



# A Day of Thanks

By Othor Cain  
Editor

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because more than any other, it uniquely binds us together by our gratitude for the love of Christ and the gift of life. Whether you spend the day with family and loved ones; serve meals to those less fortunate or use the day to reflect on the love and memories of those that have gone before you, this is a day of thanks and reflection. This generosity, this compassion, this belief that we are our brother’s keeper, is essential to

## COMMENTARY

who we are not just this day but every day. It’s easy to focus on what separates us but as we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, let’s remember to be grateful for what binds us together. Thanksgiving reminds us that no matter our differences, we are still one people, part of something bigger than ourselves. We are communities that move forward together. We are neighbors who look out for one another, especially those among us with

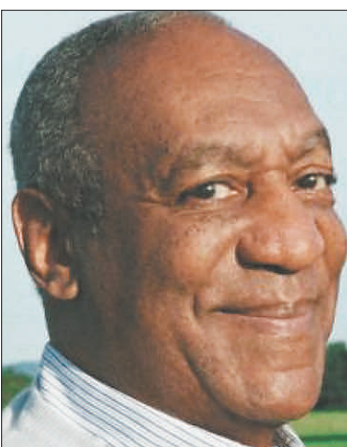
the least. We are always, simply, humans. When I think back on the depressed times of the Civil War and how President Lincoln – through the fog of it saw what mattered most – the unalienable truths for which so many gave their lives, and which made possible “a new birth of freedom.” And so precisely when the fate of the Union hung in the balance, he proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving, when the nation’s gifts “should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice by

everyone.” This Thanksgiving, we continue to give thanks for those blessings, and to all who ensured that they would be our inheritance. Let us always remember we are not bound by any one race or religion, but rather an adherence to a common belief – that all of us are created equal. That we may think, worship, speak and love as we please. That this gift of life given by Christ is ours and we should do everything within our realm to nurture and protect it. Our best days are ahead of us. Happy Thanksgiving!

# NNPA NEWSWIRE EXCLUSIVE Bill Cosby speaks from prison

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Bill Cosby breaks his silence, granting his first exclusive interview since beginning his sentence at SCI-Phoenix, a maximum-security Pennsylvania penitentiary near Philadelphia. Recently, in a special phone call with the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s BlackPressUSA.com, Cosby said he’s spending his time helping to teach and encourage a large population of African-American inmates – men he calls residents – via Mann Up, a prison reform program. The 82-year-old educator and award-winning TV producer/director/comedian was sentenced to serve 3-to-10-years in Pennsylvania’s prison system following his September 2018 conviction on charges of aggravated indecent assault. Unless he receives relief from the state’s appellate courts, Cosby said he fully anticipates serving his entire sentence, saying he’s not guilty and will never admit to something he didn’t do. Displayed remorse is generally a required prerequisite to obtaining parole or a shortened sentence. During the exclusive interview with NNPA, Cosby was candid, vivid and outspoken. Andrew Wyatt, Cosby’s spokesman, was also on the call, where Cosby stressed that there would be no ground rules or restrictions. No topics were off-the-table for discussion. Cosby received no special treatment from the facility for this interview. Because inmates are only allowed to remain on phone calls for 15-minutes, Cosby had to call back multiple times in order to complete today’s interview.



Cosby PHOTO: ERINN C. COSBY

“I have eight years and nine months left,” Cosby stated. “When I come up for parole, they’re not going to hear me say that I have remorse. I was there. I don’t care what group of people come along and talk about this when they weren’t there. They don’t know.” He said his trials were a sham, unjust and not fair. “It’s all a set up. That whole jury thing. They were imposters,” Cosby stated. “Look at the woman who blew the whistle,” he said, alluding to the potential juror who overheard a seated juror proclaim before the trial that, “he’s guilty, we can all go home now.” “Then she went in and came out smiling, it’s something attorneys will tell you is called a payoff,” Cosby stated. “I know what they’ve done to my people. But my people are going to view me and say, ‘that boy looks good. That boy is strong.’ I have too many heroes that I’ve sat with. Too many heroes whom I listened to like John Henrik Clarke, Kenneth Clark and Dorothy Height. Those people are very strong, and they saw the rejection of their people. This is political. I can see

the whole thing.” “I am a privileged man in prison,” he stated. During the call, Cosby referred to his small cell as “my penthouse.” He revisited his famous 2004 “Pound Cake” speech and clarified that he probably should not have addressed that controversial dissertation to all African Americans – the residents at SCI-Phoenix make for the perfect audience, Cosby stated. Cosby said he remains concerned, however, for all of Black America. “They are under siege. This thing with the drugs and the different pockets of the neighborhoods where it’s going on. When you look at what drugs are doing... things that make these people drive around and shoot into crowds,” Cosby said. “The insanity of what is the cause to the brain by all the drugs these people are dealing with. It’s exactly what I warned them about in 2004. “They’ve thrown education out the window. They’ve thrown respect for the family out the window, and they’re blaming each other for what’s going on. There is post-traumatic stress syndrome, and there are also bad manners.” While inmates who spoke to NNPA Newswire said they were saddened to see an icon like Cosby imprisoned, each said they believe he’s serving a higher purpose. Cosby agreed. “I don’t belong to the Mann Up Association, but it’s a privilege to come in and speak,” Cosby stated. “I never wanted them to lord me up (be put on a pedestal). This is a great privilege.” A weekly highlight for Cosby

since his incarceration, has been the reform program, Mann Up, where he is often the featured speaker. The program serves to encourage and empower African-American men to strive for self-respect and dignity, and to put their family first. Anthony “Benny-Do” Sutton, Tyree Wallace, Robert Groves and Michael Butler, each spoke from SCI-Phoenix to NNPA Newswire about the program and Cosby’s influence. “Every Tuesday, Mr. Cosby and I sit down and talk before the other residents come in and he explains to me what moves I need to make so that Mann Up can be a success,” stated Sutton, 56, who has spent his entire adult life in prison. “He says to always remember to work as a team. We are all in this life together and Mr. Cosby is a political prisoner and he tells us that we’ve got to save our babies. We can’t be out there killing our children and our women,” Sutton stated. Wallace, who has served more than two decades in prison, said Cosby has also opened his eyes because of his authenticity. “This powerful man, one of the best comics, a legend and here he is with us,” Wallace told NNPA Newswire. “Mr. Cosby comes into the room with his fist in the air and all of these men rise up and applaud him. He gives us so much wisdom and the Mann Up program is the perfect vehicle. He told us a story about his mother, and how she would have him clean the hallways after guys would go and urinate. He said he’d ask her why he had to clean it, and she

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# Chief among Mississippi Democratic candidates’ many problems in statewide races is lack of money



Mississippi Republican candidate for governor Haley Barbour, right, speaks during a candidates forum in Oxford, Miss., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003. Also participating were treasurer candidate Gary Anderson, left, and Gov. Ronnie Musgrove. BRUCE NEWMAN / AP/OXFORD EAGLE

By Bobby Harrison  
Mississippi Today

In three elections for governor in the 1990s, the Democratic candidates essentially matched or garnered more in campaign contributions than their Republican opponents. That all changed in the early 2000s. Starting with the 2003 statewide elections, the Democratic candidates have not been close in terms of matching their Republican opponents in fundraising. In 2003, both Republican challenger Haley Barbour and Democratic incumbent Ronnie Musgrove shattered records for campaign fundraising in Mississippi. But the discrepancy between what Barbour, a well established Washington, D.C., lobbyist, raised and what the incumbent governor raised was jaw-dropping. Musgrove raised a healthy \$7.7 million – more than double the previous record. But Barbour garnered \$11.3 million in campaign cash for that 2003 election. It appears when all the accounting is completed on the recently completed 2019 campaign that it will reveal that Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, who won the Nov. 5 governor’s election, might have raised more than Barbour did in 2003. Reeves’ Democratic opponent – Attorney General Jim Hood – will most likely have raised less than \$5.5 million or about half as much as Reeves. For a Mississippi Democrat, \$5.5 million in campaign fundraising is a respectable amount. After all, in almost every state-

wide and legislative election, the Democrat is outgunned significantly in terms of campaign cash. In part, the inability of Mississippi Democrats to raise money is a symptom of the dismal state of the party. As Democrats debate how to revive the party and move forward after the shellacking they suffered this election cycle, one issue they must resolve is how to garner campaign money to fund their candidates’ campaigns. That inability to raise money can be traced, at least in part, back to the efforts in the early 2000s to change the civil justice system to ensure more protection from lawsuits for businesses. Those changes to the civil justice system came to the forefront during the administration of Musgrove. Under intense pressure, Musgrove agreed in 2002 to call a special session to address possible changes to the civil justice system. That special session famously lasted 83 days and, in the end, House Democrats who were primarily the obstacle to those tort changes, capitulated, resulting in a huge victory for the business community and the medical profession. Despite those victories, Barbour ran on the need for even more changes to the civil justice system in 2003. He painted Musgrove as an obstacle to those changes. A successful Barbour was able to push through those additional changes during a much

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## Hinds CC honors Foundation scholarship recipients

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2019-2020 scholarship recipients, donors and honorees at a reception Nov. 17 at the Utica Campus.

Among those recognized were Shadesja Gray of Hazlehurst, who received the Hinds AHS Class of 1964 Scholarship. With her was McKenzie and Mary Crump of Jackson.

Among those recognized were Camden Rush of Jackson, who received the Hinds AHS Class of 1967 Scholarship. With him was Juanita Stewart-Brown of Jackson.

The Hinds Community College Foundation will award more than 600 scholarships during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship for fall 2020, academic year 2020-2021 is Feb. 15, 2020. *For more information, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu).*

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester.

*To learn more, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu) or call 1.800.HindsCC.*



From left to right: Mary Crump, Shadesja Gray and McKenzie Crump



From left to right: Camden Rush and Juanita Stewart-Brown

### IN MEMORIAM

## Minnie V. Williams

*January 25, 1925 - November 12, 2019*



"Seldom has God given so much to many people through one woman."

Her heavenly Father saw fit to reward Minnie V. Williams with her wings on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. She left her legacy of wisdom and love in our hearts.

Born January 25, 1925 in Ofahoma, Leake County, Mississippi to Wesley and Janie (Walker) Davis, the youngest of ten children, Minnie was an angelic child with features of an angel. Her dad doted on her and would take her everywhere he went. Her siblings showered her with gifts and affection constantly.

Her parents; husband, Walter Herbert Williams; two sons, Freddie Wesley Williams and Walter Herbert Williams Jr.; daughter, Jackie Mason and granddaughter, Januari Rhodes, all preceded her in death.

At an early age, she professed her faith and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She was united with the Church of God in Farmhaven, Mississippi. After moving to Saint Louis, the family continued to serve at the Garfield Church of God under Elder Gabriel P.

Dixon. Later, she united and served at Riverview Church of God under Pastor Andre Epps.

Minnie received her education in the Leake County Public Schools. Minnie's passion was culinary arts. She worked as a pastry chef for Ella Brock Bakery for over a decade. However, her priority was her family, her home and her flowers.

