier and it was full. "So he went through the automotive program for two semesters. He came back, and I got him in."

"He has been a leader in the class since the day he came through the door. We knew this was a good fit for him. He is a great example of what the Hinds Diesel Technology program is all about."

Signing the apprenticeship

agreement Nov. 12 were Hines, Muse and J.B. Swanson, director of continuous improvement at Stribling Equipment in Richland.

Hinds continues to collaborate with the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP) to expand registered apprenticeship programs in the state. MAP is an initiative led by Gov. Phil Bryant's office, the Mississippi Community College Board, Mississippi Department of Employment Security and Mississippi Development Authority. Hinds was selected as a pilot college in 2017 and celebrated National Apprenticeship Week during Nov. 11-15, 2019.

## State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright named to National Assessment Governing Board

The Mississippi Link Newswire

State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright is one of seven national leaders selected to serve on the National Assessment Governing Board.

The appointees will help set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card. NAEP offers to the public and to education policymakers at the national, state and local levels, objective data on student performance in nearly a dozen subjects.

Mississippi is the only state in the nation to show significant increases in three of the four core NAEP subjects in 2019. Washington, D.C., is the only jurisdiction to show gains in three of four subjects. Nationally, scores for most NAEP subjects dropped or remained flat from 2017 to 2019.

"We are thrilled to welcome these new members to the National Assessment Governing Board, where they will join an exceptional group of leaders with a strong tradition of serving the nation and their communities and a strong commitment to improving the nation's understanding of student progress," said Lesley Muldoon, executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board.

Under Wright's leadership, Mississippi has initiated aggressive education reforms that have increased literacy skills in pre-K through the 3rd grade, pushed student achievement on the NAEP to improve at a faster rate than most other states and increased the graduation rate to an all-time high of 84 percent. Wright spearheaded initiatives in Mississippi that nearly doubled the Advancement Placement (AP) participation and success rate, resulted in significant annual gains in English Language Arts and mathematics proficiency, and earned Mississippi annual recognition from the National Institute for Early Education Research as one of only seven states in the nation that meet all or most quality standards for early childhood education.

"I am proud to join the National Assessment Governing Board to help ensure students are measured using a high-quality assessment," Wright said. "Assessments are one of the tools educators use to determine whether students are getting the education they need to be prepared for college, career and life."

## Hinds CC provides more than just education for culinary student

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The diploma Sade Memeh earns from Hinds Community College this semester will represent more than just an education – rather, a ticket to a life she didn't think herself worthy of just a few years ago.

"Hinds saved my life," said Memeh, 33, of Jackson. "I'll be teary-eyed crossing that stage. My kids are excited for me."

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Memeh came to the United States at age 3 along with her family. Trouble at home landed her in a group home for children for nearly eight years, where she earned a GED and provided a car. She enrolled at Hinds at 18, but was too lost on too many levels to succeed.

"It was the streets and no family support that prevented me from finishing school sooner," she said. "When you spend seven or eight years in a group home confined, you don't really know what to do afterward. After I dropped out, I just started having babies and bouncing around retail and food-service jobs. In 2017, I quit a bad job in the food service industry and re-enrolled here. I was excited and it made me feel I had a purpose."

Purpose turned quickly to self-doubt, however. A four-year relationship ended shortly after returning to school, and so did her living situation. She was left with



Memeh

unpaid bills and hopelessness.

"I went from saving up money in the bank for rent to not know-

ing what my kids were going to eat that day and peeking out the window for the constable," she said.

"I felt useless since I knew my children deserved more from me, but I couldn't give it to them."

Enter Hinds into her life once again – but this time, for good. Her passion for cooking, which grew strong even during lean times of holding menial jobs in the industry, led her to the culinary arts technology program at the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, directed by Chef Austin Lee. From there, she found out about social services available through Hinds that helped get her life back in order while she focused on her academics.

"As most teachers can relate, we try our hardest to reach out and help all of our students when we see they are going through hard times, yet some students are not ready to accept that help," Lee said. "Sade is a success story today not because we helped her, but because she used that as a catalyst to help herself."

Memeh appreciated the smallest gestures Lee and others made to help her focus and finish school and inspire sons Raymond, 14, and Traevon, 12.

"Teachers here like Chef Lee do so much more than just teach," she said. "They inspire. I see them as family and friends. When I was down, all it took was for someone to say, 'Hey, are you ok?' and 'It's worth you being here.'"

## Millsaps College announces new music major

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Millsaps College recently released the following statement:

"Millsaps College has announced that the faculty has approved a new major in music. We are excited that we are able to offer a restructured and robust major for our dedicated and talented students.

"Millsaps has a long and treasured history in music, and recognizes and values the impact of the study of music as an important part of a broader liberal arts education. The Department of Music is fortunate to have dedicated faculty and students who every day demonstrate their commitment to our legacy and future potential in music performance, choral music and composition."

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During the three-day event, members discussed and learned ways to boost the NAACP's reach and build engagement regarding public policies and local issues.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP serves as the country's largest and most recognizable civil rights organization. Home to more than half a-million members, the NAACP is a leader of grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity.



## Progressive Pipeline expanding in Meridian, creating 25 jobs

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Pipeline construction and maintenance company Progressive Pipeline announced Thursday it is expanding in Meridian. The project is a \$5.143-million corporate investment and will create 25 jobs.

“East Mississippi is primed for economic growth with its ideal location, skilled workforce and support of local and regional officials who work together to help companies like Progressive Pipeline grow and create jobs in our state,” Gov. Phil Bryant said.

Progressive Pipeline provides complete construction services for the installation and maintenance of gas and liquid pipeline systems. The company’s expansion is the result of its continued growth and success and need to acquire, refurbish or build a new facility to serve as its corporate headquarters. Progressive Pipeline currently employs more than 300 workers in Mis-

issippi.

“Progressive is pleased that the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, the city of Meridian, Lauderdale County and the Mississippi Development Authority came together as a team to support our goals and vision to locate and develop our new corporate headquarters in downtown Meridian,” said Progressive Pipeline President Mike Castle Jr. “Our investment into the community and downtown Meridian will have a lasting impact to the future of the Progressive family and the revitalization efforts of downtown. We could not be happier than to be a part of all the great and exciting things happening in our downtown.”

The Mississippi Development Authority is providing assistance for building renovations. Progressive Pipeline also qualifies for the Advantage Jobs Rebate program, which provides a cash rebate to eligible businesses that cre-

ate new jobs that meet or exceed the average annual wage of the state or the county in which the company locates. Lauderdale County and the city of Meridian will provide ad valorem tax exemptions in support of the project.

