



5 titleholders of major pageants are all WOMEN of COLOR



Miss World Toni-Ann Singh Miss Universe Zozibin Tunzi Miss USA Cheslie Kryst Miss Teen USA Kaliegh Garris Miss America Nia Franklin

And that’s a bigger deal than you might think

By Holly Yan
CNN

Several decades ago, this wasn’t even possible. Black women weren’t allowed to compete in the Miss America pageant until the 1940s, and the first black contestant didn’t take that stage until 30 years later. The first black Miss USA wasn’t crowned until 1990. And it wasn’t until this month that Miss Universe, Miss World, Miss America, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA were all women of color. “I think black women need this,” Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin told CNN’s “New Day” on Monday. “It’s a symbol, and it shows that no matter where you’re from, what country you’re from

... you can be successful.” She was joined by the newly crowned Miss Universe, Zozibini Tunzi, who said during the pageant that traditional portrayals of beauty didn’t feature women like her. “I grew up in a world where a woman who looks like me – with my kind of skin and my kind of hair – was never considered to be beautiful,” she said in her last response before she was crowned. “I think it is time that that stops today.” Tunzi told CNN it’s important that young girls look at the history-making quintet to see that anything is possible. “We can’t be what we cannot see,” the 26-year-old from

Pageant winners
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Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica, center with crown, at the 69th annual Miss World competition at the Excel Center in London. PHOTO BY INVISION/AP/JOEL C. RYAN

U.S. House impeached Trump on abuse of power



Pelosi AP PHOTO

By Lisa Mascaro
and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night, becoming only the third American chief executive to be formally charged under the Constitution’s ultimate remedy for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The historic vote split along party lines, much the way it has divided the nation, over the charges that the 45th president abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election. Then a majority of the House approved a second charge, that he obstructed Congress in its investigation.

The articles of impeachment, the political equivalent of an indictment, now go to the Senate for trial. If Trump is acquitted by the Republican-led chamber, as expected, he would have to run for reelection carrying the enduring mark of impeachment on his purposely disruptive presidency.



Trump

Democrats led Wednesday night’s voting, framed in what many said was their duty to protect the Constitution and uphold the nation’s system of checks and balances.

Republicans stood by their party’s leader, who has frequently tested the bounds of civic norms. Trump called the whole affair a “witch hunt,” a “hoax” and a “sham” and sometimes all three.

The trial is expected to begin in January in the Senate, where a vote of two-thirds is necessary for conviction. While Democrats had the majority in the House to impeach Trump, Republicans control

Impeachment
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Congressional Black Caucus members talk impeachment, HBCU funding

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Shortly after the House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to impeach President Donald Trump December 13, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) held a conference call with publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of Black Press publications from around the country. While CBC members addressed the impeachment proceedings, the call was a reminder

that Congress continues to work on other pressing issues. The call included CBC Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.), and Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), Val Demings (D-Fla.), Alma Adams (D-North Carolina), and Bobby Scott (D-Virginia). The members discussed the passage of the FUTURE Act, legislation that provides needed funding to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other educational institutions. “Historically Black Colleges

and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges or Universities, and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) play a significant role in expanding access to higher education for low-income students and students of color,” said Scott, the chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor. “Unfortunately, despite their outsized role in serving our nation’s most underserved students, these schools have historically been under-resourced compared to other institutions of higher

education,” Scott stated. “The FUTURE Act won’t only guarantee at least \$250 million per year for HBCUs and MSIs; it will simplify the Free Application for Student Aid (FASFA) and makes it easier for students to access student aid and repay their loans,” Scott continued. The FUTURE Act, which stands for Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education, unanimously passed the Senate. The bill has been sent to the president for his signature.

Through the FUTURE Act, HBCUs will receive \$85 million per year – about \$1 million per school. American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities will receive \$30 million annually, while Hispanic-serving institutions will get \$100 million per year. Also, predominately black institutions will continue to reap an annual payment of \$15 million, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions will receive \$15 million each year. Asian American and Native

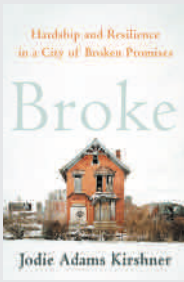
American Pacific Islander-serving institutions and Native American-serving nontribal institutions each will continue to receive \$5 million annually. “HBCUs and MSIs provide pathways of opportunities for millions of Americans who come from low-income families. As a two-time graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, and a retired professor of 40 years at Bennett College for Women, I as well as all the pupils that I had the

Black Caucus
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Inside
Dentistry alumnus to sponsor effort to treat children during Give Kids a Smile



Broke



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Singing Together Jackson 2019

By Levell Williams
Tougaloo College Student Writer

In a world rife with strife and a political atmosphere that at times seems driven by division, a peaceful moment among local community members has become a sweet commodity. With the holiday season approaching, one event sought to offer just that to the Jackson community. On Tuesday night, December 10, at the Jackson Medical Mall, the 6th annual Singing Together Jackson, the annual fundraiser of Working Together Jackson (WTJ), was held to promote local fellowship and collaborative community advocacy among Jacksonians.

WTJ, founded in 2012, is a non-profit organization composed of more than 30 member institutions, which involve Jacksonians of various racial, economic and religious associations. “WTJ is ... about systemic change... to make sure that democracy works well for everybody,” said Bishop Crudup of New Horizon Church International, a member of WTJ since its inception.

For Singing Together Jackson, according to Bishop Crudup, “various organizations send representatives to sing,” resulting in a time of fellowship among diverse community members. Poet Savannah Willis of Tougaloo College, author of *What Happened While I was Waiting: A Collection of Poeticisms*, served as master of ceremony.

Even before the first musical showcase, the Jackson State University African Drum & Dance Ensemble greeted guest-



Drummers for the Jackson State University African Drum & Dance Ensemble

with a taste of what was to come. According to a drummer with the ensemble, the group performs in styles from West African culture, including the Mali Empire. “This is just celebrating history that was taken from us,” he said.

Then, after Rev. Chris Cumbest offered an interfaith prayer of thanks and prosperity, the music began. First to the stage was the Rosemont MB Church Praise Team & Choir, who ushered in an air of worship with its renditions of Fred Jenkin’s “Victory” and Hezekiah Walker’s “Born to Die.”

Following was Virgi Lindsay of St. Richard’s Catholic Church, with “Ave Maria” performed in Latin. As a precursor to her performance, Lindsay provided a thoughtful description of the song’s significance in her family’s faith, especially during this religious season of Advent. The audience sat quietly in awe of her gentle, high-pitched voice.

Next came the much antici-



Representatives of the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at the final reception.

pated New Horizon Church International Children’s Choir, lead by Pastor Hugh Davis. Davis noted that the children’s choir was only a third of its usual size, with more than thirty children being absent because of the flu and other reasons. Nevertheless, Willis attested that the children “definitely delivered.”

At the conclusion of the first musical showcase, Willis welcomed to the stage WTJ leaders Rev. Hugh Hollowell and Lorena Quiroz-Lewis Mississippi Immigrant Coalition, who collected financial donations and commitments, as well as talked

about some of WTJ’s recent activity. Hollowell described the dire need for WTJ’s work, saying, “history tells us that ...real power...only comes when we have organized people and organized money. So, that’s what we do... at WTJ.”

Quiroz-Lewis described the help that WTJ has been to families impacted by the ICE raids in August, the largest ICE raids ever undergone. “Once the raids hit, we had several organizations that came down to help us,” said Quiroz-Lewis. “These folks – although they were hit hard – they’re still working hard,” she



New Horizon Church International Children’s Choir with Pastor Hugh Davis (pictured on right in suit jacket) PHOTOS BY LEVELL WILLIAMS

said about those affected by the ICE raids.

Following the informative intermission, Willis took to the stage to begin the second musical showcase. She, joined by cello instrumentalist Imani Olugbala-Aziz, presented her poem “Air Quotes,” about WTJ and its significance to her. The poem seemed to tug at the audience’s hearts with every rhythmic pluck of the cellist’s poised hands.

Next was Pam Confer, with her performance of her original song, “Mississippi Beautiful.” The melody and style served to represent the relentless soul and persistent love of all Mississippians. “This is our song,” she said. Confer noted that there have been three attempts to make the song the official state song, replacing the current “Go, Mississippi,” a song fashioned after the pro-segregation “Roll With Ross.”

Then came SING! Jackson, also lead by Pastor Davis. The youths, as young as 7-14 years,



Pam Confer singing “Mississippi Beautiful”

delivered a powerful rendition of religious and community favorites, such as Kirk Franklin’s “Now Behold the Lamb” and Bill Withers’ “Lean on Me.” On his work with youth choirs, Davis said “I prefer a children’s group over an adult group... They’re just honest. And, like that.”

The program concluded as it began, with an African drums performance ushering the audience to partake in a final reception, with member organizations providing refreshments and vending. Donations and financial commitments had been collected, and the night was concluding on a note of rhythmic posture.

Still, beyond the Jackson Medical Mall and the joy of Singing Together Jackson, many Jacksonians are yet to share this joyful fellowship. Affected by the ICE raids, outrageous utility expenses and political futility, they lack the “real power” that Hollowell spoke about.

As WTJ continues its work, one can hope that such a peaceful moment among local community members will no longer be such a commodity, but a commonality.



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Impeachment

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the Senate and few if any are expected to diverge from plans to acquit the president ahead of early state election-year primary voting.

Pelosi, once reluctant to lead Democrats into a partisan impeachment, now risks her majority and speakership to hold the president accountable.

“Today we are here to defend democracy for the people,” Pelosi said opening debate.

Trump, who began Wednesday tweeting his anger at the proceedings, scheduled an evening rally in Battle Creek, Michigan.

He pumped his fist before an enthusiastic crowd, boasted of “tremendous support” in the Republican Party and said, “By the way it doesn’t feel like I’m being impeached.”

What Pelosi called a sad and solemn moment for the country, coming in the first year that Democrats swept control of the House, unfolded in a caustic daylong session that showcased the nation’s divisions – not only along party lines, but also by region, race and culture.

The House impeachment resolution laid out in stark terms the two articles of impeachment against Trump stemming from his July phone call when he asked the Ukraine president for a “favor” – to announce it was investigating Democrats ahead of the 2020 election. He also pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to probe unsubstantiated corruption allegations against Joe Biden, the former vice president and 2020 White House contender.

At the time, Zelenskyy, a young comedian newly elected to politics, was seeking a coveted White House visit to show backing from the U.S. ally as it confronts a hostile Russia at its border. He was also counting on \$391 million in military aid already approved by Congress. The White House delayed the funds, but Trump eventually released the money once Congress intervened.

Narrow in scope but broad in its charge, the res-

olution said the president “betrayed the nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections,” and then obstructed Congress’ oversight like “no president” in U.S. history.

“President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office,” it said.

Republicans argued that Democrats are impeaching Trump because they can’t beat him in 2020.

“This vote is about one thing, and one thing only: They hate this president,” said Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah. “They want to take away my vote and throw it in the trash.”

But Democrats warned the country cannot wait for the next election to decide whether Trump should remain in office because he has shown a pattern of behavior, particularly toward Russia, and will try to corrupt U.S. elections in 2020.

“The president and his men plot on,” said Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., of the Intelligence Committee that led the inquiry. “The danger persists. The risk is real.”