Minnie married the love of her life, Walter H. Williams, September 1, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois. They raised six children – four daughters and two sons. They were married for seventy-one years until Walter's passing in May 2017.

Minnie's gifts were love and compassion for people. Everybody who knew her will remember her favorite saying: "God is love."

She leaves to cherish her sweet memory, yet rejoice her purposeful life: three daughters – Germa Dean Jenkins, Harweada Outlaw and Sammie Rhodes, as well as extended daughters – Barbara Dandridge and Cierra Robinson; four grandchildren – Romel Mason (Erica), Ricky Outlaw, Jr., Jasmine Outlaw and Ashli Paige Rhodes; ten great grandchildren – Tawnie Mason, Malik Mason, Kamrin Washington, Blake Rhodes-Brown, Agra Mason, Parker Perry, Brooklyn Outlaw, Myuel Chew Jr., Juelz Chew and Miamor Chew; two great-great grandchildren – Marlie Howard and Mason Wilburn; three sisters – Annette Williams, Fern Allen and Vivian Peterson; two brothers – Jerome Williams and James Richard Williams; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services were held Nov. 22, 2019 at the Riverview Church of God in St. Louis, MO with her nephew Rev. Maxwell Ware officiating.

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## Cosby

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told him that you have to clean where you live,” Wallace said.

Groves and Butler echoed their peers. Both have served more than a dozen years in prison and said Cosby’s presence has helped them to see their lives differently.

Cosby recalled entering Temple University as a young man in the 1960s and his desire to become a teacher.

“I’m not a psychiatrist, and I’m not a psychologist. I’m an educator, and what I look forward to is talking to this group of 400 or so men. Some of them here are in their 70s, in their 50s, their 40s, 30s, and 20s,” Cosby said.

“I tell them what I know and what I feel. I feel that everything that I said in 2004, there is a light [behind it],” Cosby stated.

“The mistake I made [in 2004] is making it sound like all the people were making the infractions, and that’s not true.”

Cosby stated that he believes he’s in the right place at the right time because he’s spent his life and career trying to reach African-American men.

“I’m looking at a state [Pennsylvania] that has a huge number of prisons, and the one I’m in, thankfully, has the largest population of African Americans,” Cosby stated.

“These are guys who are also from Philadelphia, where I grew up. Many of them are from the neighborhood. Michael Eric Dyson said ‘Bill Cosby is rich and forgot where he came from.’

“That’s not true. I’m not calling him a liar; I’m saying that’s not true. What I’m saying is that it’s not the same neighborhood as it was when I was coming up.

“The influx of drugs and what they’ve done with their own history. If they would pay attention to these things and put education first and respect for others first... it’s almost insane to hear someone say they don’t know how to be a father.

“As I said earlier, the revolution is in the home, and we’ve got to put it there. Marvin Gaye’s ‘What’s Going On,’ is very prophetic in that too many of us are dying in these neighborhoods. Too many of us dying and, another quote from the song, is ‘we’ve got to find a way.’”

It’s easy to see the devaluation of the black family by others, Cosby stated.

He said the shelving of his iconic “The Cosby Show” is proof that those in power have long conspired to remove anything positive from the black community.

“When ‘The Cosby Show’ came on with the Huxtables, just think about it. While it was running, other networks and even the media were doing jobs on trying to belittle whatever it represented,” Cosby stated.

Then, with ‘A Different World,’ they really ramped up the rhetoric. “While new shows were coming and we had gone off the air – this is the worst time in the history of television – I remember hearing shows coming on advertising saying this is not ‘The Cosby Show,’ which is an indictment in itself.

“They did not like what ‘The Cosby Show’ looked like for us, and many of us traded into it. Now, look at what has happened. They’ve taken everything that I’ve done and swept it into a place where it would not be shown.

“Thank goodness for TV One and BET, but we’ve got to respect ourselves. We’ve got to have a very, very strong respect for our history.”

Behind the steel walls at SCI-Phoenix, Cosby said he’s at peace.

His fellow residents often ask about his contemporaries like Richard Pryor, whom Cosby once encouraged to use profanity because it fit Pryor’s act.

“It’s a huge smile in my spirit. I can... use their own profanity back at them. I’m saying things to them like, ‘how many times if you have a lamp, do you rub it, give it three wishes. And, how many times can you say mother f—r and things will come true?’” Cosby stated.

“Sometimes, you have to turn on the conjugation of things like slang. You speak it in the home, and that’s what I said in 2004. It was the shock of hearing, ‘Where you is?’ and ‘Where you at?’ and then hear the parents say it too.”

Cosby believes he’s reaching his fellow residents.

“I’m reaching them because they want

to be reached. They’re in prison. I don’t forget a saying, one I quoted or read in a book, which says, ‘I don’t know the secret to success, but I do know the secret for failure.’ You can’t please everybody. I have a feeling that these people [Mann Up participants] really want somebody. They have rappers here who are strong and spirited people. They don’t just blame people; they say, ‘we’ve got to do it.’”

Cosby has also served as a voice of reason in prison.

“I heard a guy say to someone that if someone did something he didn’t like, he’d go out and get all his boys and they’d kill the fella. I said, how much sense does that make? You call your boys, and they want to kill him,” Cosby stated.

“I said to look at all the people you’ve got involved, and when you get caught, you are all going to jail, and you got one dead fella. ‘Call if off,’ I told the guy. I said to him that you need to call your friends, too.”

Cosby often tells his fellow residents about an epiphany he had while serving in the Navy, which has allowed him to remain in good spirits while behind bars.

“I got a wife, family and friends who are so happy that I have something. I go into my penthouse and lay down and start to think about how I can relay a message and give it on Saturdays (during Mann Up sessions) so that they would hear it and feel it,” Cosby stated.

“This Saturday, I gave a talk dedicated to women. I told the story of my wife, who said to me when she got back home after bringing our 43-year-old daughter back home dead from the hospital. It was the most difficult thing she’s ever done in her life, to sit there and watch her daughter die,” he stated.

“From there, I went into the fact that mothers have something that we all have, which is a navel. We have to respect our mothers and our women. We’ve got to stop buying drugs. If you have no buyer, you can’t sell,” Cosby stated.

After calling back a third time to complete the interview, Cosby said he needed to express the critical role the Black Press has had in telling his story.

“Sixty-five years from now, they will be quoting what you’ve written about your fellow journalists. [Wyatt] has information on how these people have rejected the truth. You have the information too because you were in that courtroom,” he stated.

“I’m a privileged man. You talk to [NNPA President and CEO] Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and he will tell you that there is a history of black political imprisonment in America, and it’s repeating itself in some kind of way.”

## Money

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shorter special session. The result of those two special sessions was a wide array of changes to protect businesses from lawsuits, such as capping punitive damages and damages for pain and suffering, limiting where and when lawsuits could be filed and many other changes to benefit businesses.

During the fight over the tort changes, the state’s business community and its campaign contributions began to gravitate toward the Republican Party. Trial attorneys, perhaps possessing less disposable income than they did before the tort changes, became less involved in making donations to political campaigns. Some still give, but not nearly at the level they once did.

A lot of issues play a part in the weak state of Mississippi Democrats. Chief among those is the fact that a large majority of white Mississippians for various reasons are more closely aligned with the national Republicans.

The “tort reform” efforts and resulting allegiance of the business community and its campaign giving to Republicans deepen the problem for state Democrats.

A bright spot for Democrats could be seen in the fact that one of the few Democrats to outraise his Republican opponent in recent elections was Mike Espy against Cindy Hyde-Smith in the 2018 special Senate election to replace long-time U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran. Surprisingly Espy raised about \$7.5 million compared to \$5.5 million for the victorious Hyde-Smith.


Espy, of course, is challenging Hyde-Smith again in 2020 in the regular election for a full six-year term. One of the reasons that Espy thinks he has a chance is the belief he can match those fundraising efforts and garner that money earlier in the campaign to more strategically expend it.

Espy, the first African American elected to the U.S. House from the state since the 1800s, says those funds came in late during the 2018 campaign, after Hyde-Smith’s comment about being willing to attend a public hanging caused a national backlash, and that he did not have time to strategically use those funds.

He believes 2020 will be different.

“I have 150,000 donors now. I know who they are. They gave an average of \$38 each. We are going to reach out to each one of them, Espy said.

That could be a start for Democrats.



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## Join us for a day of holiday shopping at Jackson Medical Mall

Mississippi Link Newswire

Join us for a day of holiday shopping Friday, December 6, 2019, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Jackson Medical Mall. Sip, Shop & Social is a public event featuring handcrafted, locally made and vintage items from local vendors, artists and small businesses.


Your shopping experience will feature delightful displays, sweets and holiday treats along with information on healthy living. Shoppers will be able to purchase an array of delectable desserts, rare jewelry and clothing and other locally-made items.

The event will feature performances by the Provine High School Choir, Lanier High School Choir, SING! Jackson, the Galloway Elementary Singers and more.

Shoppers will be entered into random drawings for door prizes and more. This year's grand prize is a 40-inch smart TV. For every \$5 spent with one of our vendors, shoppers will be entered into the grand prize drawing.

The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation encourages local businesses, organizations and brands to apply for exhibitor space for the upcoming 2019 Sip, Shop and Social holiday shopping event. We also welcome medically certified professionals to provide health screenings.

There will be no fee assessed for medical professionals providing free health screenings during



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Sip, Shop and Social 2019.

Sip, Shop & Social is sponsored by the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, in partnership with the City of Jackson and Humana.

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# Court of Appeals visits Rust College



Pictured left to right, front row, Dr. A.J. Stovall, Chair, Rust College Division of Social Science; Judge Latrice A. Westbrook; Judge Jim M. Greenlee; Judge Deborah A. McDonald; Rust College President Dr. David L. Beckley; Dr. James E. Mock, Professor of Social Science; and Dr. Ishmell Edwards, Rust College Vice-President. On the back row are Court of Appeals Law Clerks P.J. Lee, Jr. and Zakia Butler.

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Court of Appeals visited Rust College in Holly Springs Nov. 19 as part of the Court on the Road program.

A three-judge panel including Judge Latrice A. Westbrook of Lexington, Judge Jim M. Greenlee of Oxford and Judge Deborah A. McDonald of Fayette heard oral arguments in a criminal case.

Approximately 100 students

watched the oral argument proceedings in Doxey Auditorium.

The Court on the Road program schedules oral arguments on college campuses as a teaching tool to give students and the public opportunities to watch proceedings in cases on appeal. Court on the Road offers a unique learning experience for students with an interest in law, government, journalism and a variety of other fields.

The judges heard the criminal

appeal of Cordarryl Lamond Bell v. State of Mississippi. Bell was convicted of manslaughter in the Nov. 2, 2015 shooting death of Aquarius Nelson and of aggravated assault of Joshua Cole in Brookhaven. Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Michael M. Taylor sentenced Bell to 20 years on the manslaughter conviction and 20 years with 10 years suspended on the aggravated assault, with the sentences to run consecutively.

# Making spirits bright – and safe

*When decorating for the holidays, keep safety in mind*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Once Thanksgiving is in the rear-view mirror, for many families the décor for the rest of the year is all about holly, wreaths, trees and lights. It is easy to get wrapped up in the holiday spirit when transforming your home into a winter wonderland, but be sure not to let safety go by the wayside.

