



Black spending power demands corporations to show more love and support for black culture

TriceEdneyWire.com

African Americans want more for themselves and from corporate America, and they express it with their dollars as they move through the consumer journey, from brand awareness to purchase, as revealed recently in Nielsen’s 2019 Diverse Intelligence Series (DIS) Report on African Americans.

It’s in the Bag: Black Consumers’ Path to Purchase explores the non-linear and uniquely technologically driven road that African Americans follow to make purchasing decisions, which ultimately maximizes both online and in-person shopping options.

This path highlights several differences in shopping behavior and purchasing when compared to the total U.S. population. The report also includes deeper insights into how culture, socio-economics and business influences how, why and what motivates African-American spending in a special co-authored section by advocate and media commentator Angela Rye, CEO and principal of Impact Strategies.

“At 47.8 million strong and a buying power that’s on par with many countries’ gross domestic products, African Americans continue to outpace spending nationally,” said Cheryl Grace, Nielsen’s senior vice president of Community Alliances and



This Black Santa seen in CVS stores across the country is one way that corporations appear to try harder to reach African Americans and other consumers of color. But levels of active advertising with black media that reach black consumers remains disappointing.

Black Santa
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A Christmas Cantata



College Hill Cantata choir

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Music Ministry of College Hill Baptist Church presented a Christmas Cantata December 15 titled REJOICE! A Soulful Celebration of the Season. It was directed by Minister Andrew Lewis, director of Music.

The majority of the narration was done by Deaconess C. Denise Wright with additional narration by Deacon Gregory Anderson and Pastor Michael T. Williams.

Lewis said he was very pleased with the end result of the Cantata. “It was a lot of work for the music ministry including choir members and musicians,” he said.

He continued, “Everyone sacrificed a lot of their time for rehearsals and even though there were moments when we were not sure how it would

turn out, God worked it out.”

From his perspective, Lewis said there is so much talent among the members of College Hill. He was speaking of soloists, musicians and choir members having great voices.

Lewis became director of music July 2019. He grew up at College Hill but moved away for over 20 years. “Having been back for a short time, it is good to know we have such great talent from within.”

In addition to serving as director, Lewis played the piano. Other musicians included Ray Smith, organist; Tata Amos, electric bass; and Buford Staffney Jr., drummer.

Two students from Hinds Community College in Raymond, Elvin Lackey, percussionist and Raymond Young, saxophonist, were guest musi-

Cantata
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From our family to yours...Happy Holidays

By Othor Cain
Editor

The staff of *The Mississippi Link* held its annual Christmas luncheon at Godfry’s Caribbean Restaurant in South Jackson Dec. 20. During this amazing time of fellowship, where we enjoyed incredible food, staffers shared things they were grateful for and what they were looking forward to in the new year.

As a staff, we are looking forward to serving you and telling your stories in 2020, the year that is being billed as a year of clear vision.

May this holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter.



Publisher Jackie Hampton (center) with The Mississippi Link staff and photographers.



The Mississippi Link staff with restaurant owner/chef Godfry Morgan (center). PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter’s Salvation Army Angel Tree

Mississippi Link Newswire

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter indulged in the joy of giving during this holiday season.

This Christmas season the chapter adopted four Salvation Army Angel Tree angels, ages two to twelve years old. Chapter members filled the angels’ requests that included a variety of toys and clothing for each age group.

Alpha Delta Zeta is always honored to participate in the Salvation Army’s community projects because its mission aligns with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated’s National Initiative, Z-HOPE-Zetas Helping Other People Excel.



Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter member Amica Ashley Allen was a happy participant.





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2020 F-150



2020 EXPEDITION



2020 ESCAPE



Cantata

Continued from page 1

cians.

Soloists included Gregory Anderson, Evelia Campbell, Tara Walker, Rosie Davis and Danny Staffney, all members of the Combined Choir at College Hill. Jay Thompson joined the cantata as a guest soloist singing “Take Me to Jesus.”

The Cantata was held in the family life center and it was filled to capacity.

The College Hill family is looking forward to moving into their new sanctuary in February of 2020.