“Mississippians are well known as people who take pride in a job well done so leading companies like Progressive Pipeline have a workforce advantage that enables them to achieve their goals in our state,” said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough Jr. “We salute the teamwork of the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, Lauderdale County and the City of Meridian which, together with MDA, was instrumental in bringing dozens of new jobs to Mississippians in Lauderdale County.”

Progressive Pipeline expects to complete the building renovations by late 2020 and fill the 25 new jobs by the end of 2021.

## McCoy leaves legacy of roads, schools, service

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*jsumsnews.com*

Former Mississippi House Speaker Billy McCoy died last week, but his legislative work remains visible in the form of four-lane highways in rural areas and schools that are better funded and better equipped than they once were on track to be.

McCoy served in the 122-member House from January 1980 to January 2012, presiding as speaker during the last eight years of his tenure.

He was a farmer and Yellow Dog Democrat from northeast Mississippi’s Prentiss County – an unapologetic believer that government programs could improve the quality of life for people of modest means.

As vice chairman of the Transportation Committee, he helped enact a highway construction program in 1987.

As Education Committee chairman in the mid-to-late 1990s, McCoy was among the first legislative leaders to open conference committee meetings to the general public; it is in those often-secret meetings where final versions of bills are negotiated.

He also was instrumental in pushing the Mississippi Adequate Education Program into law in 1997. Although it has been fully funded only two years in more than two decades, the program is designed to give each school district enough money to meet midlevel accreditation standards.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee



McCoy  
AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

from 2000 to early 2004, McCoy helped craft incentives that lured Nissan to develop Mississippi’s first auto manufacturing plant.

McCoy said he always felt an affinity with the Mississippi House, where his father, E.E. McCoy, served from 1936 to 1952 and helped found the state community college system. As a child, Billy McCoy often traveled to Jackson with his father to watch legislators working.

The Mississippi Legislature spent the opening day of its 2009 session in the Old Capitol in downtown Jackson. The building was the cradle of state government from 1839 to 1903 and had been used as state offices and as a history museum before being heavily damaged by rain from hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The building underwent a \$16 million renovation.

“I’ve often wondered – even as a fairly young fella coming here with my father, when we’d come in and see that Old Capitol – what it must’ve been like for a legislator in the 1800s to get on a horse or a buggy or, God

forbid, walk from very far,” McCoy said just before that 2009 session. “I wondered about what they felt like when they rounded the curve, coming from whatever direction, and saw that dome and knew that was going to be the place they were going to do work for some several weeks or months.”

McCoy was plainspoken and at times showed flashes of anger.

In June 2011, legislators met in special session to set a state budget for the year that was about to begin. Democrats and Republicans clashed over spending, and McCoy took a jab at then-Gov. Haley Barbour, a Republican who was exploring a 2012 presidential run. Barbour had been to Iowa while Mississippi lawmakers were in special session, and he ended up canceling a trip to New Hampshire.

“He can be up yon’ in northern states telling people how conservative he is, how he’s beating the liberals into line down here – whoever the liberals are,” McCoy said. “Clearly, I believe we’re the conservatives today.”

The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal posted audio of a speech McCoy gave during the 2003 campaign. He said that his father’s service in the House inspired him.

“I never wanted to be president of the United States,” McCoy said. “I never wanted to be in the United States Senate. I never wanted to be state treasurer. I never wanted to be anything as a public servant except your representative.”

### House Democratic Caucus remembers Speaker Mccoy

We join our fellow Mississippians in honoring and celebrating the life of former Speaker Billy McCoy. We are thankful for his legislative legacy that includes equitable funding for our public schools and a four-lane highway system that links our cities, towns and communities across the state. Speaker McCoy exemplified the idea that the best public servants retain and reflect the roots that molded them — no matter how exalted their titles. Speaker McCoy always put the best interests of the people of Mississippi first. We thank you, Mr. Speaker. May you rest in eternal peace.

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## Mississippi selects 3 fellows for Delta Leadership Program

*Three Mississippians join cohort of 30 professionals across 8 states for the advancement of the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The State of Mississippi is sending three leaders from the state to the Delta Regional Authority’s (DRA) Delta Leadership Institute (DLI). They will join fellows from the seven other Delta states to participate in the 10-month DLI Executive Academy to help further their skills in community leadership, policy development and regional collaboration to drive economic growth across the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.

“I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the selected leaders for the Executive Academy Class of the Delta Leadership Institute. These three candidates have shown themselves to be proven leaders in their respective communities with support from their peers and region,” said Governor Phil Bryant. “The entire State of Mississippi looks forward to witnessing your continued work to advance the Delta region through your involvement and leadership.”

The Fellows will participate in an intensive ten-month executive leadership training program focused on developing

competencies through site visits, best practice case studies, executive coaching and mentoring, and regional project development. The program consists of six multi-day seminars throughout the Delta region culminating with a graduation in Memphis, TN.

“DLI is providing the next generation of change agents with the skills and abilities to address some of the most pressing issues facing the Delta. I congratulate the Fellows on their selection,” said DRA Chairman Chris Caldwell. “The Delta needs bold individuals to develop and capitalize on the many opportunities available to the Region and DLI provides these individuals with the skill-set to do that.”

The program brings together representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors from across the eight-state Delta region.

Mississippi’s 2019-2020 Delta Leadership Institute Fellows include:

Charles Williams Jr., Jackson | city engineer, City of Jackson  
Linda Stringfellow, Cleveland | vice president – Delta Region, Together for Hope

John Garner, Brooksville Extension/Research Associate, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University

Upon graduation, Delta Leadership Institute Fellows will become members of the Delta Leadership Network, a peer-driven working group foster regional collaboration, resource sharing and continued education to support addressing the Delta’s most pressing issues.

Since 2005, DLI’s Executive Academy has enhanced the leadership skills, policy knowledge and networks of community members in the Delta region.

After graduation, DLI graduates become members of the Delta Leadership Network, which includes more than 500 community leaders who understand the importance of regional collaboration, resource sharing and innovative thinking.

DLI is a program of DRA in partnership with three institutions of higher education in the Delta region: The University of Alabama, The University of Arkansas, Arkansas State University-Jonesboro and the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

# Discovery Education and business leaders launch unique STEM initiative

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Discovery Education, the leading provider of digital curriculum resources, content and professional development for K-12 classrooms nationwide, has announced the creation of a STEM Careers Coalition.

Officials said the initiative will help educators develop a pipeline of students who are interested in pursuing careers in STEM fields.