Christmas tree fires account for hundreds of fires annually, and one in three is caused by electrical problems. December is also the peak month for home candle fires. If you have a Christmas tree, be sure it's in a container that holds water, and water it every day.

Keep these holiday decoration safety tips top of mind:

- If you put up lights outside your home, be sure the lights used are designated for

outdoor use.

- Use a nonconducting fiberglass or wooden ladder when working with strings of lights, and stay clear of all overhead wires.
- Do not replace bulbs when the electricity is on.
- Never let light bulbs touch flammable materials such as plastic or dry grass and leaves.
- For outside use, work only with three-wire grounded extension cords.
- Use rubber gaskets in outdoor light sockets or hang sockets downward to keep water out.
- Keep connections and lights off the ground by hanging them over wooden stakes.
- Turn inside and outside holiday lights off when away from home or asleep.

Enjoy some down time with

the family this holiday season, but be sure to take a little extra effort to keep yourself and your loved ones safe by reducing risk where you can.

Entergy Mississippi, LLC provides electricity to approximately 450,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of \$11 billion and approximately 13,500 employees.

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**-BONUS CASH \$4,425**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS<sup>2</sup> = \$5,627**

**2019 EXPEDITION XLT 202A**

**MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$62,140**

**-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$2,839**

**-BONUS CASH \$9,780**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS<sup>3</sup> = \$12,619**

**2019 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW\*302A**

**MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$54,710**

**-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$4,113**

**-BONUS CASH \$7,500**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS<sup>4</sup> = \$11,613**

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## Lifechanger of the Year nominee profiles

Tanaucha Lewis

**Position:** Behavior Specialist  
**School:** Casey Elementary School  
**School District:** Jackson Public Schools  
**City, State:** Jackson , MS



Tanaucha Lewis was nominated by Krystal Cormack, the parent of a student.

Dr. Lewis epitomizes what it means to be a LifeChanger. Dr. Lewis supports the most challenging students in her school, children who have emotional challenges, behavioral disabilities and special mental health needs.

“As an educator myself, I didn’t know people like Dr. Lewis existed,” said Cormack. “She has the ability to build relationships with both students and adults. She strives toward ambitious outcomes, so that students are able to maximize their potential and lead lives of opportunity and joy. Dr. Lewis has both a skill and a gift in working with children, teachers and families when it comes to supporting children with emotional disabilities.”

Dr. Lewis holds children and adults to high expectations and pushes both groups when necessary. She uses data to drive her supports and is able to masterfully shape the conversations in her school toward a growth mindset. Dr. Lewis provides students, teachers and families with a sense of hope about the future of the children she serves.

“As the parent of one of the children she serves, I never thought I would see the day when my child would look forward to going to school,” said Cormack. “Dr. Lewis understands what it takes to motivate young children and encourage them to be the best version of themselves. She remembered my child’s birthday and had a gift prepared for him, even though his birth day was on the first day of school. I am continually in awe of the progress my son is making through his work with Dr. Lewis. She helps children see the potential within themselves by setting short, then longer stretch goals for them to achieve. She anticipates challenges, understands each child as an individual and sees them beyond the boundaries of their disability. I want Dr. Lewis to understand the difference she has made for my son and other students like him. If it weren’t for the work she is doing, my child might not want to go to school each day, and certainly wouldn’t be thriving in the way that he is now.”

LaKisha Ballinger

**Position:** Kindergarten Teacher  
**School:** Baker Elementary School  
**School District:** Jackson Public Schools  
**City, State:** Jackson, MS



LaKisha Ballinger was nominated by Tonya Rose, a family member.

Ballinger became a teacher to help children learn and succeed in life. She has a passion for making a difference in her school and in the community where she lives. She helps with the Girl Scout Troops of America and is a positive role model. Ballinger encourages others to fulfill their potential by studying and working hard. She goes above and beyond to teach her students the skills they need to achieve their education. Ballinger is a team leader at her school. She enjoys her job and works hard at it.

## Students from six JPS schools take oath to serve as peer mediators



TAP mediators from three JPS secondary schools took the Mediator Oath of Service administered by the Hon. Denise Owens (left, 2nd row). Also present for the ceremony were JPS Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene and Chief of Staff Dr. Michael Cormack (right of Owens) along with principals of the six schools represented and Climate & Wellness Executive Director Amanda Thomas (right, 3rd row).

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Several JPS middle and high school students who have been selected to serve as peer mediators for their schools participated in an induction ceremony October 29 at Blackburn Middle School.

Students from Blackburn, Kirksey and Whitten Middle Schools were inducted along with students from Callaway, Jim

Hill and Wingfield High Schools. The Mediator Oath of Service was administered by Judge Denise Owens.

The students are part of Talk About the Problem, or TAP, a peer mediation and conflict resolution program. TAP is used in JPS schools to reduce student conflicts, suspensions and expulsions.

As an added benefit, it increases the

communication and leadership skills of the mediators. Student mediators are trained to counsel their student peers in conflict with the aim of helping them reach mutual resolutions. The program empowers students to stop conflict in their school communities as well as in their neighborhoods.

## Deuce Mcallister joins program to announce donation to JPS

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Former Ole Miss and NFL player Deuce McAllister joined UnitedHealthcare and the Dreambuilders Foundation in presenting a gift of \$10,000 to Jackson Public Schools. The Office of Partners in Education will use the funds to set up an on-site supply closet at Siwell Middle School and to support uniform distributions to JPS scholars across the district.

Siwell’s supply closet is filled with school uniforms and personal hygiene items. Siwell parents and students will have access to these essentials throughout the school year.

“We want to say thank you to UnitedHealthcare and the Dreambuilders Foundation,” said Thea Faulkner, director of Partners in Education. “It’s our goal to cultivate community partnerships and engagement in support of our scholars and our teachers. I’m delighted to be here today to celebrate the \$10,000 donation that UnitedHealthcare has provided to us



Participating in the presentation of a \$10,000 check to Jackson Public Schools are (front row from left) Howard Catchings, UnitedHealthcare/Catchings Agency; former NFL player Deuce McAllister; Scott Chapman, UnitedHealthcare; Donald Boyd, principal, Siwell Middle School; and Thea Faulkner, director, Partners in Education.

to assist us in establishing uniform closets in all of our middle schools.”

“We recognize that you are the future for us,” said Scott Chapman, account manager/director for UnitedHealthcare. “We’re proud to be able to donate \$10,000 for the uniforms and supplies, so you can kick off

this next year with excitement and with pride.”

Siwell Principal Donald Boyd led the program that included participation from our favorite 99 Jams personalities Chistiana and Mailman. The pep-rally-style celebration featured performances by the school’s band and cheerleaders and presenta-

tions by student leaders.

McAllister encouraged the Siwell students to work hard, prioritize their school work, listen in class, and obey their teachers and parents to be successful. He also played toss with some of the students before dedicating the new uniform and supply closet.

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# Clinton Attaché 40th Anniversary Fall Revue set for Dec. 11-14

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Nationally acclaimed for four decades, Clinton High’s Attaché show choir will shine on stage before audiences at its 2019 Fall Revue.

Talented soloists, dancers and other performers are busy rehearsing for shows booked at the Clinton High Auditorium Dec. 11-14. Each evening, these amazing teens will supply fabulous entertainment in their hometown. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Accolades for the Clinton High Attaché show choir are off the charts. Attaché was recognized as the Host Show Choir for Show Choir Nationals at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee the past 18 years. During the 28-year tenure of directors David and Mary Fehr, the group was selected Grand Champions in 80 of 89 competitions.

Attaché honors nationwide are well-deserved. During the Fehr’s 28 years, Clinton High’s Attaché has never lost a competition in the South. And going back 40 years (the first 12 under director Winona Costello), the group stayed undefeated against every school the Arrows faced in Mississippi.

The current national winning streak of 18 straight competitions with the Clinton group capturing both vocals and visuals remains an all-time record.

For people who have never witnessed one of their stunning performances or patrons going almost every year, there are good reasons to buy tickets.

“The fall revue is such a fun show,” says Amy Ouellette, co-president of the Attaché Boosters. “It provides a chance to see the students perform a few Attaché hits from years past, a preview of the upcoming competition set, and



PHOTOS: CLINTON ATTACHÉ 2019



a few Christmas songs to help get you in the holiday spirit.”

This season’s Fall Revue should appeal to audiences of all ages. It will feature ‘50s classics like “Dream Lover” to Broadway’s “Seasons of Love” from Rent to all-time Attaché favorites “Free Bird” and “I Drove All Night.”

In 2019, the show choir swept

two Southern competitions in Jasper, Alabama and Petal, Mississippi and also at The Event in Chatham, Illinois. From 2010 to 2019, Attaché participated in 31 competitions and won 30 grand championships. That’s 30 Best Vocals and 30 Best Visuals.

With numerous awards stacking up for 40 years, the best advice to

2019 Fall Revue audiences is to buy tickets soon.

“This is an extremely popular annual event, so we encourage fans to purchase tickets in advance,” says Sandi Beason, public information director for Clinton public schools. “Attaché is quantifiably the best show choir in the nation.”

Led by directors David and Mary Fehr, Attaché consists of 47 singer/dancers, 15 pit members, and 17 crew members. Robert Allen and Matt Hines serve as pit directors and Deborah Morgan is the crew director. Choreographers include: April James, Stephen Todd, Dexter Bishop and Harley McAlexander.

Tickets for the Fall Revue range between \$9 and \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the Clinton High auditorium from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 23 or Monday through Friday Dec. 2-6 and Dec. 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about Fall Revue tickets and other Attaché details, go to [attache.org](http://attache.org)

# HCCSD School Bond Referendum results – A step in the right direction

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Comfortable weather and higher than usual turn-out failed to sway some Holmes County voters to approve the School Bond Referendum. Nearly 6500 of the county’s almost 14,000 registered voters exercised their right to vote on November 5. Needing at least 60% of voters to vote FOR the bond, at 58% approval rate, the referendum fell short.

“I see this result as a step in the right direction,” said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, “because more citizens wanted the bond to pass than did not. We will return to the ballot next year during the General Election. As far back as we know, there has never been a school bond referendum passed by the voters of Holmes County, but there have been numerous bonds passed for road and bridges improvements.”

The bond monies were to be combined with insurance monies and Federal Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (FEMA/EMEA) funds to construct new educational facilities. Henderson said, “We were hopeful that we had done enough to show people the need and our plan to address it. In the end, it seemed as if homeowners were afraid of any financial undertaking and of voting contrary to what some influential community leaders recommended.”

Henderson and his staff presented more than a dozen public sessions, with an attorney to explain the tax impact of the bond, in locations all over the county, including Mileston, Tchula, Cruger, Acona, Lexington, Pickens, Goodman and Durant. Substantial radio advertising and talk show appearances, as well as the district’s website and social media platforms also got the word out. “I want to thank all of our supporters and the hard-working members of the Citizens for the VOTE YES School Bond Referendum. Co-chairs Earline Wright Hart and Zelpha Whatley were tireless campaigners, determined to inform folks as to why they should vote for the bond. Adult and student volunteers went above and beyond to get information to everyone in the county and to let them know how much we need new schools.”