Cantata audience filled College Hill Family Life Center to capacity.
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

Cantata Choir with soloist Gregory Anderson (right)

Musicians

College Hill narrators C. Denise Wright and Pastor Michael T. Williams

Guest soloist Jay Thompson

Soloist Rosie Davis

Black Santa

Continued from page 1

Consumer Engagement and co-creator of the DIS Report. “This year, we wanted to help brands and marketers understand the multi-faceted process that blacks take to buy the products they buy. There are several drivers, but culture is at the center of them all. Further, with their love for technology, they are much more savvy and conscious consumers. They are as we say, ‘woke.’ They pay attention to how companies are speaking to them. As they spend more, they want more for themselves and from the brands they support.”

Dating back to 2011, this is Nielsen’s ninth report highlighting the media consumption, purchasing habits, lifestyle interests and economic advancements of African Americans. It is the third in a theme, released by Nielsen this year following the comprehensive purchasing processes of Asian American and Latinx consumers.

Key takeaways from It’s in the Bag: Black Consumers Path to Purchase include:

African Americans are welcoming recipients of advertising across all channels. However, while the trends of the black buying power and over-indexing in spending continue to increase, companies’ investments to advertise to them have decreased.

African Americans are more likely than the total population to agree that advertising provides meaningful information on most platforms, including mobile (42 percent higher), television (23 percent higher), radio (21 percent higher) and the internet (18 percent higher).

Advertising spend designed to reach black con-

sumers declined 5 percent between 2017 and 2018.

Physical appearance reflects a sense of cultural pride and self-expression in the black community. This is evidenced by the top spending priorities for African Americans from everyday soap to luxury handbags.

African Americans outspend the total market on personal soap and bath needs by nearly 19 percent (\$573.6 million).

Men are making an impact with grooming habits, outpacing the total market by 20 percent on toiletry items.

Blacks are 20 percent more likely than the total population to say they will “pay extra for a product that is consistent with the image I want to convey.”

They are also more likely to say they shop at high-end stores including Saks Fifth Avenue (63 percent), Neiman Marcus (45 percent) and Bloomingdales (24 percent).

While online shopping grows, African Americans continue to head to physical stores for the personal touch and feel experience – but with more discerning eyes.

More than half (52 percent) of African Americans find in-store shopping relaxing, compared with 26 percent of the total population.

55 percent of black consumers say they enjoy wandering the store looking for new, interesting products.

When shopping, African Americans are more influenced than the total population by store staff (34 percent more likely), in-store advertising (28

percent more likely) and merchandising (27 percent more likely).

The “for us by us” trend of black-owned brands is profoundly impacting the African-American path to purchase and consumer marketplace. Black consumers support brands that align with their lifestyles and values.

African Americans dominate the ethnic hair and beauty aids category, accounting for almost 90 percent of the overall spend.

42 percent of black adults expect brands they purchase to support social causes (16 percent higher than the total population).

35 percent of African-American shoppers are more likely to agree, “when a celebrity designs a product, I am more likely to buy it.”

Procter & Gamble (P&G) is the largest advertiser in African-American media, spending more than a half-billion dollars (\$544.3 million). Five of the top 20 baby care category products come from P&G’s Pampers and Luvs brands.

Soul food drives African-American consumers’ top grocery purchases. These consumers are also passionate about the environment, wanting to buy safe, locally sourced food items.

African Americans outpace the general market on: Quaker grits (\$19 million); Louisiana Fish Fry (\$11 million); Glory Greens (frozen and fresh, \$9.5 million combined) and Jay’s Potato Chips (nearly \$2.7 million).

61 percent say produce is the most important category to buy local, followed by bakery and pre-

pared foods (56 percent), eggs (55 percent) and dairy (52 percent).

Blacks over-index the total population concerned about food safety issues: antibiotic use in animal production (by 20 percent); artificial ingredients (by 19 percent) and GMO crop development due to climate change. The biggest worry is rising prices due to trade tariffs (68 percent blacks vs. 56 percent total population).

“Nielsen continues to unearth undeniable data and insights that highlight both the agency and power of black consumers, and the plethora of opportunities that exist for companies that are focused on nurturing and empowering how they move through the world,” said Jonathan Jackson, former 2019 Nieman-Berkman Klein Fellow in Journalism Innovation at The Nieman Foundation for Journalism and member of Nielsen’s African-American External Advisory Council.