It will also provide no-cost resources to students and educators, including virtual field trips, digital instructional assets and career exploration videos.

Discovery Education officials said these resources would help students build foundational STEM knowledge and develop critical thinking 21st-century skills for college and career success.

“Last week we launched a critical initiative about future careers, a conduit through which students can see the work of the future, and a set of resources that bring relevancy to learning and broaden our understanding of and engagement with STEM,” stated Marla Wilson, the senior director of the Coalition.

“Solutions to local, national, or global challenges are best addressed with a collaborative community of companies, industries and non-profits,” Wilson added.

“This world of work is most effective when the individuals contributing to and leading this evolution represent the diversity



The initiative will scale up over five years, and it's expected to reach 10 million students by 2025 with support from various corporate partners. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

of our communities and the richness of multiple perspectives. We are excited to work with our anchor partners to intentionally focus on girls and students of color, as we move to provide equity and access and de-mystify STEM,” she stated.

The initiative launched at the Carnegie Institution for Science, where former astronaut Leland Melvin joined a panel discussion that included leaders in education, industry and government.

Members of the newly formed coalition includes key anchor partners like the American Petroleum Institute (API), Chevron, The Manufacturing Institute, Boeing, Microsoft and Best Buy.

Each of those companies has provided initial seed funding and

support to power the initiative’s launch.

The initiative would take place in a phased approach that includes a pilot year.

The approach should help measure the program’s effectiveness and strategically developed ways to scale, Discovery officials stated.

The initiative will scale up over five years, and it’s expected to reach 10 million students by 2025 with support from various corporate partners.

Among the components of the STEM Coalition’s work is a direct investment in schools by providing K-12 STEM career resources, STEM Connect access and professional development for under-resourced schools.

The coalition will implement

employee engagement through mobilizing the current STEM workforce at scale to inspire and connect with future employees through engaging classroom experiences.

Coalition members will also underwrite Discovery Education STEM Connect in local communities identified by the partners.

Inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges for Engineering, STEM Connect is an interdisciplinary resource that enhances the core curriculum.

It helps students build valuable problem-solving skills as they develop and apply solutions to critical real-world challenges.

Rooted in authoritative research, users become part of

a global student laboratory to share data and collaborate with others around the world, officials stated.

“We really see ourselves as problem solvers, and we’re trying to tackle the world’s greatest energy challenges. Meeting the growing demand for energy around the world and producing building blocks that we need to manufacture everyday products and to fuel the economy,” stated Rebecca Winkel, an economic advisor of Regulatory and Economic Policy at API.

“It’s a big job, and we’re trying to do that smarter, safer, better and more effectively every day. We know that to continue this work, we need a talented workforce. And we have quite a large workforce gap that we see coming,” Winkel stated.

She continued: “There will be millions of job opportunities that we will need to fill in this industry over the next two decades. And so, to be able to continue solving the problems and facing the challenges that we face, we need to make sure that the next generation is as prepared as possible. Investing in education at the earliest stages is necessary to make this happen.

“Diversity, equity and access are key. We want to make sure that we are providing resources to schools that are traditionally under-resourced and making sure that girls and students of color, in particular, can have access to it.”

In addition to Melvin, guests

at the launch included those identified as individuals invested in preparing the next generation of solution seekers and leveraging the power of technology to close the awareness gap.

“The STEM Careers Coalition will connect classrooms to careers at an unprecedented scale,” said Lori McFarling, President of Corporate Partnerships, Discovery Education.

“We believe that through direct investment in schools with a focus on equity of access, engagement of Coalition member employees, and exposure to digitally immersive STEM career experiences, more students will have the opportunity to envision their future in STEM and emerge as the STEM leaders of the future to fill the ever-growing careers pipeline,” McFarling stated.

Over time, the efforts of the Coalition are expected to result in increased awareness as it relates to STEM and STEM careers, stated Wilson, the senior director of the Coalition.

“Through the generosity of the coalition partners, students will have access to an array of STEM-focused resources, such as virtual field trips, digital instructional assets, career exploration videos, and more,” Wilson stated.

*For businesses and organizations interested in learning more about joining the STEM Careers Coalition and school districts interested in learning more about the scholarship process, please visit <https://stemcareerscoalition.org/>.*

# Housing discrimination complaints reach a 24-year high as HUD rolls back Fair Housing rules

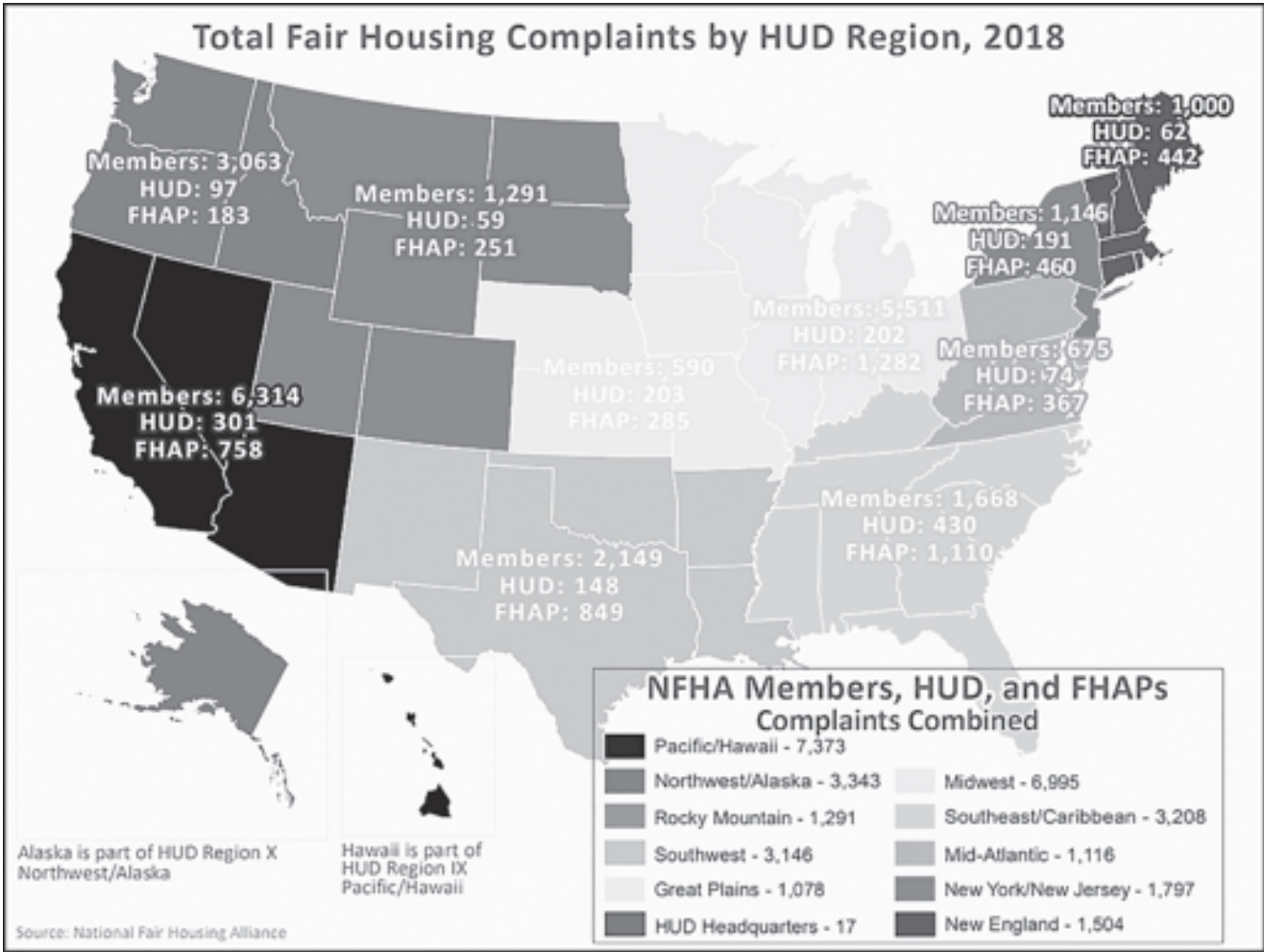
By Charlene Crowell  
TriceEdneywire.com