“We will not stop,” said Henderson. “Our students deserve inspiring, conducive learning environments in healthy, functional buildings. We will find a way to provide for our most precious asset – our children, future leaders.”

For more information contact Deborah Antoine, media spokesperson by email: [dantoine@holmesccsd.org](mailto:dantoine@holmesccsd.org), or call (662) 854-3447.

# MSU remains Mississippi’s top research university in latest NSF survey

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State University is once again ranked as Mississippi’s top research university in the latest report from the National Science Foundation.

MSU also retains its status as a top 100 research institution in the recently released NSF Higher Education Research and Development Survey for Fiscal Year 2018. With \$244 million in total research and development expenditures, MSU ranks 98th nationally, is 61st among non-medical school institutions and is 67th among public universities.

NSF’s survey, the primary source of information for research and development expenditures at U.S. colleges and universities, found that MSU accounted for more than half of expenditures reported by all Mississippi institutions in FY18. With an increase of \$3 million from the university’s fiscal year 2017 research funding, MSU has increased its research and development expenditures for five consecutive years. In addition to being an NSF top 100 research university, MSU holds the “Very High Research Activity” designation from the Carnegie Foundation.

“MSU’s ongoing success as an R1 research university is due to the exceptional work of our dedicated faculty researchers and scientists,” said MSU Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development Julie Jordan. “This high level of research is being conducted in state-of-the-art facilities and provides more students than any other institution with the opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of others in Mississippi while earning their degrees.”

With a diverse research portfolio, MSU ranks in the top 15 nation-



Mississippi State University once again accounts for over half of all research and development expenditures reported by Mississippi universities. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

ally in both agricultural sciences (11) and social sciences (12). For the seventh consecutive year, MSU leads all Southeastern Conference universities in social sciences research funding. MSU leads the state with nearly 4,000 research personnel, including 661 principal investigators.

Jordan noted that MSU’s research focuses on areas that make an impact in society, continuing the university’s land-grant mission. She pointed to ongoing projects aimed at improving nutrition in rural areas, developing new precision agricultural techniques to increase production and reduce environmental impacts, and developing policies for the safe use of unmanned aircraft in public airspace, among others. MSU’s research capabilities are also an asset for state economic development efforts.

“The MSU research enterprise drives innovation and economic development for Mississippi by solving real problems and foster-

ing an innovative culture where faculty and students are encouraged to dream, develop new technologies and start new enterprises that change the world,” Jordan said.

MSU leads universities in the state in engineering, computer science, agricultural science, life science, mathematical sciences, psychology, social science and education.

With \$105 million in reported funding for agricultural sciences and natural resources conservation, the survey affirms MSU’s commitment to Mississippi’s \$8 billion agriculture and forestry industry.

“It is our goal to meet the needs of Mississippi’s agricultural industry through innovative research addressing issues that are critical to the success our clientele,” said MSU Interim Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Reuben Moore. “Our ranking underscores the dedication of our ag units to solving problems and developing new prac-

tices that will improve profitability, increase production and help meet the world’s growing need for food.”

Three Bagley College of Engineering disciplines are rated in the top 50, with aerospace and mechanical engineering both ranking 34th and industrial engineering ranking 38th. MSU also ranks 28th in the NSF’s “Other Engineering” subfield. In the College of Arts and Sciences, MSU ranked 43rd in atmospheric science and 50th in geological and Earth science.

Mississippi State’s research funding comes from a wide range of sources, including business and industry, trade groups and local governments, state offices and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, among others.

In addition to its high NSF status, Mississippi State is the only university in the state to achieve Innovation and Economic Prosperity University status from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and its Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity. The designation – attained after a rigorous review process – recognizes Mississippi State for working to advance engagement and economic well-being in the state, region and nation.

The complete NSF report is online at <https://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/herd/2018>. Discover more about research at Mississippi State at [www.research.msstate.edu](http://www.research.msstate.edu) and [www.dafvm.msstate.edu](http://www.dafvm.msstate.edu).

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# Keynote speaker for JSU's Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition event cheats death twice

By L.A. Warren  
jsunews.com

During Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition's (MJCPC) 28th Annual End-of-the-Year Celebration, motivational speaker Dwight Owens shared how he cheated death twice and challenged others to overcome their own obstacles.

A vehicle driven by Owens, a native of Collins, was struck head-on by a 72-year-old drunken driver in August 2005. The accident left Owens partially paralyzed and changed his life forever. He spent a year in the hospital fighting to survive and to regain motor functions through many hours of grueling rehab "that taught me there was still plenty of life ahead for me. There is no 'dis' in my ability. I have swag and am saved with amazing grace," he said.

MJCPC provides age-appropriate, culturally relevant substance abuse prevention programs for youth and adults. It's operated by JSU's Office of Community Engagement and is funded by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety.

Before Owens' keynote at the Jackson Medical Mall, MJCPC touted its many accomplishments over the year. These included training nearly 8,000 students at Jackson Public School with life skills and providing prevention education to nearly 15,000 participants, including 535 JSU students.

For next year, MJCPC aims to significantly reduce alcohol consumption for those under age 21 and deter binge drinking among JSU students.

Meanwhile, 36-year-old Owens of Still Standing Consulting LLC, spoke about his efforts to empower individuals undergoing hardships, addictions and other challenges. Through his organization he serves as a disability advocate and youth mentor. He also advocates for Americans With Disability.

In fact, his tragic crash was so serious that after he coded the second time doctors prepared to declare him brain dead. Miraculously, his life was restored, stunning the medical staff.

Then, more doubts surfaced as doctors believed Owens would exist only in a vegetative state. Once again, they would be proved wrong. On the contrary, Owens maneuvers around daily in a wheelchair speaking to many crowds. The crux of his message is about not being defeated and not being defined by circumstances.

"A lot of people don't know how to deal with pain and adversity, but a lot of situations can make you wiser. So, turn your wounds into wisdom. Don't let your circumstances paralyze you," Owens advised. "Living in fear paralyzes you; shame paralyzes you; drugs and alcohol paralyze you."

Terry J. Bennett, prevention specialist for MJCPC, knows the harm of addictions because her husband recently died of lung cancer after years of smoking. She tried endlessly to sway him to quit. For a while in 2018, he was placed on life support. That time he survived. However, this summer, he succumbed but not before suffering the effects of his illness. "I tried to get him to stop smoking. He didn't listen until it was too late," she said.

"The more we can do to educate the public about prevention, the better the world would become," Bennett said. "Our mission is to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other addictions. We focus heavily on educating students by letting them know they can have fun doing different activities without using harmful substances. We want to save lives."

Bennett disclosed that her husband began smoking at 13 – the same age of some of the young people she addresses in various schools. "He didn't stop until 46. Then, at age 48, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Among other things, this disease affects lungs, teeth and skin."

Sadly, she said, "We have JSU students who don't think anything is wrong with smoking marijuana. They simply see it as an herb made by God." She said MJCPC will continue striving to help the community. "I know the information that I give them is correct. I got a chance to see it in my own life. I know it's real," Bennett said.

For her efforts, Bennett received the Thomas J. Bennett Director's Award named in honor of her late husband. The award memorializes Thomas' commitment to the community and MJCPC, and it recognizes his widow's passion for providing



Motivational speaker Dwight Owens, with Still Standing Consulting LLC, describes how his life was changed after being struck head-on by a 72-year-old drunken driver in August 2005. PHOTO BY DAREK ASHLEY/JSU



Henry C. Thompson Jr., project director and principal investigator, for JSU's MJCPC presents an award to Terry J. Bennett, an MJCPC prevention specialist. Bennett was honored with the Thomas J. Bennett Director's Award named in honor of her late husband.



Bennett is congratulated by Heather A. Wilcox, director of JSU's Center for University-Based Development, and her colleague Thompson.



Chauncy Wright, community outreach coordinator for MJCPC, listens intently as the speaker urges the audience to avoid being defined by circumstances.



A guest listens as keynote speaker Owens shares his story of forgiveness and overcoming challenges.



Carroll Frazier, administrative assistant for JSU's Center for University-Based Development, and Calvin Matthews, a retired deputy chief for JSU's Department of Public Safety, were among the guests at the end-of-year celebration.

prevention services. Terry has worked with MJCPC for more than 20 years.

After the presentation, Terry said, "It was truly an honor and a surprise to receive this prestigious award in honor of my beloved husband, Thomas J. Bennett. He loved what I do and would help me because he loved children and talking with any groups."

Meanwhile, in his book "Still Standing," Owens urges individuals to develop a positive outlook on life, and he discusses the strong support from his family. "Still Standing is a mindset," he said.

Today, he challenges others to "take a look at your life, and take a chance and smile. Most importantly, address things in a biblical way. Don't look backward; move forward. You may not be able to change what happened, but you can create a new story," Owens said.

He recites Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you – plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Owens continued, "I love to empower people. Being hooked on drugs and alcohol, for example, can happen to anyone. Let your deepest pain become your greatest calling."

Beyond that, he said another major therapeutic moment involves forgiveness – a virtue that is difficult for many people, especially when their lives have been shattered.

However, Owens reasoned that "when we choose not to forgive we punish ourselves." Despite his own situation, his faith prompted him to ask the judge to grant leniency to the man found guilty of the crime that left him paralyzed. The judge obliged by reducing the man's sentence.

"I've learned that we have to let our wounds heal from people who hurt us. Every single one of us experience some type of pain. Unfortunately, many people take their wounds to the grave. There's not a man alive who can take my joy away from me. I own it," Owens said.

# College of Education and Tom Joyner partnership could possibly increase STEM educators throughout state

Jackson State University

The College of Education and Human Development at Jackson State University recently partnered with the Tom Joyner Foundation and its Teacher Quality Initiative. The TQI, as it is known, could help increase the number of STEM educators in high-need school districts throughout Mississippi.

Approximately 31 JSU graduate students, with STEM backgrounds, are receiving an estimated \$250,000 in scholarship funding to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching at the HBCU. The scholars were required to have a 3.0 GPA and a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering or math.

"We are highly pleased that all of the thirty-one candidates selected to the Tom Joyner Foundation have been accepted into the college's Master of Arts in Teaching Program," said Roosevelt O. Shelton, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

"We are also pleased that the impact of our efforts is far-reaching, with current candidates residing and teaching within the states of Mississippi and Texas, the Vicksburg/Warren School District, Jackson Public School District, Hinds County School District, Holmes County Consolidated School District, Choctaw Central HS (Choctaw Tribal Schools), Waco Public Schools (TX) and Tunica County School District."

Dennis Williams, coordinator of the Master of Arts in Teaching program, shared that another focus of the TQI is to produce educators with a range of teaching skills, heightened cultural competence, and sound knowledge of content. The initiative could also eliminate limitations for those working to gain initial teacher certification. JSU and North Carolina A&T are the only two HBCUs chosen for the program.