The outcome brings the Trump presidency to a milestone moment that has been building almost from the time the New York businessman-turned-reality-TV host unexpectedly won the White House in 2016 amid questions about Russian interference in the U.S. election – and the rise of the “resistance.”

Democrats drew from history, the founders and their own experiences, as minorities, women and some immigrants to the U.S., seeking to honor their oath of office to uphold the constitution. Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., spoke in Spanish asking God to unite the nation. “In America,” said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., “no one is above the law.”

Republicans aired Trump-style grievances about what Arizona Rep. Debbie Lesko called a “rigged” process.

“We face this horror because of this map,” said Rep. Clay Higgins, R-Ala., before a poster of red and blue states. “They call this Republican map flyover country, they call us deplorables, they fear our faith, they fear our strength, they fear our unity, they fear our vote, and they fear our president.”

The political fallout from the vote will reverberate across an already polarized country with divergent views of Trump’s July phone call when Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Democrats in the 2016 election, Biden and his son, Hunter, who worked on the board of a gas company in Ukraine while his father was the vice president.

Trump has repeatedly implored Americans to read the transcript of the call he said was “perfect.” But the facts it revealed, and those in an anonymous whistleblower’s complaint that sparked the probe, are largely undisputed.

More than a dozen current and former White House officials and diplomats testified for hours. The open and closed sessions under oath revealed what one called the “irregular channel” of foreign policy run by Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, which focused on investigating the Bidens and alternative theories of 2016 election interference.

The question for lawmakers was whether the revelations amounted to impeachable offenses to be sent to the Senate for a trial.

Few lawmakers crossed party lines without consequence. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, D-N.J., who is considering changing parties over his opposition to impeachment, sat with Republicans. Rep. Justin Amash, the Michigan conservative who left the Republican party and became an independent over impeachment, said: “I come to this floor,

not as a Republican, not as a Democrat, but as an American.”

Beyond the impeachments of Andrew Johnson or Bill Clinton, this first impeachment of the 21st century is as much about what the president might do in the future as what he did in the past. And unlike investigation of Richard Nixon, who resigned rather than face the House vote over Watergate, the proceedings against Trump are playing out in an America already of mixed views over Trump.

Rank and file Democrats said they were willing to lose their jobs to protect the democracy from Trump. Some newly elected freshman remained in the chamber for hours during the debate.

“This is not about making history, this is about holding a lawless president accountable,” said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I.

GOP Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia said of the Democrats: “You’ve been wanting to do this ever since the gentleman was elected.”

Top Republicans, including Rep. Devin Nunes on the Intelligence Committee, called the Ukraine probe little more than the low-budget sequel to former special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Mueller spent two years investigating the potential links between Moscow and the Trump campaign, but testified in July that his team could not establish that Trump conspired or coordinated with Russia to throw the election. Mueller did say he could not exonerate Trump of trying to obstruct the investigation, but he left that for Congress to decide.

The next day, Trump called Ukraine. Not quite four months later, a week before Christmas, Trump was impeached.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly, Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor in Washington contributed to this report.

Black Caucus

Continued from page 1

pleasure of teaching, are a testament to the power of these schools which mold their students into the leaders of tomorrow,” said Adams, the chair of the House Higher Education and Labor subcommittee on Workforce Protections

“This agreement will secure \$255 million a year for these institutions to serve over eight million students of color, preparing them for careers in our STEM professions,” Adams stated.

The legislation also reduces FAFSA by 22 questions and allows the Internal Revenue Service to directly share applicants’ tax information with the U.S. Department of Education.

“The simplification in the provision was to get

information from the IRS to make the applications more accurate,” Scott stated. “If you can get the necessary information from the IRS, there would be more accuracy.”

Meanwhile, Jackson-Lee addressed the impeachment vote against Trump.

“Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress,” she said of the two articles of impeachment that the House Judiciary Committee voted in favor of December 13.

“What the president was essentially caught doing was attempting to interfere in the 2020 election. So, in terms of the significance of this for our community, the idea that the president would cheat on

the election and attempt to get himself re-elected, I think, would change our lives for generations,” Jackson-Lee stated.

She continued:

“If you think about the fact that [re-election] would mean there will be one if not more appointments to the Supreme Court. He has already appointed over 100 judges, and I am sure 99 percent of them would be horrible when it comes to our issues.

“When you think of the dismantling of so much as what we have fought for over these years, the idea that our people would have to endure another term of this president is almost beyond our comprehension.”

Pageant winners

Continued from page 1

South Africa said. “I think that’s why this is so important, because then young girls can look at us and feel like they, too, are important.”

But don’t think these beauty queens are token winners based on their race. Had that been the case, we wouldn’t have seen three black Miss USAs since 2016, said the reigning Miss USA, Cheslie Kryst.

“Three of the last four Miss USAs were women of color – there was Kara McCullough, there was Deshauna Barber – and that was im-

Jackson-Lee conceded that the Senate in all probability would not remove Trump, but impeachment in the House was still necessary.

Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Bill Clinton are the only presidents in American history to have faced impeachment. Nixon resigned before the House could vote. Johnson and Clinton were impeached in the House, but both were acquitted in the Senate.

“We felt that it was so important that we had to put the brakes on him interfering in the election, that even if impeachment was not going to remove him successfully, it was still critical that we did this,” Jackson-Lee stated.



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P H O T O O F T H E W E E K

**Hinds County D.A. Robert Shuler Smith
and son Raphael Shuler Smith**



Smith was honored last week at the Hinds County Courthouse for 11 years of service as Hinds County District Attorney. His son, Raphael, said he was honored to be with his father. He extends Christmas greetings and thanks the public for their support over the years.

Jim Hill Class of 1969 celebrates 50 years



Jim Hill 69 Class Ladies PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Jim Hill 69 Class Men

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Jim Hill class of 1969 seemed to be in complete denial of being senior citizens as they celebrated their 50th year high school class reunion December 11-15 in Jackson, MS. The class started by celebrating Wednesday at the 4th Avenue Lounge and closing out the celebration at Greater St. James Baptist Church located on Jones Avenue, followed by a farewell lunch at The Iron Horse Grill on West Pearl Street.

This class seemed 'no ways tired' when they celebrated "Classmates Night" Friday at the Art Center on East Pascagoula Street.

Local disc jockey Samuel Adams played familiar Christmas songs as classmates shared lifetime stories. Later as the music changed to songs by the Temptations and other well-known artists of the 60's and 70's there was line dancing, slow dancing, square dancing, fast dancing and even a split and a flip made by Larry Grant after classmates dared him to dance like he did in high school. Shockingly, Grant, in his black leather slacks, did not disappoint when he flipped and showcased his split and other dance moves.

Classmates came from as far as California and North Carolina to participate in the holiday reunion. Classmates in nursing and assisted living homes wanted to be a part of the celebration and with the help of other classmates, were in attendance.

The class returned to the Art Center Saturday Night for a banquet where The Honorable Judge Clyde Chapman, a member of the class of 69, was the speaker. Chapman reflected on the good ol' days and the long-lasting relationships he has with many classmates which started long before high school.

Chapman shared how he felt on career day when he anticipated his counselor would advise him how to get in college. He vividly recalled the counselor saying, "Son, this is not an avenue you need to pursue." She said, you cannot afford to go to college so you need to get you a hard hat and some boots and prepare to go to work."

Chapman, did not allow those words to deter him. He was reared in a single parent home but with the help of his three older brothers and his mother, he graduated from Jackson State. He said his three brothers helped to pay his tuition. Chapman had a career path that started in Jackson, took him to Iowa where he worked for the Department of Corrections and later returned home.

After returning to Jackson, family and friends convinced him to run for the office of Hinds County Justice Court Judge in 1983 where he served for 28 years, having been elected seven terms.

The occasion was given by Glenda Taylor Grant and a tribute to the Class of 1969 was given by Catherine Harville Johnson. Johnson reminded the class they were the first

10th grade class when Jim Hill was changed to a high school, grades 10-12. It was previously a Jr.-Sr. high school, grades 7-12.

Attending the reunion was the 1969 Mr. & Miss Jim Hill, Hugh Latham and Elaine Hayes Anthony. Latham said the reunion was a 50-year journey. Hayes-Anthony said, "It was so good walking down memory lane with classmates. It was an enjoyable time for everyone."

John Ratliff served as chairperson of the 50th reunion. He said, "Our 50th reunion was one of the greatest experiences I have ever been involved in. To see all our friends from elementary to now. We are truly blessed."

Grant, who served on the Friday Night Activities Committee, said "Our 50th reunion was a 'blast from the past.' The excitement of seeing classmates and the energy levels of those who were not in the best of health but had that 'Ole Jim Hill Spirit' to attend really motivated me to continue to praise an awesome God." Grant said, "We are blessed to be a great looking class of seniors."

Grant said he was very appreciative of the reunion committee for their superb efforts and commitment.

Officers serving on the reunion committee were John Ratliff, chairman; Frank Bozeman, co-chairman; Glenda T. Grant, secretary; Barnessa B. Cook and Bettye H. Tyler, asst. secretaries and Evelyn C. Lockhart, chaplin.



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-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT	\$4,113
-BONUS CASH	\$7,500

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Matthews Family home for the holidays

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On December 12, Contrea Matthews received the keys to her brand-new home just in time for the holidays. Matthews-worked alongside Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS) Team Blue employee volunteers and Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) construction staff to build the home she will now share with her three children at 4852 Sheridan Drive.

BCBSMS supports tobacco-free communities and workplaces. Aligned with this effort, Contrea has committed to maintaining a tobacco-free home.

“I am beyond thankful and excited to have a home of my own for my family,” Matthews said. “Thanks to Habitat for Humanity and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi my dream of home ownership is now a reality.”

BCBSMS and its Team Blue employee volunteers began work on the Company’s eighth home in partnership with HFHMCA in August. The Matthews’ home is the first built in the Broadmoor community as part of a Covenant Build project between the two organizations and is part of HFHMCA’s five-year plan to rehab and build new homes in the neighborhood.

“Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi is proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity as we work together to transform lives and communities through homeownership,” said Sheila Grogan, vice president, Community and Public Relations with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. “An affordable home in a stable environment contributes to the overall health and success of Mississippi families.”

“Because of partnerships with companies like Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity can continue



Contrea Matthews (center) poses with her mother and grandmother in her new Habitat home.



to provide safe environments and quality homes for Jackson area families,” said Merrill McKewen, executive director of HFHMCA. “We are grateful to them and their Team Blue employee volunteers, who work to

improve the quality of life in the communities it serves.”

Building Homes...Building Hope

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area is a faith-based organization founded in

1986. We have built or renovated simple and sustainable homes for over 600 families in Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties. Habitat homes are sold at no profit with an interest-free mortgage to families who can-

not qualify for traditional bank loans. Homeownership combined with Habitat’s required financial education allows these families to invest in our community and their future simultaneously.

To learn more about Team Blue and BCBSMS’ community involvement, visit www.bcbms.com. For more information about HFHMCA, please call 601-353-6060 or visit www.habitatmca.org.

Yates, Head join Methodist Rehab staff

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Sara Yates of Florence has joined Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson as the director of human resources. She oversees all human resource functions, including talent acquisition, benefits administration, employee engagement and performance management.

Prior to joining MRC, Yates served in human resource leadership roles at Peterbilt of Mississippi and Horne LLP. She attended Mississippi State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in communication.

Yates serves on the board of directors for the Capital Area Human Resource As-

sociation and is a member of the business advisory boards for the business and office technology programs at both Hinds Community College and Pearl River Community College.