As a candidate, President Donald Trump promised if elected that deregulation of the federal government would be an administration priority. Soon after taking the oath of office, he issued an executive order requiring that all departments and agencies eliminate two existing regulations for every one new regulation proposed. In some cases, rules that were adopted prior to his term in office but had not yet taken effect were either suspended or delayed.

For example, the long-awaited payday rule at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was one important consumer protection that was delayed. Similarly, at the Department of Education, two rules providing protections for student loans were also delayed. More recently, this column shared how Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson claimed that regulation was the reason for homelessness, not affordable housing.

Now new research by the National Fair Housing Alliance finds that as fair lending laws have not been aggressively enforced, a corresponding rise in hate crimes and fair housing complaints have emerged.

Defending Against Unprecedented Attacks on Fair Housing: 2019 Fair Housing Trends Report, recently released by the DC-based National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), tallied 31,202 discriminatory housing complaints filed in just one year – 2018. Moreover, this data point is the highest number ever reported since the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) began collecting data 24 years ago. America’s hate crimes jumped 14.7%



# Dealing with discouragement

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



How can a Christian become discouraged? We find that when we live faithful to God and tell the message to an apostate generation, to people who are letting down, and to people who have rejected the truth, we may experience times of discouragement. There were times when I had high hopes that some people were going to come along and be true to God, but they did not, and the human side of me became discouraged.

James 5:17 tells us, “Elias was a man subject to like passions just like us.” What he went through, we have to face and work through. I have heard people say, “I am so holy; it doesn’t bother me.” Well, I am looking for that place because sometimes things still hurt me and bother me. How do we

work through those things? Every person who has been true to God should have hopes, dreams and goals. We ought to have a purpose that we are working for, living for and pushing toward. We must have those goals to keep going for God.

You may say, “We do not need goals.” Paul had them, and we read in Philippians 3:13-14: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

No matter what his circumstances, the Apostle Paul never settled for the past. We too, must “press on” with the mindset that there is always something more to be found in Christ. We need to have goals. We will never reach them until we are ready to go home. If we

have reached our goals, then God will take us home. While we are here, we must still keep pressing and reaching. We have goals, and we have a purpose.

We should dream of the lost being saved. We should dream of the family of God getting together. We ought to have those kinds of dreams, and we ought to purpose to do what God wants us to do. We have goals, dreams and purposes that are unaccomplished, and they can be shattered.

We can become affected by circumstances. You may ask, “What do you mean?” Well, let me put it this way. We may pray, we may preach and we may do everything we can to win a soul. However, when we labor and work to do it and suddenly a person rejects it that can be discouraging. If we are not careful, it will do more to us than we think. We can be hurt on the inside. The Prophet Elijah was hurt on the inside. God had just done some mar-

velous things, but defeat was after him.

Discouragement does not have to spell defeat. Some people may think, “Well, I have become discouraged, and I am defeated.” No, we do not have to be defeated just because we are discouraged. Sometimes God may allow us to become discouraged to get us to dig a little deeper, to get us to lean on Him a little stronger, and to get us to trust in Him in a greater way.

If we do not turn away from truth, do not turn away from God and do not let God down in our living, God will do anything He can to try to help and to encourage us. God does not condemn a person for becoming discouraged.

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

# PRESERVED Blessings of answered and unanswered prayers

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Did you know that there is a blessing in both answered and unanswered prayers? So many of us get caught up in the euphoria of our prayers getting answered that we run the risk of getting stuck in disappointment when our prayers don’t get answered. Answered prayers show us that God hears us. Unanswered prayers show that God wants to protect us.

For example, as I get older, I am more grateful for things not working out when I reconnect with people that years ago I wanted to be in a relationship with. I didn’t see it then but years later I realize what God was trying to protect me from.


How many times have you prayed to get that promotion or for that relationship to work out only to be disappointed when things don’t work out? Then, a few weeks, months or years later, we realize that person or circumstance weren’t the best for us. Remember, God knows what’s best for us as explained in Jeremiah 29:11- For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Another reason why these prayers go unanswered is because there are sometimes prayers that are prayed out of emotion and not purpose. James 4:1-4 says that prayers that are prayed amiss or off-target will also go unanswered. When your prayer is not answered, we should seek God’s will to see if it is a prayer that you need to continue to pray.

One blessing of unanswered prayers is that it forces our fleshly desires to die like Philippians 1:21 says. Unanswered prayers keep us on our knees and praying to God for a breakthrough, deliverance, restoration, etc. In the loss of an unanswered prayer, we gain the more important benefit and blessing of a closer, more meaningful walk with God.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we should be grateful to God for both answered and unanswered prayers. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

*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 preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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# Impeachment Dems’ first day

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



Day 1 of the Impeachment hearing was worse than I’d thought. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs at the U.S. Department of State, George Kent and Acting Ambassador to Ukraine, William Taylor, got the impeachment hearing off to a great start for the Democrats and the American people. As my late friend Dick Gregory would have said, “They spoke so my grandmother could understand that President Donald Trump was calling the shots on attempting to bribe Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky when he sought help for his personal benefit.” We should all know by now that soliciting the help of a foreign power to get dirt on a potential competitor in the U.S. Presidential election is a crime.