"We're thankful for the MAT partnership because rarely do you find private foundations that award graduate-level students. Tom Joyner's main focus is undergraduate students – Hercules Scholars and things of that nature. So we're ecstatic at being chosen for this initiative," said Williams.

A large part of student success is based on the unyielding support of faculty, administrators and programs such as the TQI, Williams said. "We want to build confidence and capacity in these individuals, so they're able to be effective teachers in the classroom."

Also a visiting professor, Williams teaches classroom management. He shared that he is intentional about the types of guest speakers and practitioners he uses to engage students because he wants to make sure they have the proper information to accomplish objectives in their field. The scholarship, he explained, also provides opportunities for students to be mentored and additional resources to help them be more effective in the classroom.

"I think research has proven and shown that most teachers, regardless of the alternate or traditional route, leave the profession due to a lack of support.



Williams

Support is key," said Williams, a native of Chicago.

Moreover, programs provided by the Tom Joyner Foundation are important, Williams continued, due to the incentives they offer educators. "This affords teachers an opportunity to do some things for their students without having financial constraints because most of them have to spend their own money in the classroom," said the coordinator before urging that more teacher-based resources would be a tremendous help.

It will also help curb Mississippi's brain drain he explained while pointing out that many teachers are moving outside the state for better salaries and an enhanced quality of life.

Williams, for one, seems committed to Mississippi. He and his wife met while students at JSU in the late 70s. Together they had a son, and after graduation, he returned with his family to Chicago. The alums married in '88 and, after having two more children, moved back to Mississippi in the 90s.

"My wife got homesick. She decided that Chicago was not a good place to rear children, and I agreed with her, so we left," he explained. The couple's two sons and daughter graduated from JSU and are also educators.

Before working at JSU, Williams was employed in upper management for various organizations over the years. He is also the pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in D'Lo, Mississippi.

"I ended up at a private school in Jackson called Christ Missionary and Industrial High School. I became a coach, teacher, assistant principal and athletic director. That's when my career started to take off," shared Williams.

Recognizing that JSU allowed him to make a more significant impact beyond the classroom, Williams applied for and was offered a job as a recruiter in JSU's MAT program for a special grant. "I worked my way up from there," he said and is now helping others make an impression in the education industry.

Currently in his 12th year at the HBCU, Williams said the most exciting apart of working in the MAT program is recruiting individuals who are working jobs just to survive and helping them transition into a professional career. "Anytime you see people's lives transformed before your eyes it's memorable. That's the reason why I do what I do."



# Focusing on our goal to reach Mississippi’s full potential

By Delbert Hosemann  
Lieutenant Governor-Elect



We were humbled the night of November 5 to receive more than 60 percent of the vote for Lieutenant Governor – an instruction from Mississippians to move forward with our plans to grow our economy, provide every child with quality public educational opportunities, make healthcare more accessible and shore up our roads and bridges.

The morning of November 6, the hard work began to put these plans into action.

My first objective was to set up personal meetings with each and every one of our 52 Senators, Republicans and Democrats. Forty-five meetings in, I am so encouraged by our discussions. I’ve learned a lot about my new colleagues’ professional and personal backgrounds, the needs in their districts, their preference on committee assignments and their individual legislative goals.

I’ve also learned no matter our political differences, we all have a common goal: seeing Mississippi rise to its fullest potential.

During this transition period, we are also making headway on fulfilling a primary platform promise by increasing transparency at the State Capitol. In partnership with the Legislative Budget Office and Mississippi Public Broadcasting, we are working on piloting a

program on the Senate side to webcast committee meetings in addition to floor debate. This will be the first time ever Senate committees have been available by webcast.

Our Capitol may be physically located in Jackson, but we serve the entire state. Taxpayers deserve to know and observe how we are working together to solve challenges facing Mississippi without traveling a great distance.

Finally, we are in the process of identifying the policy initiatives we can immediately garner support for in the coming months. Some issues, like the gradual reorganization of government, will take contemplation and consensus-building during the break after the legislative session. Others, such as another much-needed pay raise for our teachers and other hard-working State employees, are immediately on our priority list in January.

Our public school teachers deserve our monetary support, as well as our respect – and we will be demonstrating both this Legislation Session.

The holiday season is about celebrating our faith, spending time with our families and giving thanks for our blessings. This year, I am so grateful for the opportunity Mississippians in every corner of our State have given us. And I’m looking forward, as your next lieutenant governor, to working with all of you to make Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

# SBA offers disaster assistance to businesses and residents of Mississippi affected by flash flooding occurring in May

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Mississippi businesses and residents affected by flash flooding May 8-9, 2019 can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Acting Administrator Christopher Pilkerton announced recently.

Pilkerton made the loans available in response to a letter from Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant received Nov. 18, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Stone County and the adjacent counties of Forrest, George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River and Perry in Mississippi.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the people of Mississippi with the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist businesses of all sizes, homeowners and renters with federal disaster loans,” said Pilkerton. “Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

SBA’s customer service representatives will be available at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program and help individuals complete their applications.

The center is located in the following community and is open as indicated:

Stone County  
The New Hope Road Shelter  
1084 New Hope Road

Wiggins, MS 39577  
Opening: Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours: Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturdays from 10 am to 2 p.m.  
Closed: Sundays  
Last day: Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets,” said SBA’s Mississippi District Director Janita R. Stewart.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Kem Fleming, center director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified

by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.938 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955; (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications ashould be returned to the center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Jan. 21, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Aug. 19, 2020.

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

# Entergy Mississippi works to minimize outages with installation of new devices

## Approximately \$4.5-million project will improve service reliability

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

To keep the power flowing, Entergy Mississippi has installed dozens of new devices throughout its service area in places that have experienced multiple outages.

Called reclosers, these devices are basically circuit breakers that temporarily open a line when momentary problems occur, such as a tree limb falling on a line or an animal getting into equipment. This “sectionalizing” of the power grid does three things:

- helps prevent additional damage to equipment,
- reduces the frequency and length of outages and
- reduces the number of customers affected.

“A recloser is a lot like a circuit breaker in your house,” said Robbin Jeter, Entergy Mississippi vice president of distribution operations. “When a breaker overloads or short circuits, it cuts off electrical current to the problem line until the issue can be safely addressed. If a limb or animal brushes the line, the power comes back on automati-

cally when that line is cleared.”

If there is a brief problem on the electrical system and it can correct itself, customers may only experience a momentary blink. However, while the reclosers can prevent or reduce some outages, they cannot restore power in the event of major damage, such as when a tree falls on a line or a car hits a utility pole.

“We used historical data to determine where reclosers would have the most impact in reducing the number of customers affected should a power outage occur,” said Jeter. “By adding equipment that isolates areas experiencing problems, overall customer power disruptions can be reduced.”

To determine where to install the reclosers, engineers looked at every circuit in every network in Entergy Mississippi’s service area. The company ultimately installed 69 reclosers in its networks in:

Central Mississippi: Jackson, Madison, Rankin, mid-state Mississippi  
North: Cleveland, Elliot,

Greenville, Grenada, Rolling Fork, Southaven and  
South: Brookhaven, Clinton, Natchez and Vicksburg.

Jeter said the project is well worth it.

“Our goal is to provide customers with safe, reliable and affordable power,” he said. “This is why we are always working to make our electrical grid stronger and more resilient.”

Entergy Mississippi, LLC provides electricity to approximately 450,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of \$11 billion and approximately 13,500 employees.



# Congressional Black Caucus members visit U.S.-Mexico Border: “Mistreatment of black immigrants is another ‘stain on America’”

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Chairwoman Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) led a delegation of Congressional Black Caucus members to the U.S.-Mexico border Nov. 22 in San Ysidro, California, where they said they witnessed first-hand the deplorable treatment and plight of black immigrants.

Bass, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY), each said they wanted to examine the treatment – and call attention to the mistreatment – of African immigrants at the border, including the October 1 death of 37-year-old Cameroon immigrant Nebane Abienwi.

Attorney Nana Gyamfi, the executive director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, joined the group at the border.

“It was a very frustrating experience today,” Bass said from the border during an exclusive conference call with publishers, editors and writers for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association that represents the newspaper and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

“We crossed the border into Tijuana, Mexico, and we met with a group of black immigrants from Cameroon, Sierra Leone and other African countries; some who have made unbelievable journeys,” Bass stated.

The CBC Chair and her colleagues blasted the Trump administration and its policies toward immigrants, particularly those from countries that consist predominately of people of color.

Bass described the sobering plight of a black migrant from the Democratic Republic of the



Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) (center), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) (fourth from left), and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) (far left), along with local Congressman, Rep. Juan Vargas (second from left), visited a shelter for African asylum-seekers in Tijuana November 22, 2019. Attorney Nana Gyamfi, the executive director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (far right), joined the group at the border. PHOTO: SCREEN CAPTURE KPBS / YOUTUBE

Congo.

“The first child separated from her mother was from a family from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The child was sent to Illinois while the mother, who spoke French, was detained at the border,” Bass stated.

“This happens as our country grapples with [a president] who makes it clear that he welcomes immigrants from places like Norway, but not ‘sh-thole’ countries. He’s breaking the law. International law states that if you are from a country that’s experiencing distress, you can request asylum. Trump has done

everything he can to block that and to make the United States not compliant with international law,” Bass noted.

In the case of Abienwi, the Cameroonian died in the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after experiencing a hypertensive event at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego.

Reportedly, he was unresponsive and appeared paralyzed on his left side when he arrived at the hospital. After undergoing treatment for a brain hemorrhage, Bass said Abienwi was taken off life support against his

family’s wishes and died.

Doctors listed his official cause of death as brain death due to a brain hemorrhage.

“Thousands of African and Caribbean immigrants who immigrate to the United States of America are treated as if they are invisible,” Bass stated.

“Many arrived in South America and then walked north, all to be dehumanized and mistreated at our southern border. We [went] to the border to hear what they have been through. They are an important piece of this story,” Bass said.

In a statement, officials at ICE

said they’re still in the process of reviewing Abienwi’s death.

According to various published reports, the Department of Homeland Security records had revealed that Abienwi applied for admission into the country at the San Ysidro Port of Entry without proper paperwork September 5.

He was taken into custody by ICE September 19, 2019.

Bass said his death remains a mystery and is cause for concern.

CBC members also pointed to a recent Pew Research Center study that revealed that there are more than 4.2 million black immigrants in the United States, with Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America making positive contributions to the United States.

However, those immigrants are at a higher risk for arrest, detention and abuse because of racial profiling and racial bias, according to the Pew report.

“We need to shed some light on what is taking place here as it relates to black immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa,” stated Lee, the chair and majority leader of the House Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity.

“They came here fleeing from violence in their own countries, getting to a place where they thought they could be treated humanely,” Lee stated. “It’s been the opposite. They are dehumanized, treated in a racist fashion, and then stuck at a border town.

“I hope the black community understands that this is another example of Trump’s racist policies to make America White again. We see that every step of the way in this process.

“Black America has to rise up. This has got to stop.”

Lee added that she’s putting out a call to black professionals, be it psychiatrists, social workers and others that their help is needed to help people of color at the border.

“They desperately need our help. Certainly, some black professionals can provide services that are needed to help them,” Lee stated.