Certified Public Accountant Justin Head has joined the staff of MRC as controller.

The Brandon resident was most recently accounting manager for Beyond Trust in Ridgeland and previously served the same role at Pioneer Health Services.

He has a bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.



Head



Yates



Wallace

Murrah senior achieves national title at Jobs for America’s Graduates Student Leadership

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates’ student achievers traveled to the nation’s capital to compete for national titles in four academic competitions: public speaking, employability skills, math skills and project-based learning. Zacchaeus Wallace of Murrah High School won the 2nd Place Award for math. Wallace is a senior in the Aca-

ademic & Performing Arts Complex (APAC) Program at Murrah.

“Murrah and the entire JPS community are super proud of the way Zach represented the state of Mississippi,” said Marcus Moffett, JMG job specialist for Murrah High School. “We hope that his victory helps to motivate more students to excel in the future.”

With four winners at the na-

tional competition, JMG Mississippi reigned supreme out of 32 states represented at the Jobs for America’s Graduates 2019 National Student Leadership Academy. Students advance to nationals after qualifying in statewide competitions held each spring.

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1990 and tasked with

educating middle and high school students through a curriculum centered around career readiness.

The mission of the organization is to educate, equip and empower students to obtain successful outcomes in life.

JMG is a state affiliate of Jobs for America’s Graduates, the national nonprofit organization founded in 1980.

JPS institutes clear bag policy – athletic events

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools will implement clear bag procedures at sporting events beginning January 6, 2020. This policy limits the size and type of bags that may be brought into athletic facilities to provide a safer environment for the public.

Fans will be able to carry the following style and size bag, package, or container through stadium gates/venue entries:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12 inches x 6 inches x 12 inches.
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar).
- Small clutch bags, approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap, can be taken into the stadium with one of the clear plastic bag options.

Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to purses larger than a clutch bag, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, cinch bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags and camera bags or any bag larger than the permissible size.

For more information, please contact the JPS Athletics Department at 601 960-8825.

Teacher Testimonials



Benardytte Robinson

“I teach fifth-grade math and science at Key Elementary School. My roots are in JPS as my mother taught in JPS for 32 years. The success of my students and my love for teaching motivate me every day. One of my greatest experiences was when my students were recognized at the District’s Convocation ceremony for their growth in math on the MAAP for the 2017-2018 school year. The teaching profession is a learning journey built upon experience and drive that will allow you the opportunity to grow.”

Benardytte Robinson
Teacher, Key Elementary School



Sarah Ballard

“My students are, of course, my motivation. I love this job, and I have so much respect for my students. I want to be there every day to teach them and to learn from them. I want to help them discover their voice as writers and learn to trust themselves as scholars. I am lucky because I am also passionate about the content I teach.”

Sarah Ballard
Teacher, Murrah High School

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The Mississippi Link™
Volume 26 • Number 9
December 19 - 25, 2019
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
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Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
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The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

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A new chapter: MVSU celebrates graduates during Fall 2019 Commencement

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Fall 2019 Commencement marked the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another for Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) graduates Saturday.

“A book is comprised of several chapters which legitimizes that book, and that’s the same way with life. Our lives are full of chapters,” said MVSU President Jerryl Briggs, who served as the commencement speaker. “Now, you all are about to fulfill another chapter, and with that chapter comes accountability and responsibility.”

Briggs, who typically presides over the ceremony, said he was honored to serve as the speaker for the special occasion.

The ceremony, hosted at 10 a.m. in MVSU’s R.W. Harrison Complex, marked the reinstatement of the university’s fall commencement exercise and the inaugural fall graduation ceremony under the institution’s current administration.

“As you go forward, you all will have several other chapters in your lives, but always remember this one as important,” said Briggs to the graduates who received both master’s and bachelor’s degrees.

Recounting his own life’s chapters, Briggs said he wouldn’t be standing where he is today if it wasn’t for others who paved the way for him.



“I want to give thanks to all of our ancestors and to all of those who have made a difference in our lives today,” he said. “I’ve sat in the chair that you all are sitting in now. One very special person in my life was my mother. She passed in 2005, but I know she’s standing here with me now.”

Reading a quote from a commencement speech given on Dec. 6, 1953, by MVSU’s Founding President James Herbert White, Briggs encouraged the graduates to continue to embrace the commitment to service instilled in them during their time at The

Valley.

He also reminded them of the gravity of what they’ve accomplished by both earning a degree and receiving an education.

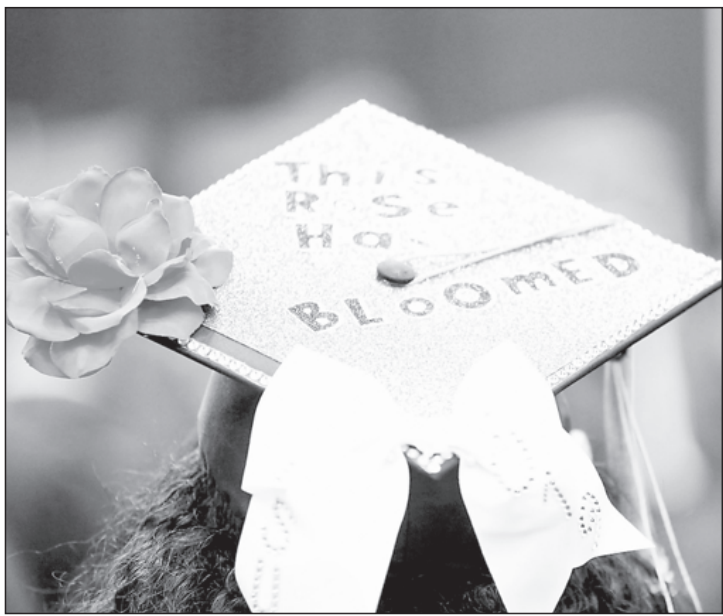
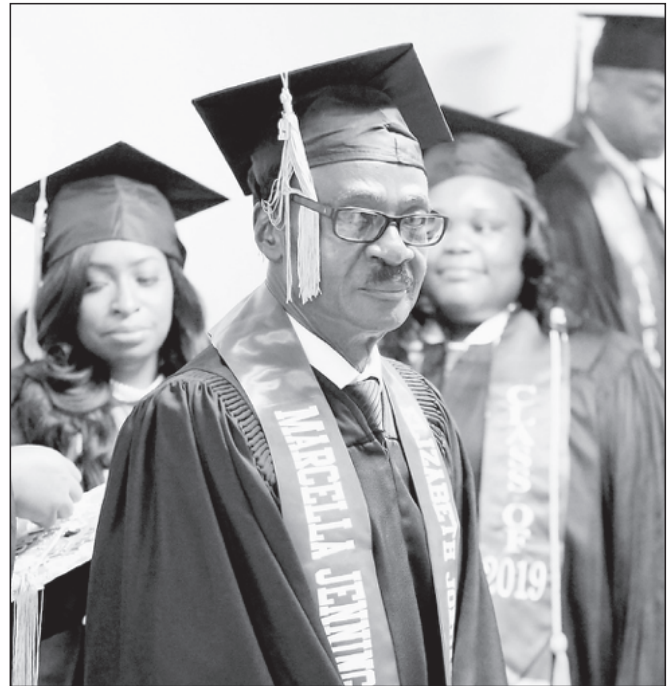
“Getting a degree is very important, but receiving an education is most important,” he said, “We know that it’s education that transforms lives, communities and societies.”

During the ceremony, special recognition was extended to two graduates who earned the distinction Summa Cum Laude for earning a grade point average of 3.8 or higher. Those graduates were Hanesia Friend of Itta

Bena, Miss., who received a B.S. in health, physical education & recreation, and Justin Read of Sydenham, Victoria (Australia), who received a B.A. in mass communications.

Briggs closed by encouraging the Class of 2019 to share their experiences, knowledge and love for MVSU with the world.

“Whatever your next chapter entails, remember that part of that preparation started here, at Mississippi Valley State University, and don’t let anyone lessen the importance of that opportunity and the degree that you’re receiving.”



An education does not make you ‘superior to your brothers and sisters’

By Rachel James-Terry
jsumsnews.com

The excitement and nervous energy were palpable Friday, Dec. 6, at Jackson State University. Nearly 800 students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines converged inside the Lee E. Williams Athletics & Assembly Center with one goal in mind – graduation.

Serving as the keynote speaker was Dr. Tonea “Tommie” Stewart, a JSU alum and actress widely known for her recurring role as Aunt Etta Kibby in the television series “In the Heat of the Night.” Other television or movie credits include “Girls Trip,” “A Time to Kill” and “Matlock.” Now, the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Alabama State University, Stewart was crowned Miss JSU in 1969.

“When I think back to those 50 years, I think of the ol’ Negro spiritual ‘How I Got Over.’ Lord, how I got over. I sit back, and I wonder how I got over,” said Stewart after taking the podium.

She then referenced the song “I Almost Let Go” by gospel artist Kurt Carr and sang, “I almost gave up. I was on the edge of a breakthrough, but I couldn’t see it. The devil really had me, but Jesus came and grabbed me, and he held me close, and I wouldn’t let go.”

Amens and hmmm hmms in agreement floated from the audience. Stewart told the graduates that throughout trials and disappointments, death, emergencies and a host of problems, God kept them and look at them now.

“Fifty years ago, I had no idea where I would end up. That adage of where you come from does not dictate where you will end up, it’s very true,” said Stewart, who began to share snapshots of a life filled with both joy and pain.

A native of Greenwood in the Mississippi Delta, Stewart described her hometown as the “Cotton Capital of the World” with poor schools but great teachers. She revealed that her father was a heavy drinker that turned abusive under the influence. As a result, her parents eventually divorced.

While in high school, Stewart’s mother died, but those same “great teachers” helped her stay the course, and she finished with honors. She credited her community and family for praying her through trying times and encouraging her to attend Jackson State, where she majored in speech and theater.

“I found out that at Jackson State College, teachers, staff and administrators loved the students and worshipped the opportunity to nurture them,” said Stewart, who encountered another dilemma when her grandmother fell very ill. The aspiring actress contemplated withdrawing from the institution, believing her grandmother “needed me more than the medicine the doctors were going to give her.”

But Stewart’s professors rallied around her and challenged her to stay and cultivate her talent. Heeding their advice, Stewart stayed and “wouldn’t let go.” She was even nominated Miss JSU in 1968 by her peers. Taking that crown of confidence, Stewart graduated from Jackson State in 1969 and headed west. She attended the University of California in Santa Barbara and graduated with a master’s degree in theater.

“I touched the soil of Hollywood, returned to my home



In what has now become a tradition, graduates throughout the commencement class wore their graduation caps adorned with messages displaying feelings of jubilee over their academic milestone.



Dr. Tommie “Tonea” Stewart, JSU alum and Miss JSU ’68, served as the keynote speaker at Jackson State University’s commencement. Stewart, an actress, has had a successful television and movie career and now serves as Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Alabama State University.



Seynabou Seck graduated with a degree in accounting and said she couldn’t wait to celebrate with family.

state, and met the love of my life, Dr. Allen Stewart. God blessed us with three beautiful children.”

Stewart thanked God for allowing her and Allen the opportunity to help 10 members of her family, including their children, attend Jackson State University.

“I told you that story because I want you to know that you may know my glory, but you don’t know my story,” she told the graduates.