What follows the opening of the impeachment hearing can be nothing but “icing on the cake.” This is the third impeachment hearing I have witnessed in my lifetime. Whatever one thinks about the other two, this one is so egregious that’s it’s hard to believe any Republicans are in doubt about successfully impeaching Mr. Trump. He’s a major offender of decency, truth, respect and of any positive behavior that comes to mind. How does one get to be who Mr. Trump is?

Taylor and Kent confirmed so much abuse of power on the part of Mr. Trump. No one should have as many passes in life as he has already gotten. He’s tried to make life miserable for DACA young people. He’s already run so many of his staff off. He’s revived hatred for all non-white people. He’s shown no respect for women. Many months ago, when it was found that he already had told over 10,000 lies, I could hardly believe it. I would imagine that number has risen significantly.

Evidence thus far shows the piling up of evidence in order for President Trump to abuse the power of the president. There is no doubt that Mr. Trump used the power of his office to withhold foreign aid to Ukraine for political dirt on VP Joe Biden and his son.

Trump knew the Ukrainian president’s back was up against the wall. He took advantage of the fact that Trump’s good friend Russian President Vladimir Putin could have attacked Ukraine any minute, but he chose the interests of an enemy of our country (and obviously a friend of his) over Ukraine – a country that is a friend of the United States. There was a time many of us were unfairly labeled “communist” by people like Trump, but here we are with so many Republicans siding with Trump and have chosen to support him and the communist guy. One cannot help but wonder what Trump is seeking from President Putin.

Democrats racked up facts in the opening of the hearing. It’s understandable why Ukraine’s president said he didn’t feel pressured by Trump’s efforts to extort him. His back was against the wall. Thousands had died in his country and thousands more stood to die if they didn’t get ways to protect them from Russia encroaching on Ukraine’s territory. Congress had already approved the help but then came the shakedown.

Amb. Marie Yovanovitch, Lt. Colonel Alexander Vindlman (former National Security Council Director for European Affairs), Kurt Volker (former Special Envoy to Ukraine) and Gordon Sondland (U.S. Amb. to the European Union), are still waiting to have their say – at which more Republicans are rethinking their process argument.

Republicans complained about the process used for getting information regarding why Trump will be impeached. After hearing the persuasive testimony of Taylor and Kent, I think they are wishing they’d left the process alone.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. (www-na-

# What do the 2019 elections mean for 2020

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



If the 2019 elections are any indication, Republicans need to worry about their viability come 2020. In Virginia, Democrats have majorities in both its upper and lower houses. With a Democratic governor, Virginia has an unprecedented opportunity to shape public policy, especially around gun control, a key concern for many. In West Virginia, the candidate backed by 45 lost. Many will say it is because Republican Governor Matt Bevin was extremely unpopular. If so why was 45 propping him up? He must have thought he had a prayer.

45 notwithstanding, Bevin’s Democratic opponent, Attorney General Andy Beshear, scored a very narrow victory, getting 49.2 percent of the vote, compared to Bevin’s 48.8. Just five thousand votes separate the two men, but a narrow win is still a victory, and 45 has egg on his face. Usually, when 45 shows up and takes it over the line, the base is supposed to get fired up. Not this time.

While Democrats scored some gains, the Mississippi governor’s mansion is still in Republican

hands. Mississippi has the largest concentration of black people – 39 percent – of any state, but African Americans remain underrepresented among elected officials in Mississippi. Is it voter turnout? An inability to forge a progressive coalition? Or, are race matters so hardwired in Mississippi that Republicans will always prevail?

Speaking of other race matters, the affirmative action ballot measure that appeared on the Washington State ballot failed, which is disappointing news for those who think that we have not yet met diversity goals. Washington state was one of the first to ban affirmative action in 1998 (California’s anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 also passed that year). After California and Washington, other states followed, including Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, New Hampshire and Oklahoma.

Although the affirmative action measure – Referendum 88 – lost very narrowly, it still failed. That means that state agencies can’t openly recruit diverse candidates, and contracting agencies can’t make special efforts to reach out to those who are underrepresented. And since the anti-affirmative action measure passed in 1998, the numbers of minority and women-owned

businesses have dropped in the state. That’s a step backward.

One of the reasons Referendum 88 failed was because a group of Chinese immigrants was among those who campaigned to defeat the affirmative action measure. Former governor Gary Locke, an Asian-American man who describes himself as a product of affirmative action, fought for the referendum. But the majority of voters rejected the measure. So much for the “people of color” coalition.

Still, it is interesting that a recent Gallup poll showed that a majority of white people in this country narrowly favor affirmative action, with 65 percent advocating affirmative action for women and 61 percent supporting affirmative action for minorities. These levels of support are the highest since Gallup began polling on this issue. Perhaps the recent focus on the wealth gap has sensitized some people to inequality. In any case, as positive as the poll was, it didn’t translate to the vote.

The affirmative action loss is bad news because it may signal other states to avoid pro-affirmative action referenda. Further, the loss confirms that many are satisfied with the lack of diversity that is commonplace in politics, the workplace and elsewhere.

And, given the composition of this Supreme Court, challenges to affirmative action that come before them are likely to weaken efforts to encourage diversity in employment, contracting and education. Several of the justices have already openly opined that race should matter less. Their overturning of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is evidence of their race myopia. It is as if these judges are oblivious to the persistence of racism. It is as if they ignore the headlines about the police shootings of black men. It is as if the wealth gap means nothing to them.

So, what do we learn from the last elections? Democrats have a chance to defeat some Republicans and may yet prevail in the 2020 elections. But race remains a divisive factor in our country. And unfortunately, we have a president who will use race divisiveness to his advantage.

Count on the 2020 election to be as contentious as the 2016 election was, but hopefully with different results.

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

# Harriet film shows the inner life of history’s best-known conductor on the Underground Railroad

By Marc H. Morial  
Trice Edney Newswire



“‘Harriet’ is the kind of instructional, no-nonsense biopic that may not take many artistic risks or sophisticated stylistic departures but manages to benefit from that lack of pretension. This is an ideal introduction – or reintroduction – not just to Tubman, but to the inhumane system that she refused to accept. Clear, linear; sometimes bluntly obvious, ‘Harriet’ is a rich, enlightening portrait – as sturdy and straightforward as the title character herself.” – Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday.