“A lot of them will get very sick, a lot are traumatized and already unhealthy. They will need to be able to survive – they’re barely surviving now. I’m issuing the call. This is yet another stain on America.”

Clarke, the chair of the House Task Force on Immigration for the CBC, said it’s tough to fathom what black immigrants face at the border.

“These people are resilient, they have gone through quite a few things in their homeland that drove them to try and get to the land of the free and the home of the brave,” Clarke stated.

“We have to speak for them. They don’t have a voice. These are people who will be persecuted if they return to their homeland where there is genocide, other hardships and violence,” she stated.

“We have to be their voices. The Trump policies are totally illegal.”

Gyamfi, of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, said she was moved by what she witnessed.

“You can look in their eyes. They had a sense that finally, they’re looking at people who look like us, and who actually care,” Gyamfi stated.

“They heard the voices of our leadership. But they see the anti-blackness throughout the entire system. This is a humanitarian crisis where human rights violations are happening daily.”

# Tennessee student is Centennial Scholar recipient of Ossie Davis Scholarship

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Nora Davis Day and her sister, Dr. Hasna Muhammad, never seem to tire of talking about their famous parents – Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

Along with their brother, Guy Davis, the two have worked to live up to their iconic parents’ civil rights and philanthropic legacy.

Earlier this month, after a rigorous selection process, the family of the late actors and activists, together with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), announced that Lane College senior, Jade Allen, is the recipient of the Ossie Davis Legacy Scholarship.

“We are always motivated by mom and dad’s love of education and what a struggle it was for each of them to get higher education and the sacrifices that their parents made,” Davis Day told NNPA Newswire.

“So, when we’re reading all of these applications, I remember with Jade something just clicked, and we said yes, that [our] dad would want us to give her this \$10,000,” Davis Day stated.

Both Nora and I are educators, and we’ve had the oppor-



2018/19 Ossie Davis Legacy Scholarship recipient Jade Allen PHOTO: UNCF.ORG

tunity to deal with students in public and through to higher education,” Muhammad stated.

“One of the things relative to choosing Jade for the scholarship is that we recognized the quality student in her, and we did so not only from the emotional component of trying to choose a candidate but as educators as well.”

The sisters said their parents weren’t much for naming anything after themselves, so it

was not easy to put Ossie Davis’ name on the scholarship.

“But we know that they would want us to be part of making it possible for someone to get an education and to have money where they might not otherwise have been able to get it,” Davis Day stated.

Allen, a senior communications major at Lane College, a historically black college located in Jackson, Tennessee, is currently the highest-ranking

senior in her graduating class.

She maintains a 3.9 GPA, and in honor of what would have been Ossie Davis’ 100th birthday, Allen is acknowledged as the scholarship’s Centennial Scholar.

“It is an honor to receive it, I’m thrilled,” Allen told NNPA Newswire.

“This does relieve any stress, and I can further my education in my chosen field without worrying about [money].”

Known as much for their activism as their award-winning stage and film careers, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were both named to the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame. They each were recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts.

Davis was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame and starred in films like “The Joe Louis Story,” “Malcolm X” and “Dr. Doolittle.”

Dee, who received a Grammy, Emmy, Obie and Drama Desk Award, starred in such films as, “The Jackie Robinson Story,” “A Raisin in the Sun” and “American Gangster.”

For her “American Gangster” role, Dee received an Oscar nomination for her per-

formance as the mother of the Denzel Washington character, Frank Lucas.

None of that history is lost on Allen, who has already completed her first film, “My Father’s Grass.” She said she plans to continue creating biopics that highlight a myriad of world cultures.

“With the scholarship, I’m in a good position to go back to studying filmmaking and understanding the technical aspects of it, and hopefully I can get my name out there,” Allen stated.

Established by the Dee-Davis children, along with close friends of Ossie Davis, the scholarship has awarded four students with scholarships totaling over \$60,000 since 2007.

The merit-based scholarship is awarded to a deserving African-American student currently enrolled at a select UNCF member institution. The student must be pursuing a degree in African-American Studies, Communications, Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Performing Arts, Political Science, Social Science, Theater Arts/Drama or Visual Arts.

“Now more than ever, it is imperative that young people

of color arm themselves with the necessary tools to confront and combat many of the same social injustices and biases faced by our parents. And we are humbled by the generous contributions to the Ossie Davis Endowment that makes this scholarship possible,” Muhammad stated.

“The heart of the Ossie Davis Legacy Award is to ease financial barriers for that African-American student who is on his or her path to higher learning,” she stated.

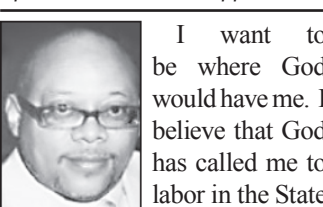
“Each year we are amazed by the academic success displayed by the Ossie Davis Scholarship applicants, and we look forward to following Jade and prior recipients’ achievements throughout their college careers and beyond,” UNCF President and CEO Dr. Michael Lomax, stated in a news release.

“Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were torchbearers for truth, black culture, civil rights equality and the arts – among other causes. We are thankful the Davis family entrusts UNCF with awarding dynamic students year after year to fulfill their dreams of a college education.”



# Happy Thanksgiving! Are you filled?

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



I want to be where God would have me. I believe that God has called me to labor in the State of Virginia. If I think about going anywhere else at this time, it brings a dark cloud over me. Someone may say, “You could make a lot more money in the construction business if you were to move down to Mississippi.” Maybe so, but I want to be in the right place, the place where God has called me to labor. No matter what opportunities may be available, I want to be exactly where God would have me.

There is a blessing in being right. Now, I am not talking

about self-righteousness; that is as filthy rags in the sight of God. I am talking about being right with God and being right where God would have us. That is what I want.

I lived too long with things wrong in my life. I went to the wrong places, kept company with the wrong people and engaged in the wrong activities. I thank God that one day He helped me get things right and I want to remain right.

What is more, I want to be with people who are living right. Is that your desire? Do you want to be everything that God would have you to be, even if it means standing alone in the workplace or in a family situation? Whatever the cost, if you really want to be right, if you hunger and thirst after

righteousness and really have a desire to live for God, you will be filled.

The Lord gives us the opportunity to be right. He will give instructions and say, “This is the way; walk ye in it.” If we really want to be right, God will bring us in.

He may use a dear old saint who is barely making it financially. Suppose his car breaks down, that saint of God knows that God is in full control, so when he goes to the mechanic, he does not moan and complain. He is not happy that his car needs repair, but he sees an opportunity to witness to the mechanic. Perhaps the mechanic is longing to be right with God, but he does not know how. What happens? God sets up an opportunity for him to meet a

saint of God so that saint can witness to him and invite him to church.

If you really hunger and thirst to be right, God will fill you abundantly. Often we neglect to seek God’s directions and move too quickly; then we have a problem to deal with and correct, but pride stands in our way. It is better to pray and think things through before acting. We read in Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

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

## P R E S E R V E D From promise made to prayer answered

By Shewanda Riley  
*Columnist*



Have you ever been so focused on receiving one type of blessing that you almost miss when God is trying to bless you in another way? I wonder if God sends these other blessings to let us know that he hasn’t forgotten us or our prayer requests. This week as we are in a season of thankfulness, I am reminded about a past lesson from God about being grateful.

More than I’d like to admit, I’ve been in some dry spots in my own faith walk where I’ve spent much time in prayer and gotten disappointed by the answer coming very slowly. I remember how a few years ago I got a reminder of how God wants me to be truly grateful for the smaller things before he trusts me with the bigger ones.

When I went to get my normal printing order before a speaking engagement, the print shop worker told me that he wasn’t going to charge me for the order because it was messed up. I told him that the file was the same one that I’d sent in the past and there should not have been a problem. When out of habit, I reached into my purse for my wallet, he repeated that there was no charge. When I had a chance to look at the order, I thought it looked pretty good and didn’t really see what he was talking about. I arched my eyebrows slightly amazed but quickly said “Thanks!” and made my way to my car. As I closed the car door, I thanked God for saving me a little over \$40.

Less than two hours after that,

I was given a check that I was not expecting by someone that I had not expected to see that day. It was only 9:30 am and I was now close to \$80 richer than when I’d started my day. A few hours after that, I was given a turquoise jewelry set as a gift for speaking at a conference. As the day progressed, I kept receiving blessings like that so that by the end of day, I was over \$120 richer in cash or gifts of monetary value.

A few days after that I got a check in the mail that I was not expecting. At that point, I was overjoyed as I thought how God had blessed me in the past week. It made me want to repent for the times I questioned God about the delay in answering other prayers that I thought were more important.

This situation reminds me of Malachi 3:10: “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Sometimes we have tunnel vision faith that focuses so much on what we’re believing God for when he sends these other seemingly “smaller” blessings.


These are designed to keep us encouraged as we wait in the meantime from “promise made” to “prayer answered.”

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

*Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*

### REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENT

**St. Mark Church for the Sanctuary**, 1638 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056, cordially invites you to join them for their Dedication Program on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Bernard McKinely of Mt. Elizabeth and St. James Baptist Churches.




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# Reparations: America’s unfinished business

By E. Faye Williams  
*Trice Edney Newswire*



Whenever black people bring up the subject of white Americans acting to cure years of discriminatory acts against black people when our ancestors were forced to work without compensation, they usually pivot to the term “reverse discrimination” or they question whether reparations would be constitutional.

My good friend, Gloria Dulan Wilson, responded to the constitutional argument by saying, “It was once constitutional to beat, lynch, rape, enslave, torture black men, women and children with impunity. I don’t think we have to concern ourselves with what is or is not constitutional – our main responsibility is to push for, stand for and demand reparations on our own terms – not concerned with what they want. They damned sure weren’t concerned about what we wanted when they were making us work for them for free and traumatizing our families.”

After the constitutional question, they also pivot to questions like “Why should I pay or I didn’t discriminate against anybody.” They never respond with, “You’re right. I have benefitted from discrimination against you” even though the answer is obvious. They just don’t get it or they have selective memory.

Recently the United Nations addressed the subject of reparations. Because I serve on the Reparations Commission with Ron Daniels, I naturally perked up to hear exactly what the United Nations was saying. I read that the United Nations panel says the U.S. owes reparations to African Americans and gave as a reason the reparations are owed for slavery.

For those who still benefit from slavery, you should read the report of the United Nations’ working group of experts on People of an African Descent affiliated group. The group spelled out that the compensation is necessary to combat the disadvantages caused by more than 200 years of slavery and legally allowing the sale of human beings based on the color of their skin. The resulting article was written by Eugene Mason.

Today’s polluted and continuing atmosphere of racism against not only African Americans, but of people of Hispanic and Native American heritage. We see no indication of America resolving this problem even if an individual group, such as Georgetown University, has recognized its duty to resolve its debt.

In the case of Georgetown University, the school has offered free tuition for descendants of the slaves sold by that university in 1838 to “pay its bills.”

The late Congressman John Conyers worked for years to resolve the reparations’ issue. He said, “I’m not giving up...Slavery is a blemish on this nation’s history, and until it’s formally addressed, our country’s story will remain marked by this blight.” He repeatedly introduced HR 40 – a bill that would establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery and recommend appropriate remedies.