“This, too, shall pass” is a true phrase, a true message,” said Stewart before quoting Jeremiah 17:7. She then implored the audience to put their trust in God, calling commencement another beginning and not an end.

“Your degree is not a prestigious passport for you to be superior to your brothers and sisters. This degree today is for you to reach back and pull up everybody in the family and community that you can,” she urged.

Stewart encouraged the graduates to learn their genealogy to find out who and what they are. She also told them to motivate their siblings to read. “You can-



Jamila Johnson completed her degree in healthcare administration using JSU’s online program. Although Johnson said she had doubts that she would finish college she relishes in the fact that she never gave up. PHOTO BY JARVIS VISUALS

not find humanity in a text message or on Google,” she said to applause. “You will find information, but it won’t teach you how to love each other.”

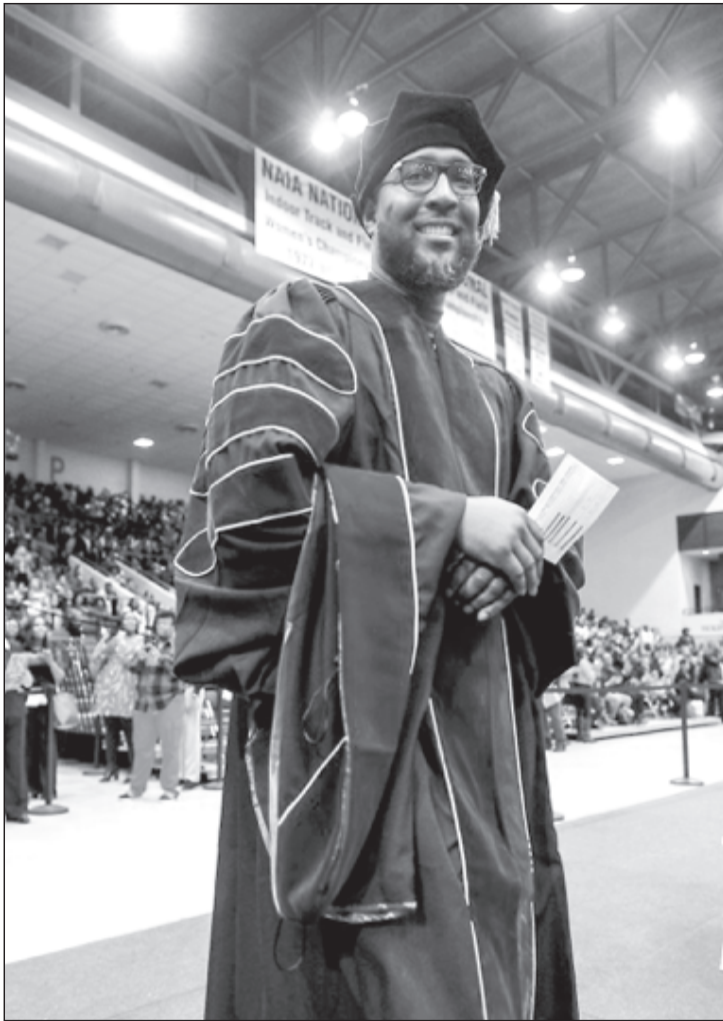
Of the graduates’ milestone, Stewart said the day has come for them to be professionals and examples for their siblings. Making their parents swell with pride and holding their heads up in job interviews are things Stewart said should be celebrated because “you know you’re qualified. You have gone through the fire.”

Before closing, Stewart reflected on the time she spent with her great grandpapa Dallas who lived to be 107 years old. As a child, the dean explained that it was her job to stay within earshot of Papa Dallas as he sat on the porch, due to his blindness.

Not at all limited by his disability, her great grandfather could tell who was coming by the sound their footsteps made on the dirt road, Stewart said. He also, she shared, had a penchant for predicting what youth



Dr. William B. Bynum Jr. extended greetings to the class of 2019 and offered words of encouragement with gusto before commanding graduates to move their tassels representing the completion of their academic journey at the HBCU.



Arron Richardson, an employee at JSU, received his Ph.D. in urban higher education



Friday, Dec. 6, graduates were all smiles as they closed one chapter in their lives and prepared for the next at Jackson State University’s winter commencement ceremony. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH

would be when they grew up i.e., preachers and nurses.

“Papa Dallas” had scars around his eyes and would occasionally wear shades, Stewart said. Curious about the loss of his eyesight, she asked Papa Dallas what happened. After requesting that his great-granddaughter retrieve the Bible, he explained that he was born into slavery.

“That very book I always wanted to learn to read, but in my day, it was against the law for us color folks to read and write,” Stewart said Papa Dallas told her.

He said that he would hide and attempt to learn the alphabet, so he could one day read the Bible. However, Stewart continued, the overseer caught Papa Dallas and dragged him out to the plantation to make an example of him in front of the other field hands.

The overseer whipped Papa Dallas and then burned his eyes

out, Stewart told the enthralled graduates who listened intently.

The keynote speaker said she cried and apologized to her great grandfather repeatedly, but he told her:

“Don’t cry for me because without eyes, I can see further than those with eyes. I want you to promise me something. Promise me from this day on you will read every book you can. This day on, you will go all the way through school. Ain’t nobody gone burn your eyes out for learning today. Promise me one more thing that you will tell all the children my story.”

Many graduates like Seynabou Seck, 24, expressed how moved they were by Stewart’s address and their elation over having completed their journey to graduation. “She hit on a lot of important notes,” said Seck, who received a B.A. in accounting.

Born in Bronx, New York, to Senegalese parents, Seck

agreed with Stewart that a degree should not place individuals on a pedestal. “It’s something you use to help other people get to where you’re at. A lot of people needed to hear that,” she explained. “A lot of people feel like they’re better than other people just because they have something that others don’t. That’s not how it’s supposed to be. We’re supposed to help others and get through life together.”

Although commencement was nerve-racking, said Seck, she was also happy to share the moment with her loved ones. “I was excited. It was everything I hoped it would be.”

Currently working part time for the Mississippi Department of Health, the newly cemented alumna will shift to full time as an accounting auditor. She also says she is applying to the graduate program at Jackson State.

“It’s a family environment. I met a lot of different people and joined various organizations. It was a great opportunity, and I enjoyed it,” said Seck. “I recommend it to everyone. I tell all my cousins if they don’t want to leave the state to stay here and go to Jackson State.”

Canton, Mississippi, native Jamila Johnson, transferred to JSU from USM after taking a year off. “I did a traditional year at JSU and then switched to the online program,” she explained.

Taking classes online allowed Johnson to move to Texas and land a position as an EEG technician. “I do brainwave studies for people who have strokes and seizures,” said Johnson, who now has a degree in health care administration. She expressed her desire to eventually be an administrator in a dental office.

Initially, Johnson disclosed, she never thought she would make it this far. “I thought I was not going to go back to school, but I did go back, and I made it,” she said, calling graduation the best day of her life.

Johnson’s advice to others: “Don’t give up. It doesn’t matter when you finish as long as you finish. Stay motivated. Keep God first, and when it’s your time, it’s your time. Always remember that.”

Arron Richardson, assistant director for disability services in the Division of Student Affairs, was one of several JSU staff members to walk the commencement stage. Richardson received his Ph.D. in urban higher education.

“My journey here at Jackson State University has been nothing short of amazing. God has truly ordered my steps, and I thank him often for his grace and mercy,” said Richardson, in a tone rich with sincerity.

He thanked his immediate supervisor, Dr. Laquala Coleman, and Dr. Susan Powell, vice president of student affairs, for their support. Richardson then references a 10-year challenge making the rounds on social media. Describing the last decade as noteworthy, he chronicles his time at JSU, starting out as a conditional status admit in the special education program to working in various positions of leadership at the HBCU.

“I can add newly minted Doctor of Philosophy to many other accomplishments during my 10-year span at Jackson State University,” he said. “See, it’s not about how you start or where you start or even what you don’t have when you start; it’s about starting every day on time and finishing today better than you did yesterday.”

Youth Waterfowl Camp applications now available

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. are proud to announce the opening of applications for the 2020 Youth Waterfowl Hunting and Education Camp.

The camp's mission is to recruit and retain waterfowl hunters and increase support for wetland conservation and waterfowl hunting in Mississippi. This camp is much more than a waterfowl hunt.

Youth ages 13-16 will increase their knowledge of waterfowl biology and wetland management. Classroom discussions and field activities led by biologists and other wildlife professionals will help students gain a better understanding of wetlands, waterfowl and the role of hunting in

conservation.

In addition, local field trips to public lands will expose youth to the diversity of wetland habitats used by waterfowl during winter in Mississippi. Other activities will include shooting instruction and safety training, as well as an optional adult-supervised waterfowl hunt for camp participants under the age of 16.

The camp will be held in the Mississippi Delta at Leroy Percy State Park and Muscadine Farms Wildlife Management Area from February 6-9, 2020. Youth ages 13-16 are encouraged to apply; however, only youth under the age of 16 will be eligible to participate in the waterfowl hunt. Prior hunting experience is not required.

Because of limited space, only 15 youth will be selected

based on applicant essays.

To apply, youth should complete an application found online at mdwfp.com/waterfowl under "Youth Waterfowl Camp." The deadline for applications is December 26, 2019 at 12 p.m. All applications will be ranked by the content of the essays, and youth will be notified if they were selected for the camp soon after applications are closed.

For more information about the camp, contact Houston Havens at 601 432-2196 or Houston.Havens@wfp.ms.gov.

For more information regarding waterfowl in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl or call 601 432-2199. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

MDHS program brings year-round holiday cheer to thousands of Mississippians

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The holiday season will be a little bit brighter for thousands of aging Mississippians thanks to a program offered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

The Home Delivered Meals program (HDM), made possible by the Older Americans Act of 1965, provides eligible homebound, functionally impaired persons, particularly those in greatest economic and social need, five nutritious meals per week. Through the program, 125,000 meals are delivered each month to 7,073 homes across the state.

The meals are delivered by drivers with Trio Food Services, who develop relationships with the beneficiaries and are therefore an invaluable asset, according to Mark Williamson, director of the MDHS Division of Aging and Adult Services.

"The drivers get to know the recipients, and in turn the recipients get to know and trust them," he said. "This enables drivers to identify if something is wrong with the recipients and report that, which is a very valuable resource for us."

MDHS Executive Director Christopher Freeze said pro-

viding services such as Home Delivered Meals to our aging population is not only valuable, but the right thing to do.

"Many of the individuals on this program aren't able to take care of themselves like they used to, and many may not otherwise know where their next meal would come from," Freeze said. "Our aging population spent their lives taking care of us. Now it's time for us to take care of them."

For more information and to apply for the Home Delivered Meals program, visit <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/adults-seniors/services-for-seniors/>.

Mississippi State Hospital Events

"We appreciate the generosity of all of our volunteer groups and the happiness they bring to the patients and residents during the holidays," said Sheila Shows, Volunteer Services director for the hospital.

Holiday festivities at MSH culminate on Santa Day, Dec. 20. An annual tradition, Santa Day is a day when community volunteers and leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa and deliver gift bags to each and every patient and resident.