The National Urban League has long advocated for greater diversity in the entertainment industry. After two consecutive years of Academy Awards voting produced no nominees of color in the acting categories, we launched a campaign to demand a clear and specific blueprint for change. We have executed memoranda of understanding with telecommunications companies that have resulted in dramatic changes in



Tubman

leadership, hiring and – significantly, programming.

As a result, on screens large and small, we’re seeing more and more African-American stories, created and told by African-American artists. Harriet, in theaters now, is one of the finest of these.

The story of Harriet Tubman is a staple in most American schools. Our common image of her is as an old woman, her head wrapped in a kerchief. We know her as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. But do Americans really know what that means?

Harriet shatters the stereotypes and dusty textbook imagery, bringing to life the true brutality of life under slavery and the courage it took not

only to escape, but to return time and again to rescue others.

Perhaps crucial to the film’s vivid and visceral impact is the fact that it was written, directed and produced by African Americans: Kasi Lemmons and Gregory Allen Howard co-wrote the script, and Lemmons directed the film.

The producer, Debra Chase Martin, was awarded the National Urban League’s prestigious Arts Award this week as part of our Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner, where we caught a special excerpt of the film.

“Harriet’s story shows that each of us can make a difference,” she told the website Shondaland. “She decided it wasn’t just enough to free herself, but that she was going to free other people. And in doing so, she went on to help change the course of our nation. For all of us, now, it’s empowering to remember that we can have an impact on things if we just step up and use our voices.”

Tubman was born Araminta Ross in Maryland. As with many enslaved people, the exact year of her birth is not known but she likely was born between 1820 and 1825. Following a severe head injury as a teenager, she

developed what modern scholars believe to have been temporal lobe epilepsy. The visions she experienced played a major role in the development of her profound personal faith in God.

The visions are portrayed in Harriet as stark, overwhelming, all-consuming. As Vanity Fair film critic K Austin Collins wrote, “It’s what sets Harriet apart from the otherwise more by-the-numbers historical treatment it often threatens to be – gives the movie a realm of spirituality and imagination to play with that stand out from the more brutal literalism of the slavery genre in art.”

The film highlights the conflict not only between slave owners and those who are enslaved, but also between black people who were born into slavery and those born free, presenting a far more nuanced picture of history than Americans are used to seeing.

Harriet is nothing short of a masterpiece, and is destined to become the quintessential biography of America’s first black heroine. We were proud to honor its producer and urge not only viewing of the film but a robust national discussion about its meaning and legacy.

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# C Spire Health mobile app redefines the traditional doctor house call

By Hu Meena  
C Spire CEO, Chairman

Back in the 1930 and 40s, most doctors visited sick patients in their homes with hands-on diagnosis and prescriptions for maladies ranging from a sore throat and the common cold to pneumonia.

Fast forward 80 years through the industrial, information and technology revolutions to the modern digital era. Research, practice and consumer preference shows that the days of the doctor house call are long gone, replaced by visits to a doctor’s office, a local clinic, the emergency room or the hospital.

Today, consumers spend a lot of time traveling to and waiting for a scheduled medical appointment, but they can be more efficient with their time by leveraging telehealth, or connected care, which can save them time and money.

In Mississippi, C Spire and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), leaders in technology and health care, have teamed up to introduce a new, mobile app that promises to improve access to quick, reliable and convenient health care for more people with minor ailments.

Telehealth is a big deal for Magnolia State consumers, especially the poor and elderly in rural and underserved areas, who have few options and are forced to travel long distances with limited access to transportation. Oftentimes, they go to local hospital emergency rooms out of desperation.

A 2015 American Medical Association study concluded that almost 75 percent of all doctor, urgent care and emergency room visits are either unnecessary or could be handled safely and effectively via telehealth solutions. Clearly, telehealth technology can be one of the answers to this access dilemma.

The C Spire telehealth app is available to any consumer located in the state for download from the Google Play or Apple App stores to any smartphone that runs either the Android or iOS operating systems.

After downloading the app and registering for the service, consumers will be able to quickly and easily make an appointment and connect via their smartphone for a live video session with a licensed UMMC nurse practitioner.

The nurse practitioner can virtually evaluate, diagnose and prescribe treatments for over 20 common, minor medical ailments ranging from coughs, colds, the flu and seasonal allergies to headaches, earaches, sore throats and insect bites.

Video appointments cost \$59 per



visit and prescriptions are sent directly to a pharmacy in the patient’s area. The service has no contract or long-term commitment. Consumers can easily add dependents and are only charged at the end of the virtual visit.

If the diagnosis confirms that the consumer is dealing with symptoms from a serious or chronic health condition, the individual is directed to their personal doctor, a primary care physician, specialist or local hospital emergency room for immediate help.

C Spire and UMMC are working to expand the program and add private insurance coverage, more medical professionals and facilities across the state as active participants so that consumers get the best quality and most timely care possible to effectively manage their preventative health care.

Technology innovation in health care is a key part of the C Spire Tech Movement, a company effort begun in 2017 also designed to help move the region forward through improvements in broadband access and workforce development.

The company has focused on technology education and getting more young people in software development and IT jobs through coding challenges with elementary and high schools and public-private partnerships that “fast track” hundreds of new academic and computer science opportunities.

C Spire also has been a leader in expanding broadband across its service area, including a ground-breaking residential broadband program begun in 2014, which has dramatically boosted internet access speeds for consumers and businesses.

To learn more about or download and use the C Spire Health app, go to [www.cspirehealth.com](http://www.cspirehealth.com). For more information about the C Spire Tech Movement, visit [www.cspire.com/tech-mvmt](http://www.cspire.com/tech-mvmt). To learn more about telehealth and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, go to [www.umc.edu/Healthcare/Telehealth](http://www.umc.edu/Healthcare/Telehealth).

Hu Meena is the chairman and CEO of C Spire, a Mississippi-based diversified telecommunications and technology services company.

# What Salmonella in Turkey means for your Thanksgiving

By Glenn Ellis  
TriceEdneyWire.com



The CDC is reporting that outbreak strain of Salmonella Reading is present in live turkeys and in many types of raw turkey products, indicating it might be widespread in the turkey industry. While this does not have to ruin the plans you have for the Thanksgiving holiday, you might want to understand a little more as you start preparing.

I know that for some of you, it’s hard to imagine Thanksgiving without thinking about turkey, in spite of the fact that most have no idea why we even associate turkeys with Thanksgiving.

Before getting into the Salmonella thing, how about a little Thanksgiving Turkey history?