Since the late congressman has been out of Congress, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has picked up the lead on this issue. She’s spearheaded a Congressional hearing which calls for a commission to study and develop reparations proposals for African Americans, and consider a national apology by the government. She reminds us of the role of the federal government in supporting the slavery and subsequent discrimination. She calls for formal acknowledgment.

Our government has apologized for many things, but slavery is not on the list. Several years ago, the late Dick Gregory, Mark Planning, Janet Langhart-Cohen and I spent many days walking the halls of the Senate seeking an apology for never having apologized to African Americans for lynching. After many months for something as simple as that, the Senate finally apologized.

# Women rock in fifth Democratic debate

By Julianne Malveaux  
*NNPA News Wire Columnist*



The November 20 Democratic presidential debate took on a much different tone than the previous debates.

I’m not sure if it was because the panel of moderators was all women – NBC’s Andrea Mitchell and Kristen Welker, MS-NBC’s Rachel Maddow, and the Washington Post’s Ashley Parker. Or perhaps it was because the candidates finally got over attacking each other (mostly) and instead decided to be themselves and embrace their identities. Maybe they hoped to engage more viewers with a substantive focus on the issues. And since the impeachment hearings loom large (closing only minutes before the debate began), each of the candidates had an opportunity to opine on impeachment.

Hillary Clinton broke the glass ceiling in both 2008 and 2016, first as a strong competitor to President Barack Obama in the 2008 primaries, then as the first woman to gain the nomination of a major party. Now, there are four women – Senators Kamala Harris (CA), Amy Klobuchar (MN), and Elizabeth Warren (MA) along with Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard.

And the women highlighted their gender in their remarks, with Harris reminding people that black women are a backbone of the Democratic Party, and black women are all too often ignored. Klobuchar got an amusing one-liner off when she said, “If you think a woman can’t beat Trump, Nancy Pelosi does it every day.” Her point about the double standard women face in politics was an important point to make. Hillary faced it, and all of the Democratic women running for president face it.

The double standard is especially acute because the current President of the United States has no problem denigrating women, especially black women. To be sure, 45 denigrates anyone who disagrees with him, but women take the brunt of his attacks.

Mitchell, NBC’s Foreign Affairs correspondent, was the right one to ask the candidates about foreign policy, and here is where Congresswoman Gabbard shone. Citing her background as a veteran, she was knowledgeable both about foreign policy and environmental justice. But Gabbard seems to enjoy playing the role of attack dog against her fellow Democrats, including Harris.

Bernie Sanders had it right when he said, “We cannot simply be consumed by Donald Trump because if we are, you know what? We’re going to lose the election.” Most of the

other candidates concurred, and they attacked 45 more than they attacked each other.

While this column focuses on women, the men had their moments as well. It was poignant when Senator Corey Booker (NJ) shouted out Congressman John Lewis (GA) and acknowledged his service to the nation. Candidate Tom Steyer talked about the role of money in politics, and also spoke about a “climate crisis.”

Biden was Biden, and Bernie was Bernie, delivering performances that were similar to their performances in the other debates. I am intrigued by Andrew Yang, whose unlikely candidacy has shown more sticking power than the campaigns of folk like New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Texas Congressman Beto O’Rourke. He has also qualified for the debate stage in November while former HUD Secretary Julian Castro (TX) has not.

A generation ago, both Presidential debates and Congressional hearings would be dominated by grey-suit wearing white men. Now, the fifth debate was not only moderated by a coterie of women, but there were four women, nearly half of those who qualified, on the stage. Similarly, during the impeachment hearings, women witnesses, especially former US Ambassador to

Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, Jennifer Williams and Fiona Hill, held their own in the face of hostile questioning. Their extremely competent performance was as striking as their presence.

Again, a generation ago, foreign policy was the purview of white men. While the foreign policy arena (or presidential races) are hardly equal, the presence of women foreign policy experts represents progress.

Women showed up and showed out both during the impeachment hearings and in the most recent Presidential debate. This last debate was wide-ranging, and it included “kitchen table” issues like paid family leave, Medicare for All (or for all who want it), and more. The inclusion of issues like family leave in a Presidential debate is probably attributable to the fact that women were both moderators and candidates.

It would be fantastic and also meaningful, however, if one of the debates could focus on income inequality and poverty.

*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.juliannealveaux.com*

# The rent is too damn high - and the Presidential candidates aren’t saying enough about it

By Marc H. Morial  
*Trice Edney Newswire*



“Across the nation, families are struggling with homelessness and housing insecurity. We need to treat the affordable

housing shortage like the crisis that it is. Housing is a fundamental human right. It’s time we as a nation acted like it and end the housing crisis once and for all.” – U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, introducing the Homes for All Act, which expands public housing stock and guarantees housing as a human right.

A pivotal moment in the 2020 Democratic primary race that happened Wednesday may have escaped notice by much of the country. For the first time since the debates began – a total of six nights of debates – the candidates finally were asked a question about the housing crisis.

I was so concerned about the lack of public discussion around this critical issue facing the nation that I sent a letter to the candidates, urging them to share their plans.

“Gentrification is driving families from their homes,” I wrote. “A minimum-wage worker needs 2.5 full-time jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment in most of the United States. The foreclosure crisis of 2008 exacerbated the shortage of affordable housing, forcing families out of the homes they lost and into the already-tight rental market.

“Simply put, the rent is too damn high. Mortgages are unattainable. What is your plan?”

We didn’t get to hear from every candidate, and none of those who responded were able to share much detail about their plans. But simply having the issue raised was an important first step.

Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, for example, noted the shortage of affordable housing – the federal government has stopped building new housing, and private developers prefer to serve the upper-income market. Significantly, she said:

“Housing is how we build wealth in America,” she said. “The federal government has subsidized housing for decades for white people and has said for black people you’re cut out of the

deal. That was known as redlining.”

The impact of redlining on black household wealth cannot be overstated. In the mid-20th Century, the federal government color-coded neighborhoods throughout the nation as green for “best,” blue for “still desirable,” yellow for “definitely declining” and red for “hazardous.”

Lenders would not finance homeownership in redlined black neighborhoods, which exacerbated a black-white wealth gap that persists to this day. More than 80 years after those color-coded maps were drawn, three out of four redlined neighborhoods continue to struggle economically. White families today have nearly 10 times the net worth of black families.

Meanwhile home prices are rising at twice the rate of wage growth and nearly half of all renters spend 30 percent or more of their income on rent. About 11 million Americans spend more than half their income on rent.

The average renter’s hourly wage is \$5.39 less than the national two-bedroom Housing Wage – the wage needed to af-

ford an apartment at fair market rent without spending more than 30% of income on housing – and \$1.08 less than the one-bedroom Housing Wage, according to the NLIHC.

Black and Hispanic households are more likely than white households to be both cost-burdened and low-income. Twenty percent of black households and 16% of Hispanic households are extremely low-income renters, compared to just 6% of white households.

Even as this crisis grows, the Trump Administration yet again has proposed drastic cuts to affordable housing programs that would drive up rents for the poorest residents of subsidized housing and wipe out resources for maintaining and improving public housing buildings.

A few minutes on a nationally-televised debate may be a start but it is nowhere near enough to address the magnitude of the affordable housing crisis. Those candidates who do have detailed plans need to talk about them much more often.

And those candidates without detailed plans need to develop them, immediately.

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# UMMC Grenada opens outpatient cancer care clinic, infusion services

*umc.edu*

The University of Mississippi Medical Center Grenada and the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute officially opened an outpatient cancer care clinic and infusion services in Grenada Wednesday.

“We are trying to extend our reach to serve patients, and that is part of what we’re doing here,” said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “The people part of what we’re doing is providing cancer services to patients closer to home.”

Woodward, a Carroll County native, recalled the trips her parents made to Jackson while her late mother was in cancer treatment and the fatigue brought on by cancer therapy and driving.

The Grenada area “has a special place in my heart,” she said. “I’m so happy to know we have a place here so patients won’t have to drive so far. Some of the same physicians who took care of my mother will be here.”

Work on making available UMMC’s cancer care services in Grenada started two years ago, said Dr. John Ruckdeschel, CCRI director. Bringing care closer to home was a prime motivator, he said. “It’s our belief that 80 to 90 percent of the care cancer patients require can be handled here,” he said.

When patients need treatment on the UMMC main campus, it can be fast-tracked, he said.

The CCRI is part of Mississippi’s only academic medical center, offering 11 adult cancer-specific interdisciplinary teams that review each new patient’s cancer and recommend treatment. In July, U.S. News and World Report gave UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute the distinction of High Performing in Adult Cancer for 2019-20, placing it in the top 10 percent of cancer centers nationwide.

Discussions in interdisciplinary teams are crucial to offering patients top-quality care. “Any patient we see here will be discussed in that same way,” said Ruckdeschel.

Michael Lott, president of the Grenada Board of Supervisors, the group that leases the hospital to UMMC, said supervisors have discussed the cancer services addition and are glad to see the hospital expand.

“This hospital is very important to us and our community,” he said.

Dr. Joseph Messina, an internal medicine physician and UMMC Grenada chief of staff, said the arrival of cancer services is a great day for the area. “For



Helping cut the ribbon are, from left, Matthew Harrison, executive director of the Grenada County Economic Development District; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs; Scott Whittemore, interim UMMC Grenada chief executive officer; Dr. John Ruckdeschel, CCRI director; Michael Lott, president of the Grenada County Board of Supervisors; Dr. Joseph Messina, UMMC Grenada chief of staff; and Kevin Cook, chief executive officer of the UMMC Health System.



Dr. LouAnn Woodward, who has led the Medical Center since 2015, has taken on another important position with the Association of American Medical Colleges.



Messina, a longtime Grenada internal medicine physician, said care close to home helps area physicians keep tabs on a patient’s cancer progress.



Ruckdeschel talks to guests before opening ceremonies for cancer care services at UMMC Grenada.

the first time, our patients now have a choice where they can receive state-of-the-art, specialty team-directed cancer care right here at home.”

Not only that, Messina said, patients are “able to receive that treatment from a cancer center that has been ranked among the top 10 percent of adult cancer treatment centers in America.”

Messina called the emotional and physical travel a “taxing hardship” for cancer patients, family and friends. Care closer to home also makes it easier for their primary care physicians and specialists to keep tabs on their treatment and aid with other health care needs, he said.

“We look forward to working with you in improving the health care delivery to our community and surrounding areas,” he said.

Matthew Harrison, director of the Grenada County Economic Development District and head of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, cited the 100,000-plus people in Grenada County and the surrounding area the services can impact.

“We’re excited and pleased to see UMMC expand opportunities in Grenada,” he said.

Services are offered at 960 JK Avenue Drive in Grenada and include:

- A weekly clinic held by a UMMC medical oncologist.
- An interdisciplinary team review of each new patient’s case. Treatment options for each adult patient are based on the type of cancer they have, the characteristics of that cancer, other medical conditions and the patient’s wishes. Specialists involved in each type of cancer care meet regularly to review new patients, usually weekly, and recommend a treatment plan.
- Infusion services, including chemotherapy, immunotherapy and other therapies are offered as needed during the week. Other therapies might include blood or rehydration infusions.
- An Emergency Department equipped to handle cancer needs with access to the UMMC oncologist on call.