Volunteers from South Liberty Missionary Baptist Church

Volunteers from South Liberty Missionary Baptist Church of Canton, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 14 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital. South Liberty Missionary Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



Volunteers from Shady Grove Baptist Church

Volunteers from Shady Grove Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 14 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital. Shady Grove Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



New Hope Laymen's Ministry

Volunteers from New Hope Laymen's Ministry of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 14 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital. New Hope Laymen's Ministry is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



Volunteers from Fairview Missionary Baptist Church

Volunteers from Fairview Missionary Baptist Church of Canton, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 14 to provide food, fun and joy for patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital. Fairview Missionary Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities for over 600 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.



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While voters watch ‘Impeachathon’, Democrats remain silent or complicit on key elements of Trump agenda

TriceEdneyWire.com

“Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and our hearts full of love for America, today, I am asking our chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment...” – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

“I support the decision of the National Assembly, Venezuela’s sole remaining democratic institution, to recognize Juan Guaidó, ... as the interim president until full, fair and free elections can be held...” – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, House Democrats were set to vote on articles of impeachment against America’s 45th president; then send the case to the Senate for trial. Trump will join the infamous list of Nixon and Clinton becoming the third American president to be impeached.

In my opinion, Trump is guilty as sin. He should be impeached, convicted by the Senate and removed from office. The problem is that in this current landscape of tribalized hyper-partisan politics, he won’t be convicted in the Senate.

House Democrats put together a very strong circumstantial case. Attorneys will tell you in a court of law that circumstantial evidence can be more damning at times than direct evidence. But this is not a court of law. This is the court of public opinion. In the court of partisan public opinion, you must be clear, real clear.

Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) has publicly admitted to stacking the deck. According to McConnell, “Everything I do during this, I’m coordinating with the White House counsel...There will be no difference between the president’s position and our position as to how to handle this to



President Donald J. Trump talks to members of the press on the South Lawn of the White House as he was about to become only the third president in U. S. history to be impeached. The other two were presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton; both of whom were later acquitted by the Senate. PHOTO: JOYCE N. BOGHOSIAN/THE WHITE HOUSE

the extent that we can.”

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) who told us in 2016 that Trump is “...a race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot. He doesn’t represent my party. He doesn’t represent the values that the men and women in uniform are fighting for...I think he’s crazy. I think he’s unfit for office...”, will now defend Trump with his last breath. Since Graham could not become commander-in-chief, he became hypocrite-in-chief.

So, House Democrats have spent weeks with televised congressional hearings. But to what end? It will not yield the desired result and could possibly provide Trump with the 2020 campaign talking point, “I was exonerated by the Senate, the call was perfect.”

So, here’s my point. While most Americans were dozing in and out of the “impeacha-

thon,” House Democrats were supporting Trump actions and passing legislation to support the broader bipartisan neo-liberal agenda. America slept like the Whos in Whoville in the Grinch Stole Christmas.

The socialist government of Bolivian, President Evo Morales, was overthrown by a U.S. backed coup after Morales narrowly won a fourth presidential term in late October. According to Jacobin, “Bolivia is currently ruled by an unelected president, Jeanine Áñez, whose government is now responsible for nearly two dozen deaths and hundreds of injuries after Evo Morales’s overthrow.”

Senator Elizabeth Warren supports this U.S. backed attack on Bolivian democracy: “The Bolivian people deserve free and fair elections, as soon as possible...Bolivia’s interim leadership must limit itself to

preparing for an early, legitimate election.”

She continues, “Maduro is a dictator and a crook who has wrecked his country’s economy, dismantled its democratic institutions and profited while his people suffer...” Ahh, senator, the elections were free, fair and legitimate, just not to the liking of U.S. imperialists such as yourself. To his credit, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) remains the only 2020 Democratic presidential contender to condemn Morales’ ouster.

Two weeks ago, Warren stated a similar position on the U.S. backed coup in Venezuela: “Start with the fact that Maduro is obviously a dictator, he’s terrible, he’s stolen this election, it’s a nightmare for the people of Venezuela.”

The problem is Maduro is overwhelmingly backed by the Venezuelan people. Also,

only three Democrats – Reps. Ro Khanna, Tulsi Gabbard, and Sen. Bernie Sanders have spoken out against the coup. Democratic leadership is pro-democracy in the U.S. and opposed to it every place else in the world. Especially if it means that we will not be able to exploit the labor and natural resources in the countries where it is being practiced.

Last week 188 House Democrats joined the Republican caucus and passed the sweeping \$738 billion military spending bill or 2020 NDAA. It includes funding for the Space Force as a sixth armed service and increases the Pentagon budget by \$22 billion. Most House Democrats backed this obscene giveaway to the president after his ungodly \$1.5T tax cut and after his administration introduced three proposals that would cut about 2.2 million U.S. households, or almost 4 million people, from the food stamp program, while also reducing benefits for another 3.1 million households. He has also proposed Social Security changes that could end disability benefits for hundreds of thousands and the Democrats are silent.

In passing the NDAA the House Democrats agreed to keep Guantanamo Bay open, remove the bipartisan amendment to stop the war in Yemen and the bipartisan amendment to stop an unauthorized, offensive war against Iran. Only 41 Democrats, voted against the NDAA. The “Squad” (Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan) and Barbara Lee did not, while most of the CBC voted in favor of it (as usual).

Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.),

chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, hailed the measure as “the most progressive defense bill we have passed in decades.”

Finally, Democrats proudly announced that they passed the USMCA, the revision of the NAFTA trade deal with Canada and Mexico, which had been stalled on Capitol Hill. We are still awaiting the final analysis on this, but it looks like American labor loses and big pharmaceuticals, again.

Democratic leadership tell us that they are morally obligated to move forward with impeaching the 45th president. They claim to be protecting the Republic and democracy as they should. Afterall, the mastermind behind Trump’s nationalist ideology, Stephen K. Bannon, told us clearly the White House is digging in for a long period of conflict to transform Washington and upend the world order by deconstructing the administrative state.

Protecting democracy? Elitist Democrats are working with the administration and neo-cons to cut taxes for the wealthy and perpetuate the military industrial complex. They are far from liberal. By implementing tax cuts on the backs of the poor and working-class they have capitulated to the neo-cons and are implementing neo-liberal policies. That’s a frightening America.

Dr. Wilmer Leon is the producer/host of the nationally broadcast talk radio program “Inside the Issues” on SiriusXM Satellite radio channel 126. Go to www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com. www.twitter.com/drwlleon and Dr. Leon’s Prescription at Facebook.com

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Report: Police killings are a leading cause of death of black men

TriceEdneyWire.com

Police violence is a leading cause of death among young men, especially young black men, according to a scientific report published recently.

The study, which looked at police use of force, found that black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than white men.

“Our models predict that 1 in 1,000 black men and boys will be killed by police over the life course,” the report said.

The report titled “Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity and sex” reported that 1 in every 1,000 black men can be expected to be killed by police. In 2018, police killed 1,018 people, not all of them black men, according to the database “People Killed by Police.”

The report is contained in the August 20, 2019, issue of the Proceedings of the National Acad-



Blacks killed by police banner

emy of Sciences of the United States or America (PNAS).

“Police in the United States kill far more people than do police in other advanced countries industrial democracies,” PNAS reported.

The report listed the names of black victims of police violence. The are: Oscar Grant, Michael Brown, Charleena Lyles, Stephon Clark and Tamir Rice and many others who have been murdered by the police.

The killings have sparked protests, and the U.S. Attorney General William Barr angrily reacted.

Recently, at an awards ceremony in Washington honoring policing, Barr warned that critics

of policing must display more deference or risk losing police protection.

The PNAS report challenged the widely accepted belief promoted by corporate media that more murders of young black men were committed by other young black men but in reality it’s the police who are killing large numbers of black men.

The murders also affect black men’s mental health and reinforce inequality in society between blacks and whites, according to *The Lancet*, a peer-reviewed medical journal. In a report titled “Police killings and their spillover effects on the mental health of black Americans: a population-based, quasi-experimental study,” it was reported that police killings of black men affects the mental health of people not directly affected.

“Our estimates therefore suggest that the population mental

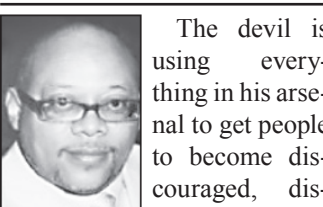
health burden from police killings among black Americans is nearly as large as the mental health burden associated with diabetes,” *Lancet* wrote.

“Violent encounters with the police have profound effects on health, neighborhoods, life changes and politics. Policing plays a key role in maintaining structural inequalities between people of color and white people in the United States,” the study reported. “Our results show that people of color face a higher likelihood of being killed by police than do white men and women, that risk peaks in young adulthood, and that young men of color face a nontrivial lifetime risk of being killed by the police.”

PNAS researchers from Rutgers University, Washington University and the University of Michigan estimated the risk of being killed by race and sex using data from 2013 to 2018.

The important things in life

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



The devil is using everything in his arsenal to get people to become discouraged, disappointed and down-and-out. Why is he using all these tactics? He does not have much time left. He knows that, so he is using everything he can to work from within. If you become overloaded with the things of this old world, you will scale back on spiritual things, the things that are truly important in life. The devil does not want you to see that tactic. You need to priori-

tize what is important in your life. God has given you reasoning and thinking skills so that you can think about what is important and what is not important. The devil wants you to get entangled with the cares of life, and he says, “You know you have to get this and that done.” Is that truly important in the light of what God wants you to do? There might be somebody that you need to call and have prayer with over the phone. There might be someone that you need to visit. Those are things that will make you grow spiritually; but if you become overloaded, you will not be able to give your efforts to help

others. You can become too busy. We are living in a busy society. People have become overloaded with their jobs, working around the home, grocery shopping, paying bills and staying in their own little world, so to speak. However, the point of life is learning to love and get along with others and God. We read in Luke 18:18, “And a certain ruler asked Him, saying ‘Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’” Jesus told him about obeying what we call the basics of being a Child of God. Jesus already knew his hang-ups. Likewise, Jesus knows our hang-ups.

Jesus did not have to go down through a list, just as He did not have to spell out to Nicodemus what he needed to do. Nicodemus should have known what he needed to do, but Jesus hammered the point, “Ye must be born again.” Nicodemus said, in so many words, “How can I enter my mother’s womb and be born again, Jesus?” Jesus said, “Ye must be born again.” When He said that, I am sure the Holy Spirit was working on Nicodemus. *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 The King is coming


By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



I wrote this column a few years ago but in re-reading it, I see that the words still apply to things going on currently in our world. Christmas has always been one of my favorite times of year. I like the overall good mood most people are in and love hearing Christmas music nearly everywhere I go. Even as a child, I think that the emotion that best described how I saw Christmas was anticipation. As a kid, I anticipated the joy of getting gifts. Now I anticipate the joy of giving gifts.