First let’s clear up the myth about the Native Americans and the pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving in 1621. No, the Native Americans didn’t introduce the Pilgrims to turkey, and brought them as a peace offering for the first “Thanksgiving” table.

In fact, there are only two documented accounts of the dinner that day. One guy didn’t even mention turkeys on the table, and the other guy mentioned it in passing in describing all the meats and dishes that were a part of the celebration meal.

Turns out, turkeys actually were first domesticated in Mexico, long before the pilgrims set foot in North America. Even though the Thanksgiving holiday dates back to 1777 (long after the pilgrims and the Native Americans got together) wasn’t until Abraham Lincoln began making sure that soldiers had a good meal on the holiday that turkeys made their appearance on the Thanksgiving table.

I would be remiss in the “turkey history” lesson not to mention what most of us never think about: turkey only serves a single purpose. Unlike cows, which are eaten and provide milk for other dairy products, chickens that we eat and get their eggs to eat and make a lot of other egg-based dishes from, turkey could disappear from earth, and all we would miss are the turkeys themselves.

Now back to Salmonella.

First things first: Salmonella bacteria typically live in animal and human intestines and are passed on through the feces. Salmonella can be transmitted by food and water, by direct animal contact, and in rare situations from person-to-person. Humans usually become infected by eating foods contaminated with feces from an infected animal. As a result, implicated foods are often of animal origin such as beef, poultry, milk and eggs.

There is no U.S. requirement that turkeys or other poultry be free of salmonella – including antibiotic-resistant strains like the one tied to the outbreak – so prevention falls largely to consumers. That means you have to assume

that the Thanksgiving turkey you get from the grocery store or a giveaway could be contaminated.

Salmonella is a bacteria that makes people sick. It was discovered by an American scientist named Dr. Salmon (no kidding) and has been known to cause illness for over 125 years. Most people infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps between 12 and 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without treatment. In some cases, diarrhea may be so severe that you could be hospitalized.

In these cases, the Salmonella infection may spread from the intestines to the blood stream, and then to other body sites. Salmonella can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics. The elderly, infants and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness from salmonella poisoning. People who have had organ transplants, those getting cancer treatment, people with diabetes, seniors and pregnant women are all ripe targets for Salmonella infection.

In a survey from turkey eaters last Thanksgiving, ninety percent of those surveyed washed raw birds in the sink, even though that can spread dangerous bacteria. Fifty-seven percent reported always or sometimes stuffing a turkey before cooking instead of baking dressing separately and 77 percent said they left a cooked bird in a warm oven or at room temperature. All of these actions pose a potential threat to your health and the health of your family and friends. Assume your turkey has salmonella!

As get ready to start your holiday plans you may be wondering what a salmonella outbreak means for you. The answer is simple: Salmonella is prevalent and can be present in raw meat and poultry and in live poultry – no raw meat or poultry is sterile. You can protect yourself by cooking the turkey, other poultry products and meat thoroughly. The cooking process kills the Salmonella. You should not eat partially cooked or raw turkey. Additionally, it is essential that people wash their hands after handling raw poultry, meat and pet food to avoid cross contamination of other foods, spice containers or kitchen surfaces.

The CDC recommends following safety practices in preparing and cooking turkey but is not advising that consumers avoid eating properly cooked turkey products altogether. Take steps to make sure that your Thanksgiving turkey this year doesn’t come with a side of food poisoning.

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

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

# Forrest General Hospital’s Spirit of Women presents holiday shopping extravaganza

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Forrest General’s Spirit of Women presents HOLIdaze Mississippi Style, a marketplace featuring Mississippi made products. The event will be held Thursday, December 5, from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. in Forrest General’s Cafeteria Meeting Rooms.

“We know most women are especially busy around the holidays so we wanted to make things easier. HOLIdaze is perfect because you can get all of your shopping done in one place rather than fighting traf-

fic and spending hours of valuable time going from store to store,” said Kathy Emmons Walker, Spirit of Women coordinator.

It’s a great time to shop for Christmas gifts. Jewelry, clothing, pottery, food and gift items will be showcased from:

- ARC Pottery
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- Grumpy Man
- J. Julep
- University Florist
- B Designs by Betsy Morrow
- And many more!

Take the opportunity to stop in the holiday gallery – a showcase of Mississippi made gifts for this holiday season. Admission is FREE.

For more information, visit [forrestgeneral.com/holidaze](http://forrestgeneral.com/holidaze).

# Mississippi seeking input on community health survey

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) wants to hear from you. How healthy is your community?

Through November 30, Mississippians are asked to take a five-minute survey about the strengths and weaknesses of health in their communities, especially where there are limited resources or poor access to the essentials of a healthy life.

Survey results will be used to help

evaluate health disparities in the state as part of the Mississippi State Health Assessment.

The survey can be accessed at <http://HealthyMS.com/community>.

Follow MSDH by email and social media at [HealthyMS.com/connect](http://HealthyMS.com/connect).

For more information on the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan, visit [www.uprootms.org](http://www.uprootms.org).

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Week of November 17, 2019

# JSU Day at College Hill

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PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON





BOOK REVIEW:

SULWE

BY LUPITA NYONG'O, ILLUSTRATED BY VASHTI HARRISON

C.2019, SIMON & SCHUSTER

\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 48 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Other kids can be so mean.  
In your classroom, they call you names and whisper bad things. On the playground, they tease you, and it hurts your feelings. You wish you had more friends and that things were different. But in the new book “Sulwe” by Lupita Nyong’o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison, life can change and it starts on the inside of you.  
For a long time, Sulwe hated her skin.  
It was dark as midnight and

because of it, she didn’t look like anyone else in her family. Her mother’s skin was as bright as the day. Sulwe’s father was like sundown, and her sister was like “high noon.” Almost nobody at school was dark-skinned like Sulwe, either, and they called her names for it.  
Sulwe’s sister had all kinds of friends. Sulwe had almost no friends, and it wasn’t fair.  
Maybe, she thought, she could scrub the dark away but ouch. That didn’t work.  
Maybe mama’s make-up would help make her skin light-

er but it just made a mess.  
She tried to eat bananas, white bread and other light foods but that just made her full.  
Praying didn’t work, either, and when mama saw that Sulwe was sad, she tried to help. Mama reminded Sulwe that her name means “Star” and that a star’s brightness comes from the inside. Beauty comes from inside, too, and “it begins with how you see yourself...”  
All that day, Sulwe thought about what mama said. Could it be that there was light inside