Many patients also will be able to have regularly scheduled blood samples drawn at Grenada, with the results entered into their electronic medical record for doctors in Jackson to review.

UMMC Grenada serves residents in Grenada and surrounding counties, drawing on resources at UMMC in Jackson for specialty services that are hard to offer at smaller, rural hospitals.

Patients who need advanced or complex cancer care or those who may benefit from clinical trials may receive cancer therapy at UMMC in Jackson. It’s necessary for some procedures to be done in Jackson, such as complex surgeries, bone marrow transplant and certain chemotherapies or immunotherapies.

*For more information about cancer services at UMMC Grenada, call 601-815-6700 or visit [umc.edu/grenada-cancer](http://umc.edu/grenada-cancer).*

# Woodward gets nod for national role in academic medicine

*umc.edu*

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, head of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, will remain a major voice in shaping the future of academic medical centers as she assumes a leadership role with the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, was appointed this month to the board of directors for the AAMC, whose members are all 154 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies.

Woodward is serving on the board as one of two representatives of the AAMC’s Council of Deans. She began serving as chair-elect of the COD Administrative Board at the conclusion of the AAMC annual meeting in Phoenix last week.

Woodward, who has led UMMC since March 1, 2015, served a one-



Dr. LouAnn Woodward, who has led the Medical Center since 2015, has taken on another important position with the Association of American Medical Colleges.

year term, until July 2018, as chair of the influential Liaison Committee on Medical Education, sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based AAMC and the American Medical Association.

She remained a full member of the LCME until 2019, for a total tenure of six years.

“I’ve had the privilege of working with Dr. Woodward for over 10 years,”

said Dr. John E. Prescott, chief academic officer for the AAMC. “She is a values-based colleague who combines clarity of thought, decisiveness, and compassion to every organization she is involved in. She is one of our nation’s most impactful academic leaders.”

The LCME sets standards for U.S.- and Canadian-chartered medical education programs run by universities or medical schools. In previous years, Woodward worked on the LCME’s executive committee and as chair of its subcommittee on international relations.

LCME accreditation, which usually occurs every eight years, is required of medical schools by most state boards of licensure to indicate that they meet national standards for the awarding of a medical degree.

A native of Carroll County, Woodward is also a professor of emergency medicine. She earned her undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University and, in 1991, her M.D. at the School of Medicine at UMMC, where

she also completed her residency training.

“I’m honored to be included on the board of this organization that I value so much, especially at a time when there are such consequential issues facing academic medical centers and their vital role in protecting and improving the nation’s health,” Woodward said. “My appointment is in large part a reflection of the respect my UMMC colleagues have earned in serving the people of Mississippi.”

Woodward and others on the 17-member board of directors include faculty members and leaders from such institutions as the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Boston Medical Center.

The new chair of the AAMC board is Dr. Joseph E. Kerschner, dean of the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Medicine, and executive vice president and provost of the Medical College of Wisconsin.



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LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, December 17, 2019. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

A workshop on the Request for Proposals packet is scheduled for

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 beginning promptly at 2:00 pm. It will be held at the Municipal Art Gallery located at 839 North State Street Jackson, MS 39202. Those interested in submitting proposals should attend this Workshop.

For the Request for Proposals packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on December 17, 2019. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov) and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS.

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services

11-28-2019, 12-5-2019, 12-12-2019

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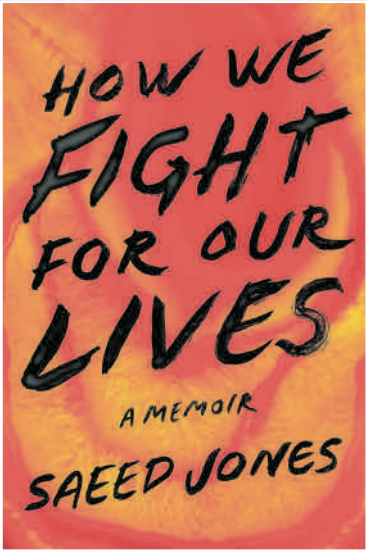
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Jackson Police Training Academy • Jackson, MS • November 22, 2019

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON







BOOK REVIEW:

HOW WE FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES: A MEMOIR

BY SAEED JONES

C.2019, SIMON & SCHUSTER

\$26.00 / \$32.00 CANADA • 193 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

You can’t pretend forever. Eventually, the ruse gets tired, holding up pretenses becomes a burden, and keeping the game going is harder than telling the truth. You eventually have to break it down and let people know what you’re about. But as in the new book “How We Fight for Our Lives” by Saeed Jones, take care before telling everybody.

Saeed Jones was just twelve years old when his mother first uttered the word “gay,” though

he never thought it would be anything she’d ever say. Afterward, the word was “vibrating in the air between us” but there’d be no conversation.

Jones knew even then that the word described him. Fascinated by men, he spent hours clipping pictures of male models from his mother’s fashion magazines, and he furtively read everything about gay men and AIDS that he could find at his local Texas library.

The library was also where he had his first sexual encounter with a stranger, at age 16.

That, too, was something he’d never tell his mother but he sensed she knew his truth: some days, he’d find his clippings in shreds, in a plastic bag on the kitchen counter, and he’d just start another collection. There was no discussion then, either.

By the time he graduated from high school, Jones knew that his life was not “twenty minutes north of Dallas” anymore. He envisioned himself walking around Manhattan, exploring the city, and he aimed for college there but it wasn’t financially possible.

Instead, he went to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and he thrived.

On his own for the first time ever, Jones realized he could be any Saeed Jones he wanted to be, but ultimately, he was freest being his gay self. Away from home, he made friends, joined college groups, drank too much, slept with men he barely knew, and he learned that “the words ‘gay’ and ‘alone’ weren’t synonyms for each other.”

And then one night, he went home with the wrong man...

On so many levels, “How We Fight For Our Lives” is a heart-breaking and beautiful book.

The most unforgettable parts lie where author Saeed Jones writes about more than just himself and his own observations; a good portion of his tale is his mother’s. She recognized her son’s life but she obviously struggled with knowing-not-knowing and there’s a sharp pain in that, pain that leaps from the pages.

The bulk of this story – the part that seizes readers by the shirtfront – is spent watching Jones come to terms as he comes

of age. Seeing him grow from self-absorbed young man into self-confident adult is satisfying, albeit cringe-worthy, because you come to understand what beats him back as well as what makes his spirit soar. Knowing all that happens between the two is what’ll keep you turning pages.

Be aware that this memoir can be raw, in both language and meaning, and there are graphic bits inside. Still, the power you’ll see in “How We Fight for Our Lives” will make you want to tell everybody.

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# 2019 Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in Hybrid



By Frank S. Washington  
*AboutThatCar.com*

We didn't get as much time as we would have liked with the 2019 Hyundai Ioniq plug-in Hybrid. But we spent enough time with the car to like it.

This Ioniq was a plug-in hybrid, there are a gasoline powered Ioniq and a hybrid. We've tested the gas-powered car and the plug-in hybrid had a huge advantage.

Powered by a 1.6 liter four cylinder engine and a 44.5 kW electric motor, the car had a 8.9 kWh Lithium-ion Polymer battery for charging for charging the electric motor. It had a six-speed dual-clutch transmission.

And the huge advantage was mileage. The 2019 Hyundai had an EPA rating of 119 MPGe combined city and highway driving using both the electric motor and gasoline engine. Using just

the gasoline engine it got 52 mpg combined. It could travel up to 29 miles in electric only mode.

When we first got in the Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in, it had a range of slightly more than 600 miles. After a week of driving the range was little less than 400 miles and had burned one quarter tank of gas and we had averaged 49.1 mpg. Hyundai estimated the annual fuel cost at \$650. Given our experience that seems plausible.

This car was peppy but certainly not fast. It was really easy to handle and it was soundly put together. In a lot of cars with regenerative brakes, stopping can be abrupt. But Hyundai had calibrated the Ioniq's brakes for smooth halts. The exterior was a little stubby but it had Hyundai's cascading grill and cat's eye headlights. We would like to have seen a digital option for the speedometer but

we could and have lived without it.

There were some nice thoughtful touches. This Ioniq had push button start top and push button lock and unlock. On the front doors, press the button twice and the rear doors unlocked. We've been in too many cars where that was not the case. It can be aggravating to have to open the door wide to get at the lock controls on the front door to unlock the rear doors.

What's more, the side view mirrors tilted down when backing up. That saves a lot of scuffed tires and wheels. And there was a power driver's seat with adjustable lumbar support.

We thought acceleration was decent; after all it was hybrid with a small engine. The Hyundai Ioniq plug-in Hybrid made 139 horsepower. That is not much by any standard but for civil driving you really don't need more than that

amount of oomph.

Once inside the car the equipment was impressive for this price range. There were heated front seats, voice controls, adaptable LED headlights and adaptable cruise control. We thought the seats were a little too firm but they weren't uncomfortable.

The touch infotainment screen was easy to reach and certainly not difficult to operate. This Ioniq had Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and there was a navigation system. It had a small moonroof, blind side alert and lane keep alert with assistance.

We were surprised by the wireless charging station in the bin beneath the control center. That's where Hyundai put the Ioniq's USB jack. There were a couple of 12V plugs there and an auxiliary jack there as well. Another USB charging jack was in the center console.

The back seats were firm as well. It was somewhat tight getting through the rear door but not impossible. We found legroom a little cramped but that was with the front seats articulated pretty far back but there was plenty of headroom. The floor was almost flat and the batteries were under the back seats because there were cooling vents on the base of the seats.

When we checked out the trunk, we were surprised to see that 2019 Hyundai Ioniq was a hatchback. The back seats folded down to form a cavernous cargo space. Even with those seats deployed, plenty of stuff could fit in the cargo area.

For \$33,335 as tested, the 2019 Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in Hybrid Limited was a well-equipped technologically advanced vehicle that was a little bit more than a car.



## 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)

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- 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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PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY JOHNSON





# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## District host Fall EL Parent Community Meeting



## Lela Richardson named Bus Driver of the Month for October 2019



Pictured L-R: Lela Richardson, driver; Tim Barnett, board member; and Betty Hay, Human Resource director

## Chiquita Washington named Substitute Teacher of the Month for October 2019



Pictured L-R: Markeeta Carson, assistant principal - GRE; Tim Barnett, board member; and Betty Hay, Human Resource director (Substitute teacher not pictured)

## Brandy Ducan named Employee of the Month for October 2019



Pictured L-R: Markeeta Carson, assistant principal - GRE; Brandy Ducan, employee; Tim Barnett, board member; and Betty Hay, Human Resource director

## GRI announce Spelling Bee winner



Pictured L-R: Ashley Green, principal; Denzel Anderson 2019 GRI Spelling Bee winner; and Arthur Jones, assistant principal. Denzel is a third-grade student in Thompson's homeroom class.