Even though I like gifts (getting and giving), another thing I like about the Christmas season is the celebration of Advent, the centuries old tradition that uses the four weeks before Christmas as a time of focused preparation of Christ’s birth. Since I wasn’t raised a methodist, it took me a few years when I became a member of a methodist church in Dallas to fully understand the importance of Advent. As the candles and podium coverings colors changed each week, it seemed to shift the focus from gift shopping to creating an eagerness about Christ’s birth. Maybe I’m homesick for my former church home, but for some reason this year I find myself thinking more and more about seeing the weeks before Christmas differently. Or maybe it is the chaotic political situations in the United States right now. So much now seems turned upside down with some Christians proudly supporting politicians who have either admitted to or have been accused of ungodly behavior and attitudes. As

disappointing as it is that some Christians are supporting these obviously un-Christlike men and women, it’s an even greater disappointment that the most hateful racist and sexist remarks are being made during this season of the anticipation of the birth of Christ. It’s obvious that these actions go against the teachings of love and a compassion Christ. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 warns about what appears to be happening right now with these “Christians.” For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine and accurate instruction [that challenges them with God’s truth]; but wanting to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires and to support the errors they hold, and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths and man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable] (Amplified). The sad part is that some Christians are so deceived that they either do not realize or care about the irony of the timing. So, as we have about a week left before Christmas, imagine how things would be if instead of focusing on shopping for gifts for people that we may or may not like or politics, we spent time focusing on celebrating the anticipation, hope, joy and love found in the birth of Jesus Christ. *Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*




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No one is above the law

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



It makes me sad to watch impeachment hearings against Donald Trump. I think about how much some people have done to make this country great. For many Americans, the country has never come close to being great, so to have Trump and his supporters run around with caps that say, “Make America Great Again” is such an insult to those of us who’ve been cheated, who’ve had their land stolen, whose relatives have been lynched, who’ve never had a fair chance to enjoy even the basics of life.

I have watched hour after hour of testimony that tells us shameful things about those who’re elected or appointed to serve our country. The more I watch, the worse I feel about the future of our country. I wonder what it is that causes people like Senators Lindsay Graham and Ted Cruz, as well as Representatives Doug Collins, Jim Jordan, Matt Gaetz, Louie Gohmert and a few others, to show such disdain for the truth.

The loyalty to the Republican Party instead of to our country is shameful. The name calling by the so-called leader of the free world is outrageous. When their children and grandchildren look at their performance years from now, what will they think? Will they disavow their fathers, grandfathers and a few mothers and grandmothers like Debbie Lesko and Martha Roby?

I look at hard working people who do their jobs, who tell the truth, who try to make this a better world for their families and for all, and they have to listen to Republican garbage hour after hour making a spectacle of themselves with their clownish behavior.

Our elections are sacred – especially for those who for so long have been denied those fair rights. Just a few days ago only one Republican voted to restore the Voting Rights Act.

We have a president who questions every institution that we have worked hard to make America live up to her promises to all, a president who so easily threatens our national security, who obstructs Congress from doing its job and who takes joy in abusing his power. He violates his own oath of office while choosing to support Russia. He even rubs it in our faces by twice bringing Russian officials to the people’s White House. He’s referred to the FBI as scum. He called on the Russians to find Senator Hillary Clinton’s e-mails.

Trump is again trying to cheat his way back into office after embarrassing us around the world with his lewd behavior. He’s compromised our security so many times. He has seriously diminished our standing in the world, and yet, Members of Congress can argue to allow him to continue his abuse of power. His childish and autocratic behavior deserve impeachment and removal from office. Yet, Graham tells us he’s not even going to look at the evidence. When Senator John McCain was alive, he kept Graham within the realm of respectability, but now, most of us are seeing a very different person.

Much evidence has piled up to give the American people reasons for getting this man, and a lot of his supporters, out of office. There can be no plausible reason for Republicans to behave as they are behaving when everyday they witness such egregious behavior.

It’s okay to label me a “Never Trumper.” I didn’t vote for him and cannot understand those who did. The reason the Republicans don’t want to listen to witnesses and have a real trial is that they have no defense. If this president’s behavior since his entry into the race, is not impeachable, we might as well stop claiming to be a democracy.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. (www.nationalcongressbw.org). She’s also host of WPFW.FM 89.3’s “Wake Up and Stay Woke.”

NJ anti-Semitic shootings are part of a horrifying spike in hate crime that demands our action

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



“If this incident was motivated by hate, which news reports indicate, then this is another incident in a long line of violent incidents targeting the Jewish community. This hatred is a disease and right now we are experiencing an epidemic. Leaders must lead and call out hate wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head – regardless of politics. This is about principle.” – Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director, Anti-Defamation League

For the third time in just over a year, the nation is reeling in the face of a deadly mass shooting that appears to have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

Earlier this week, a man and woman killed a police detective near a Jersey City cemetery and then stormed a nearby Jewish market, shooting and killing three people there. The two were killed in a subsequent shootout with police.

The suspects have been linked to a religious sect that includes factions designated as anti-Semitic hate groups. In the stolen van they were driving, investigators found a note that contained anti-Semitic and anti-police sentiments. Similar sentiments were found in social media posts linked to the suspects.

In April of this year, a gunman opened fire in a San Diego synagogue on the last day of Passover, killing a 60-year-old woman and wounding three other people, including a rabbi and an 8-year-old girl.

Shortly before the attack, the gunman posted an anti-Semitic and racist manifesto on social media, citing conspiracy theories, expressing admiration for the gunmen who perpetrated the anti-Muslim killings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Six months earlier, in Pittsburgh, 11 people were killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue. That shooter, too, deeply enmeshed in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories on social media.

These acts are part of a horrifying three-year trend that has coincided with a spike in

course and heated racial rhetoric in political discourse. It is one that demands action on several fronts, including gun policy, moderation of social media terms of service, and a sweeping reexamination of racial and religious intolerance.

As a child of the Civil Rights Movement and the leader of the nation’s largest racial justice organization, I have witnessed the recent rise of white nationalism with equal parts dismay and a sickening sense of familiarity. Our nation’s history is sullied with racial and religious intolerance and violence. What has sustained us, as famously expressed by Martin Luther King Jr., is that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

In this particular period of history, the arc seems especially long. Leaked emails recently revealed that one of the President’s closest advisors, Stephen Miller, has cited and promoted white nationalist ideologies and conspiracy theories about “white genocide,” the criminality of immigrants, and the reviled eugenics movement. Congressional response to the emails has been almost nonexistent.

Meanwhile, personal attacks motivated by bias or prejudice reached a 16-year high last year, according to the F.B.I.

More than 4,300 attacks on people, motivated by racial or religious hatred, were recorded by the FBI. State and local police forces are not required to report hate crimes to the F.B.I., and as many as half the victims of hate crimes never file a report, so the actual number of hate-fueled assaults is significantly higher than the official record.

Lately it seems that the atrocities and outrages of racism and intolerance are falling too fast and too frequently to respond appropriately. But we must not lose sight of our ideals as Americans – as brothers and sisters and parents and neighbors – to love and protect one another. Let your elected representatives know that these incidents call for responsible gun reform, holding social media companies accountable for dissemination of hate speech, and a moderation of their public rhetoric. And join us in our prayers for the victims and their families.

President Trump’s war on the poor

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



Donald Trump is famed for his head-snapping reversals. One day he’s taking troops out of the Middle East; the next he’s sending more in. One day he’s on the verge of an agreement with China on trade; the next he’s tweeting about holding off until after the election.

On one thing, however, Trump and his administration have been clear, consistent, coordinated and relentless: waging a war on the poor. Not a war on poverty but a war on the most vulnerable themselves. Despite low unemployment, millions of Americans – the Brookings Institution estimates an astounding 44 percent of all workers in the prime working ages of 18-64 – struggle to get by on median wages of little over \$10 an hour or \$18,000 a year.

The working poor face soaring costs of housing, health care, transportation, utilities and, of course, debt – all rising faster than their wages. The official “poverty rate” is far lower than any accounting of the true needs of a family. The National Center for Children in Poverty estimates that the average family needs about twice as much income as the poverty level to meet basic needs. Cruelly, the Trump response to this is to make it worse.

The administration and Repub-

licans in Congress oppose raising the minimum wage and won’t even allow a vote on it in the Senate. Now the administration proposes lowering the poverty line over time by pegging the inflation adjustments lower than the actual increase in costs. All programs that help low-wage workers would be affected. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projects that 250,000 seniors would get less help in purchasing prescription drugs, 300,000 children would lose health care under the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This rule combined with others that the administration has imposed will cost literally millions of low-wage workers to face cutbacks in food assistance. Student loan debt is now \$1.5 trillion, primarily loans taken out by the children of middle- or low-income families trying to better themselves through education.

Bernie Sanders, running for president, has pledged to eliminate all student debt, paying for it with taxes on the wealthy, and to make all public colleges tuition free. Elizabeth Warren has joined in a plan to eliminate the debt for most students and make colleges tuition free. Trump is reportedly worried that these plans are very popular. His administration is scrambling to respond.

One proposal, as the *Washington Post* reported, is to cap the loans a student could get in relation to their projected income. That’s

right, the Trump plan may call for reducing student debt by cutting the availability of loans to students – effectively closing the doors to college to the children of middle- and low-income families. Add to this Trump’s most recent plan to take \$2 billion out of the Pell Grant program – which supports college grants to children from families with less than \$50,000 in income – to pay for sending NASA back to the moon. The maximum Pell Grant once covered nearly 80% of the cost of tuition, fees, room and board at public four-year college; now it covers less than 30 percent.

This is a program that needs more funding, not less. Trump, of course, brags on his economy and the low unemployment. He argues – without evidence – that his tax cut is trickling down to workers. What he doesn’t realize is that this economy continues to generate jobs that won’t support a family. That’s why so-called poverty programs – from CHIP to food stamps to public housing to low income heating assistance to Medicaid – are so necessary. They give vital support to low-wage workers who do some of the hardest, most taxing jobs in our country. Cuts in student aid, cuts in Pell grants, cuts in food stamps, cuts in the poverty level – Trump is putting low wage workers and their families in a box with no way out except down.

Our country is paying a very high price for this meanness.

Pots and kettles - Republican hypocrisy and double-talk

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



When you elect a clown, expect a circus, and this month’s impeachment hearings have been precisely that. Yelling, shouting

and disrespectful accusing seem more the rule than the exception. The increased volume of Trump’s tweets echoes his fear and discomfort because he has been called out.

Republican histrionics and obsession with “process” suggest that Trump’s party is not especially interested in facts. Even the falsehood that Democrats have been “out to get” this President since he was elected is outright wrong. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to the impeachment conclusion only reluctantly.

And Democrats have been very measured in their accusations. While Trump has only been charged with two “high crimes and misdemeanors,” if Democrats wanted to throw the book at the criminal-in-chief, they could have detailed multiple “high crimes and misdemeanors.” Instead, they’ve kept it narrowly focused on Trump’s behavior regarding Ukraine. Democrats have shown admirable restraint, while Republican shouting and deflecting could be the basis of a comedy show if the matter weren’t so serious.

And every time some of these folks speak, they illustrate their hypocrisy. Thus, Florida Congressman Matt Goetz launched into a tirade about Hunter Biden’s very candid disclosure of his substance abuse challenges, some of which are detailed in a *New Yorker* article this summer.

But Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson had no time for Goetz, saying that Goetz’s attack on Biden was like “the pot calling the kettle black). Goetz was charged with a DUI some years ago. The charges were mysteriously dropped, but there is evidence that Goetz was impaired.

Meanwhile, Hunter Biden has never been arrested or charged with any of his substance abuse challenges. Goetz’s attack on Hunter Biden is not the only example of Republican hypocrisy and improper behavior. These impeachment hearings show how far Republicans will go to obfuscate Trump’s behavior and to throw mud at Democrats.

While Republicans are throwing mud at Hunter Biden, no one has asked for any investigation of the Trump family. Ivanka has used her father’s influence to gain coveted trademarks in China. Her brothers have used government resources and their father’s influence to feather their nest in establishing new Trump properties all over the world. While I’m not condoning Hunter Biden’s possible pecuniary use of his father’s status, none of us should be happy about the way our government has subsidized the Trump empire.