her darkness? Was there beauty in skin like midnight? She thought and she thought, and she fell asleep thinking about mama’s words.  
Not long after Sulwe’s eyes closed, they opened again. There in the middle of her room was a shooting star, inviting her on a journey where dark and light were sisters and the people learned that everything was wrong if they didn’t have both.  
Was that a lesson Sulwe could use?  
Definitely, yes. And if your child has started to notice skin

tones, this is a book she can use, too. “Sulwe” tells a wonderful tale of differences and loving the skin you’re in.  
You aren’t going to see that, though, until later. No, much like the story itself, the first thing you’ll see is the outside of “Sulwe” and it’s absolutely beautiful. Indeed, the illustrations by Vashti Harrison almost glow, and you may have a hard time keeping your hands off.  
Go ahead, though, and open the book. There, author Lupita Nyong’o tells a child’s tale that, she says in her end-of-book

author note, is somewhat autobiographical: like her character, she was teased for being “night-shaded.”  
Nyong’o goes on to offer advice to children who wish to be lighter-skinned, or who are bullied for being who they are. Not only is this comforting, but it could serve as a great conversation-starter.  
Give this book to your child, read it aloud, and enjoy the gorgeous artwork, too. “Sulwe” is a book you’ll both love, as a beautiful story loaded with meaning.



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# Alcorn State University's 80th Biannual Convocation Celebration

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer

Songs, congratulations and public ovation marked Alcorn State University's 80th Biannual Honors Convocation, October 24, 2019.

Outstanding students, parents, guardians, families and friends converged in the Alcorn State University James L. Bolden Campus Union Ballroom, where prayers, music, praise and unabated cheers marked the historic event.

Alcorn's first female president, Felecia Nave, congratulated dean and presidential scholars' brilliant performance and encouraged them to keep charting that noble trajectory. Describing them as awesome and exceptional, Nave added that Alcorn students shine among the best and brightest. She urged them to be "you, bold and brave." Nave also expressed her profound gratitude to the university community and supporters for their meritorious service.

The featured speaker was Dr. Orpheus L. Triplett, a 1976 Alcorn State University graduate and the current assistant dean of Community Oral Health and Outreach at the University of Tennessee Health Service Center. A successful professional, he also renders community services. He praised Alcorn staff, faculty and students by lavishing compliments on those who earned certificates, scholarships and jackets. Using a field and track metaphor, Dr. Triplett observed that in every race the start and finish are crucial.

Adding that the honorees have made splendid starts in the race, Dr. Triplett warned against intervening distractions, which occasionally derail racers. He therefore urged the students not to relax. Rather, "honor your achievements. Stay focused. Keep your eyes on the prize. Follow your plan and do not relent in your efforts to forge ahead. Do your work first and reward yourself later."

In short but sweet remarks, spiced with quotes, the Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, John G. Igwebuike, welcomed all present. He also saluted staff, faculty and students who did their utmost to assure the event's success. He eloquently stressed the centrality of hard work, reiterating that there is no substitute for it. "Well done" was the provost's wish and exhortation to the students.

Dr. Thomas C. Sturgis, director, Office of Pre-Professional and Honors Curriculum Program, presided over the lively and dynamic occasion.

The Fall 2019 Honors Convocation motto was "Building Success Through Future Expectations."

#### About Dr. Triplett

Dr. Triplett earned a biology degree (cum laude), from Alcorn State University in 1976. A Howard University Dentistry graduate, Dr. Triplett is a member of several professional and dental organizations. He is licensed to practice dentistry in Tennessee.

Other eminent personalities who graced the occasion included: Tony Gordon, instructor, Department of Fine Arts, who brought the prelude and postlude. Rev. Barry Thompson of Laurel Hill Missionary Baptist Church, led prayers and Jakhia Gray, Miss Alcorn State University 2019-2020, welcomed attendees.

Color postings, invocation, songs and awards distinguished



Rev. Thompson and Dr. Triplett



(Left to Right) Dr. Nave and Dr. Sturgis



(Left to Right) Herrington, Miss Alcorn Jakhia Gray, Rev. Thompson and Attorney Galtney



Program coordinator



Students welcoming guests



Student honorees

the occasion.

*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 has published over five books and the latest ones are: Communication, Culture and Human Rights and Positive Vibration. He has published over 20 journal articles as well as several newspaper features in Nigerian and American newspapers notably the: Jackson Advocate, Mississippi Link, Harlem Times, Glory Journal and the Port Gibson Reveille.*

*You may contact Domatob at domatobj@gmail.com.*



International Students celebrate Honors Program PICTURES BY DR JERRY DOMATOB

# HEAD START

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)

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

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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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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Raymond Elementary gets a visit from Storm Team 12

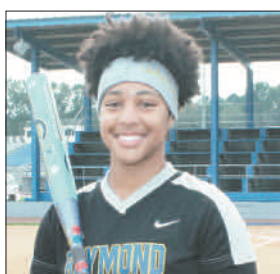
Ms. Pickett's fourth grade science students at Raymond Elementary got a visit from Storm Team 12 meteorologist Jacob Lanier Thursday morning. The students are in the middle of their weather unit, learning about clouds, thunderstorms and forecasting the weather.



Jacob helped the students make a weather forecast for the weekend and showed them how to be safe during Mississippi severe weather. Thank you to Raymond Elementary for having Storm Team 12 visit.

### RHS Shelby Carson first to make Softball All-Star game in the history of the school

Shelby Carson, a senior shortstop for the Raymond High School Lady Rangers was selected to play in the 6A Softball All Star game that was held October 26, 2019 at Newton County High School. Shelby is the first Raymond Lady Ranger All Star to be selected in the history of Raymond High. Shelby's numbers were 3 of 8 with a double, 2 singles, 2 RBIs and scored 2 runs in helping the South Allstars win the best out of three series 2 games to 1.



### Terry High School JROTC cadet named Top Male Student at Youth Leadership Conference

Cadet Sergeant First Class (SFC) Carlos Parker, II of Terry High School was selected as the top male performing student at the 2019 Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Youth Leadership Conference at the U.S. Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama. MOWW serves America's youth by hosting Youth Leadership Conference programs throughout the United States at no cost to high school students attending. These students receive patriotic education on leadership in a free society, concepts of the free enterprise system, principles of democracy, the Constitution and Bill of Rights and civic responsibilities associated with preserving American rights and freedoms. Students also develop speaking, writing and leadership skills, which contribute to their development as better citizens and future leaders.



(L to R) Steve Mann, deputy director of MOWW YLC, Cadet Sergeant First Class Carlos Parker II, Dave Dunlap, director of MOWW YLC

### RHS Shelby Carson signed with MSVS – becoming the first softball player in school history to earn a D1 scholarship.



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