In another example, Melania Trump got outraged and agitated because one of the Democratic legal witnesses, Stanford Law Professor Pamela Karlan, made an inappropriate joke about her son, Barron Trump. The professor said that while Trump could name his son Barron, he could not make him a baron, an attack on the autocratic power that Trump attempts to wield. One might have thought that the professor had attacked the child or ridiculed him. She didn’t. She made a clumsy joke and was

so roundly criticized for it. And she apologized.

Melania “Be Best” Trump played mama bear for her teen-aged son. Yet, she seemed to have no words for another teen, Greta Thunberg, who was *Time Magazine’s* Person of the Year. Thunberg, who describes herself as “on the autism spectrum” with Asperger’s syndrome, was lifted because of her advocacy for the planet. *Time* says the young lady won the award “for sounding the alarm about humanity’s predatory relationship with the only home we have, for bringing to a fragmented world a voice that transcends backgrounds and borders, for showing us all what it might look like when a new generation leads.” But Trump doesn’t believe in global warming or climate change, so he ridiculed the young woman in one of his many rude and bullying tweets. And Melania thinks that only her son should be protected from bullying. The pot and the kettle. If she wants to call bullies out, she might start with her husband.

There have been accusations, finger-pointing, anger, and deflection during these impeachment hearings. Republicans have shown that they have taken an oath, not to protect the Constitution, but to protect Trump. As Republicans march lockstep behind a corrupt president, Congressman Hank Johnson has it right. The “pot really can’t call the kettle black.”

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

Dentistry alumnus to sponsor effort to treat children during Give Kids a Smile

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Lake Garner, a 1996 alumnus of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, is giving back in a big way to his school and the community it serves.

Beginning in February, Garner is committing \$20,000 a year to help dental students and faculty members provide free treatment for elementary students in the Jackson Public School district. This will mark the 14th year of Give Kids a Smile, which makes up one day of the school’s annual Dental Mission Week.

The American Dental Association began the national Give Kids a Smile program in 2003 as a way for dentists to join with the community to provide dental services to underserved children.

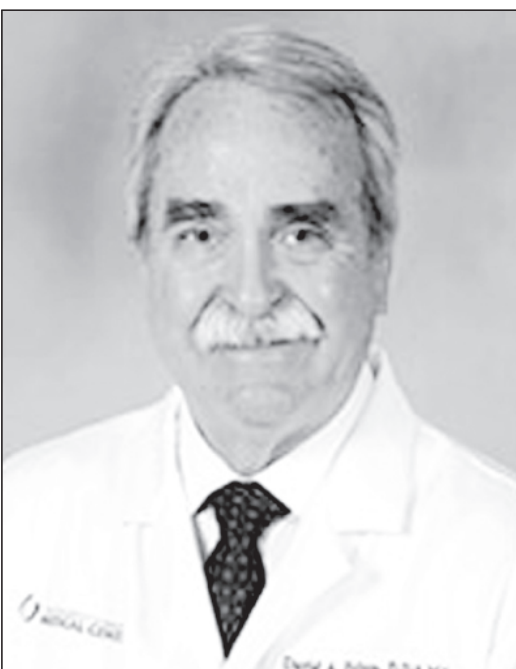
In 2017, the School of Dentistry incorporated Give Kids a Smile into a new, weeklong effort providing care to underserved and uninsured adults and veterans from across the state. In its third year, students and faculty treated more than 1,300 – nearly 400 of them children – during Dental Mission Week.

“Throughout my career, I have treated a great amount of children, and adults, who were not given access to proper dental care early on,” Garner, the chief executive officer of Garner Dental Group, said. “To achieve a lifelong health smile, children must understand the importance of good oral hygiene and be offered the opportunity to achieve such at an early age. Every child deserves the chance at a healthy smile.”

Hattiesburg-based Garner Dental Group operates 15 locations in Mississippi and one in Mobile, Alabama, and employs



Garner



Felton



Johnson Elementary student Darnell Gerald shows fourth year dental student Devin Stewart his brushing technique.

200 people.

Dr. David Felton, dean of the School of Dentistry, says Give Kids a Smile is an integral part of the school, and he is extremely grateful for Garner’s commitment to it.

“That Dr. Garner has stepped up to help sponsor GKAS enables the school to provide additional services to these children and help offset the expense associated with the week’s events,” Felton said. “We are extremely

grateful to Dr. Garner for his support of the GKAS program and of his support of the School of Dentistry. His visionary gift should set the bar for future giving to the School of Dentistry and our outreach programs.”

Understand your insurance coverage – prevent holiday mishaps

The Mississippi Link Newswire

This year, before family and friends gather to celebrate the season, take some time to review for potential holiday mishaps and understand how your insurance might apply.

To begin, avoid credit card and or identity theft.

- Credit card theft might be covered as part of your credit card contract.
- Standard homeowners insurance policies typically provide up to \$500 of coverage toward your legal obligation to pay your creditor. However, coverage is not provided if a family member, entrusted with the card, makes a purchase.

Update your home inventory to include expensive Christmas gifts such as new televisions, cameras, electronic equipment, jewelry, or art.

- Make sure you have documentation of these items and notify your agent if you think additional coverage may be required.
- A home inventory checklist can be found on the MID website at <http://www.mid.ms.gov/pdf/HomeInventoryChecklist.pdf>
- Don’t forget to add new furniture you may have purchased during the year.
- Keep a copy of your checklist online, on your phone, or give a duplicate copy to a trusted friend or attorney.

Make sure your automobile insurance covers you, if you’re planning to travel for the holiday

- If a family member is driving your car during an accident, what happens?
- Auto insurance coverage follows the vehicle, so your car will generally be covered while your relative is driving, the same as if you were driving.
- What if you loan your car to a family member and they get pulled over and ticketed?

Your automobile coverage will not be affected if another

driver is simply ticketed for a driving violation. However, if the person to whom you loaned the vehicle has an accident while intoxicated, the company might non-renew your policy or charge a higher premium.

- What if someone breaks your car’s window and steals gifts from the back seat while your car is parked and you’re away shopping?

A Standard homeowners and renter’s insurance policies provide coverage for this, subject to the policy deductible and coverage limits. Some automobile policies also provide coverage. If this happens to you, talk with your insurance agent or company to find out under which policy you should file your claim.

Keep your home and valuables safe.

- Make sure gifts aren’t visible from outside.
- Be careful about disposing of packages and boxes for new items.
- Make sure your home is well lit and put your lights on a timer.

But, what if your presents are stolen from under the Christmas tree in your living room?

- Standard homeowners insurance policies provide coverage subject to the deductible and special sublimits for certain goods, such as electronics and jewelry.
- For example, if the wrapped package was a \$300 gift card to an electronics store, there might only be \$200 coverage; if the package contained \$2,000 worth of jewelry or furs, there might only be \$1,500 coverage.
- Standard condominium and renter’s insurance policies provide similar coverage. Check your homeowners policy for specific sublimits.

More tips can be found on the Mississippi Insurance Department website at <http://www.mid.ms.gov/consumers/insure-holiday-mishaps.aspx>

How and why we age

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com

It saddens me (as I grow older myself) how many people are struggling with accepting old age. Much of our society is filled with folks, young and old, who see aging as a negative aspect of life. Our society discards those who have reached old age, and we are inundated with promises and potions that have us fixated on staying young.

We are programmed to die; aging is the outcome of this programming, and it is no secret that the human body changes over time. Both genetics and lifestyle play a huge role in how we age.

We all age (if we live long enough), but seldom do we think about the process that takes place that takes us from the vibrant, youthful and energetic creatures we used to be, to the sedentary and limited beings we become in old age.

There are those in the scientific and medical community who are advocating that aging should be treated as a disease. Aging is defined as the progressive accumulation of damage to your cells, tissues and organs, leading to disease and death. According to one study, this dreadful process starts at 24 years of age, at least for the brain; it could be a bit later.

Aging is nothing more than the natural wear and tear of the body’s component parts. It’s inevitable, and endlessly intriguing. While many age-related changes cannot be prevented, a lifestyle that includes exercise and a well-balanced diet will slow or minimize many problems related to aging.

As we age, our body’s organs and other systems make changes. These changes alter our susceptibility to various diseases. Researchers are just beginning to understand the processes that cause changes over time in our body systems. Understanding these processes is important because many of the effects of aging

are first noticed in our body systems.

No single process can explain all the changes of aging. Aging is a complex process that varies as to how it affects different people and even different organs. Most Gerontologists (people who study aging) feel that aging is due to the interaction of many lifelong influences. These influences include heredity, environment, culture, diet, exercise and leisure, past illnesses, and many other factors.

Since 1900, average U.S. life expectancy has risen from 47 to 79. A lot of those gains come from a lower infant-mortality rate: A century ago, 1-in-10 babies born in the U.S. died before age 1, while today that figure is 1-in-170. But longevity gains in later years have also been substantial.

Most people are scared, indeed, terrified of old age because they feel that aging is characterized by a progressive loss of essential body functions that they have learned to

take for granted over the years; for instance, loss of vision, hearing, teeth, memory, intelligence, sexual drive, muscle strength and vigor. However, it needs to be emphasized that you can become old healthily; remember that old age does not necessarily mean progressive deterioration or susceptibility to a plethora of ailments.

Fortunately, aging doesn’t have to be a downhill slide. Older people have the reputation of being more mature, experienced and thoughtful. Whether or not you become wiser as you grow older, you are likely to become farsighted for sure.

Farsightedness, one example of aging, is a change in vision that’s a normal part of aging. It is caused by a gradual hardening of the eye’s lens, which impairs your ability to see up close. Your optometrist may recommend a pair of non-prescription reading glasses or prescribe bifocals for you.

Never think of age as being anything but just a number.

There are some things in life we have no control over, such as when we were born. Age is no more than a circumstantial detail, like the color of your eyes, or the names of your parents; it does not define who you are. Aging is inevitable, growing old is avoidable. Expressed differently, one is never too young to be old or die, but one is never so aged as to become old.

If we live long enough, we will age. Just like the flowers, trees, bees and all other living species on earth. It is up to us to accept aging as another stage of the life cycle – nothing more. Too many of us become despondent, depressed and feel worthless. Just make the best of whatever you have to work with in old age. Remember, healthy aging is not just about preventing problems, it’s also about spotting them and addressing them before they get worse or drag down the rest of your health and independence.

Dying is not just an event that happens to us at the close of our lives. It is our purpose

for being. We begin to die the very day we are born and live all our life towards death. Sure, we may get sick as we age, but we can get sick at any stage of life. Illness and aging need not go hand in hand. If you take good care of your body in the “morning,” it will take good care of you in the “evening” of your life.

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

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

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics.

For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

LEGAL

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A deposit of \$50.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

12-19-2019, 12-26-2019

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
EDDIE CHARLES NELSON,
DECEASED

CAUSE #:19-1371-M

BY: Stephanie Nelson

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF EDDIE CHARLES NELSON, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Stephanie Nelson, Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of the Eddie Charles Nelson.


You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 8:30 o'clock a.m., on the 14th day of January, 2020, in the Chancery Courtroom of Rankin County, Mississippi, before Honorable John C. McLaurin and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 22nd day of November, 2019.

CHANCERY CLERK OF RANKIN COUNTY
Mississippi

LARRY SWALES
CHANCERY CLERK
BY Ben Hume D.C.



12-5-2019, 12-12-2019, 12-19-2019

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT


IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY TERRY WOODLEY, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2019-222 O/3

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS


Letters of Administration having been granted on June 4, 2019, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executrix upon the Estate of Shirley Terry Woodley, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, 2019,


Asya Lynn Woodley, Executrix

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Asya Lynn Woodley, Executrix for the Estate of Shirley Terry Woodley, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.


NOTARY

Damon Stevenson
Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC
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12-5-2019, 12-12-2019, 12-19-2019

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Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14				15				16	
17					18	19			
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS

 - 1. Make lace
 - 4. Hardest to find
 - 10. Goof
 - 11. Dodger
 - 12. Roman twelve
 - 13. Hang and swing freely
 - 14. Demand (2 wds.)
 - 16. Moose relative
 - 17. Prophet
 - 18. Possessive pronoun
 - 20. State of being
 - 22. Small particle
 - 26. College football conference (abbr.)
 - 29. Come about
 - 31. Plies
 - 33. Wrath
 - 34. Kleenex product
 - 35. Pot
 - 36. Mexican food brand
 - 37. Entrance rug
- DOWN

 - 1. American state
 - 2. Stand up
 - 3. Tricycle
 - 4. Make over
 - 5. Morning bell
 - 6. Desert
 - 7. Inch
 - 8. Exchange for money
 - 9. Star ____
 - 15. Last day of the wk.
 - 19. Shri! bark
 - 21. Raise one’s shoulders
 - 23. Drug
 - 24. ____ cotta (clay)
 - 25. Concerning
 - 26. Singing voice
 - 27. Festival
 - 28. Saclike structures filled with fluid or diseased matter
 - 30. Afloat
 - 32. Vane direction
- © Feature Exchange

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Paul Simon

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

X WTP YTKXQG XQ T VDXQYPY
E T LYPKTILTQK E JWQKJWQ T KDYL
WTP T EXPD VTRRYE OJKDYL TQE
V DXRE LYIQXJQ XK P VDXVHYQ
TQE YGGP TQE X PTXE X GJKKT
T PY KDTK JQY

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Crossword Solution

T	A	T		R	A	R	E	S	T
E	R	R		E	L	U	D	E	R
X	I	I		D	A	N	G	L	E
A	S	K	F	O	R		E	L	K
S	E	E	R		M	Y			
			I	S		I	O	T	A
A	F	C		H	A	P	P	E	N
L	A	Y	E	R	S		I	R	E
T	I	S	S	U	E			U	R
O	R	T	E	G	A			M	A

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

I WAS EATING IN A CHINESE
RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN. THERE
WAS A DISH CALLED MOTHER AND
CHILD REUNION. IT’S CHICKEN
AND EGGS. AND I SAID, I GOTTA
USE THAT ONE.
TPY KDTK JQY

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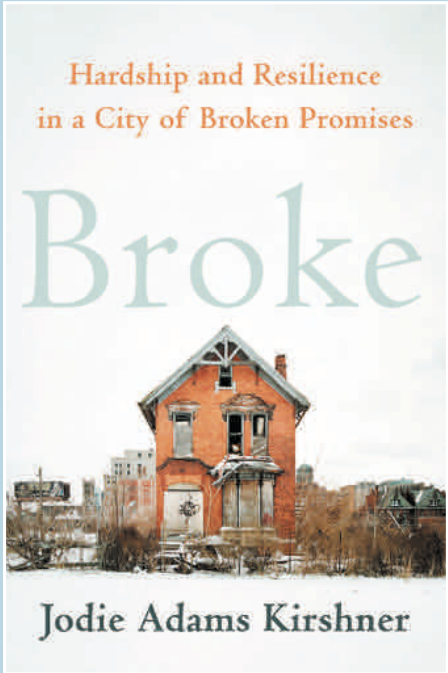
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





BOOK REVIEW:

BROKE: HARDSHIP AND RESILIENCE IN A CITY OF BROKEN PROMISES

BY JODIE ADAMS KIRSHNER,
FOREWORD BY MICHAEL ERIC DYSON
C.2019, ST. MARTIN’S PRESS
\$28.99 / \$38.50 CANADA • 342 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
And you know how that went for him. The Royal Soldiers and a bunch of ponies couldn’t help him and you can only imagine what happened next: as in the new book “Broke: Hardship and Resilience in a City of Broken Promises” by Jodie Adams Kirshner, everything got scrambled. In the years following the Great Recession of 2007, while everyone in America seemed to be shakily putting their financial futures in line again, the city of Detroit continued to struggle.

In certain areas of the city in which a majority of the population was African-American, houses were foreclosed upon in large numbers, then abandoned by residents who were forced out. Thieves removed plumbing, copper wire and anything else of value from uninhabited homes, and after they were gutted this way, houses were often inhabited by squatters and other displaced people, or a house fell apart, or was torched. Swimming upstream, Detroit declared bankruptcy in 2013. There were myriad reasons for

it, says Kirshner, but in March of that year, a controversially-appointed emergency manager was tasked with clearing up the situation. Things got worse: population declined; lack of jobs exacerbated the problem; tax issues caused headaches for officials and potential homeowners; and blight set in – sometimes, entire neighborhoods of it. In well-to-do areas, she says, taxes were lower and growth resumed. In the middle of all this, Kirshner followed seven people, to see how they fared. Miles, a 40-something black

man, wanted nothing more than to live quietly and repair houses, but a sketchy past wouldn’t go away. Charles, a 50-plus-year-old black man, steadfastly refused to give up his house, even when it was little more than a shell. Robin, a 40-something white developer, saw big opportunity to buy up real estate. Reggie, a mid-40sblack man, wanted a home to raise his two adopted children. Cindy, a white woman in her early sixties, tried to help her neighborhood, but failed; 50-something Joe came from New Jersey and made a difference; and college-educated

single mother Lola wanted a better life for her daughter... “Broke” is not a pleasant read for your holidays – but it’s a necessary one. It’s disheartening to watch author Jodie Adams Kirshner’s subjects struggle upright, only to be shoved back down again. Readers will cringe at the darned-if-you-do, darned-if-you-don’t scenarios each of them face; just seeing their lives put into words might make you feel exhausted, imagining the overwhelmingness of it all. Furthermore, bureaucracy sometimes leaves no exits and that’s

maddening – especially when Kirshner relates what happened in better-off neighborhoods and enclaves, schools and businesses, at the same time. And yet, this story is not sensationalized. Kirshner makes no overt villains here; the facts are laid out in plain terms that let you pick your own bad guys. There are also advice-like take-aways at the end, and usable ideas, though Detroit may be on the upswing. Still, according to this author and this book, it’s going to take awhile before things are all put together again.

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Members of the Tougaloo Class of 1967 celebrate Dec. birthdays



December birthday celebration by members of the Tougaloo Class of 1967 at Godfreys.



Carolyn Hayes Amerson (standing, right) was happy to share her December 7 birthday with classmates. PHOTOS BY OTHOR CAIN

By Othor Cain
Editor

The month of December is joyous for many reasons for most people, however, the Class of 1967 from Tougaloo College, has additional reasons to smile and spread holiday cheer. This class, who still call them selves the Golden Eagles, celebrate monthly class members' birthdays, but December proves to be extra special because they also celebrate the

birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The group gathered December 3 at Godfrey's Caribbean Restaurant for three group members' birthdays. The decorations were very festive and included all group members wearing hand-made head pieces to participate in a "name that Carol" game.

What's so unique about this group?

They communicate daily with

prayer, scripture sharing and blessing acknowledgements. "This is important as it keeps us grounded and bonded," said Carolyn Amerson, a classmate that resides in Jackson, Mississippi and one of the celebrated guest. "It feels good."

Though all classmates have retired from their original professions, many have taken on other projects and jobs that keep them involved in the community and their beloved

Tougaloo College. One classmate, Walter Davis is currently teaching at the historically black college.

Heavily involved in the faith-based community and various churches, these dedicated class members were all part of the civil rights era and have fond memories of their involvement in the movement. They make yearly group contributions and individual donations to their beloved alma mata.



Homemade desserts



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



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

To Qualify:

- * Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- * Family must reside in Hinds County
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****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)**
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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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2020 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV GT S-AWC



By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

The Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV has been the best-selling plug-in hybrid CUV in the world for the last two years. And it seems to have done so without a lot of fanfare in this country. Still, if gas mileage and contributing to clean air are a couple of items you'd like to contribute to the environment, then the Outlander PHEV might be right up your alley.

It was powered by a 2.0 liter four-cylinder gasoline engine that made 117 horsepower and 137 pound-feet of torque. But the plug-in Outlander also had two electric motors. The one on the front axle made 80 horsepower and 101 pound-feet of torque. The second motor made 80 horsepower and 144 pound-feet of torque.

This powertrain was mated to a no gearshift transmission. That's when

Mitsubishi called it. We saw one drive somewhere else. That may be what they call it, but it sounded like a continuously variable transmission to us. Technically, they don't shift gears but like some other automakers, our test vehicle had paddle shifters. Go figure. It also had a lithium-ion battery.

Our test vehicle had S-AWC. It means super all wheel control. The gasoline engine drives the front wheels. The axle has a built-in clutch that switches the Outlander for engine powered driving at high speeds. PHEV to parallel drive mode.

The series hybrid mode is engaged when the battery pack is low or when we needed additional power. The two electric motors were powered by the battery pack and the gasoline powered generator. That is the mode our test vehicle stayed in most of the time. Mitsubishi said the gasoline powered

engine/generator, while operating at enough speed, will feed excess electricity back into the lithium-ion battery pack.

All this technology lets the 2020 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV GT S-AWC that we tested drive in electric only mode for up to 22 miles. It got 74 MPGe or 25 mpg combined in gasoline only mode.

Then there is the charging. The Outlander PHEV can be charged with a 120-volt standard outlet in eight hours. Using a 240-volt line, it can be charged in four-hours. And get a DC Fast Charger and it will charge 80 percent of the battery in 25 minutes.

The vehicle is a technological wonder and it drives well too. When the battery is charged acceleration is exceptional – for a hybrid. There were three drive modes: normal, electric and it can be locked in four-wheel-drive.

The gear shifter was electronic. Nothing wrong with that but the park button was in front of the shifter. In other words, it was not easy to reach. And that to us is a no, no. Don't make any facet of a vehicle difficult for the driver to operate.

The interior of our tester was black. The seating surfaces were quilted leather. The polymer trim was made to look like carbon fiber that was stained dark brown with black intermixed. It really looked nice. We just wished they had carried the theme through to the back-seat area. The polymer on the door handles was black. Not that anyone would notice but we did.

Still, there was plenty of head and hip room in the back seat. Legroom was acceptable too. There was a moonroof and a good bit of cargo space with the backseats deployed.

This Outlander had two 110-volt

outlets. One was in the second row and the other was in the cargo area. And of course, it had a USB jack in the front in the area beneath the touch infotainment screen and there was another one in the back.

Safety features included adaptive cruise control, forward collision mitigation, blind spot warning with lane change assist and rearview camera with cross traffic alert. The Outlander's camera system also provided an overview and would scan around the car as a precautionary measure.

There were also the usual culprits, voice control, satellite radio, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, push lock and unlock as well as push button start and power front seats. And there was LED lighting all round.

The 2020 Mitsubishi Outlander GT S-AWC was packaged well for \$43,600 as tested.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Holiday greetings from the Superintendent of Schools