Nielsen uses U.S. Census data to determine population estimates that inform its U.S. panels and its understanding of consumer behavior. Given the rapid diversification of the U.S. population, an accurate census has never been more important. That’s why Nielsen has signed on as a 2020 Census Official Partner with the U.S. Census Bureau, and utilized census data to show the economic and demographic impact of African-American consumers. This is the second time the company has leveraged this partnership for the Diverse Intelligence Series, after the 2019 Latinx consumer report, released in August.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Jackson Public Schools
Dawson Elementary School
Godfrey's Restaurant
December 20, 2019



BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Toys and bikes from Nissan 'Christmas from the Heart' drive

Friends of Nissan Canton, The holiday season is in full swing. Last week, we wrapped up our annual "Christmas from the Heart" toy drive. Our team members donated lots of presents and we partner with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to share them with children here in Mississippi.

This time of the year is also a time of reflection. While this year was not without challenges, we had a lot to celebrate and be thankful for in 2019. One highlight was our first-ever title sponsorship of Jackson State University's Homecoming. At Nissan, we have a longstanding commitment to Mississippi's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and many of our team members across the company are proud HBCU graduates. Our entire team was honored and excited to participate in this year's homecoming celebration.

Being a strong community partner is at the heart of our core values. Throughout 2019, we continued our long history of community service through partnerships, volunteering and donations. In February, we once again partnered with 100 Black Men of America on the Nissan Resume Challenge and Summit, an effort to prepare the leaders of tomorrow in business, academia and public service. In July, our team members completed building our 12th home

with Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area for another wonderful family. And in the fall, our team pledged nearly \$400,000 to support the work of United Way agencies across Mississippi. These are just a few examples of the great work our employees were involved in this year. We're so grateful for the volunteer hours and financial contributions of our teammates.

At Nissan, the community within our four walls will always be our top priority. Whether we're recognizing our colleagues who've served their country on Veterans Day, celebrating together during our annual Family Day or rallying to honor those affected by breast cancer: our team members and their families love to spend time with and support one another.

As we turn to 2020, we're excited for what lies ahead. Our team looks forward to bringing the 2020 TITAN on the road for customers in January, followed by the 2020 Frontier. Beyond our vehicles, we can't wait to find even more ways to support our Mississippi friends and neighbors.

As we reflect on another year, we want to thank you for your continued support of Nissan and the Canton plant. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Best,
The Nissan Canton Team



Nissan team members with JSU President Dr. William B. Bynum Jr.



2019 Nissan-Habitat for Humanity home dedication



2020 Nissan TITAN

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COMPLIMENTARY
MAINTENANCE¹**
THROUGH FORDPASS REWARDS²

2019 ESCAPE SE FWD 200A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS	\$27,720
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT	\$1,202
-BONUS CASH	\$4,425

**TOTAL
ESTIMATED
SAVINGS² = \$5,627**



2019 EXPEDITION XLT 202A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS	\$62,140
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT	\$2,839
-BONUS CASH	\$9,780

**TOTAL
ESTIMATED
SAVINGS³ = \$12,619**



2019 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW⁴ 302A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS	\$54,710
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT	\$4,113
-BONUS CASH	\$7,500

**TOTAL
ESTIMATED
SAVINGS⁴ = \$11,613**



**WE'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE, SANTA.**



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Power APAC visual arts students win top awards at ‘Outstanding Artists of the Future’ show

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS visual arts students were recognized at the “Outstanding Artists and Artisans of the Future,” a yearly high school art show and competition held as part of the Chimneyville Arts Festival.

More than 35 works of art produced by Power APAC students were selected for display at the competition.

Four of the students received awards and cash prizes.

Senior visual art student Charles Rounds, was awarded Best of Show, indicating that his was the most outstanding of all the art entries in the competition. Moriah Roland, a junior, and Desmond Young, a senior, received High Merit awards. Junior Sara Dumas received an Honorable Mention award.

The Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi sponsors the “Outstanding Artists and Artisans of the Future” art show as part of the Chimneyville Arts Festival. The mission of the organization is to preserve, promote, market, educate and encourage excellence in regional crafts, believing that regular contact with the skilled work of the hand enhances both producers’ and patrons’ lives.



Chimneyville “Outstanding Artists and Artisans of the Future” winners from Power APAC are (from left) Desmond Young, High Merit; Sarah Dumas, Honorable Mention; Moriah Roland, High Merit; and Charles Rounds, Best of Show.

JPS institutes Clear Bag Policy at 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.

JPS websites undergoing redesign

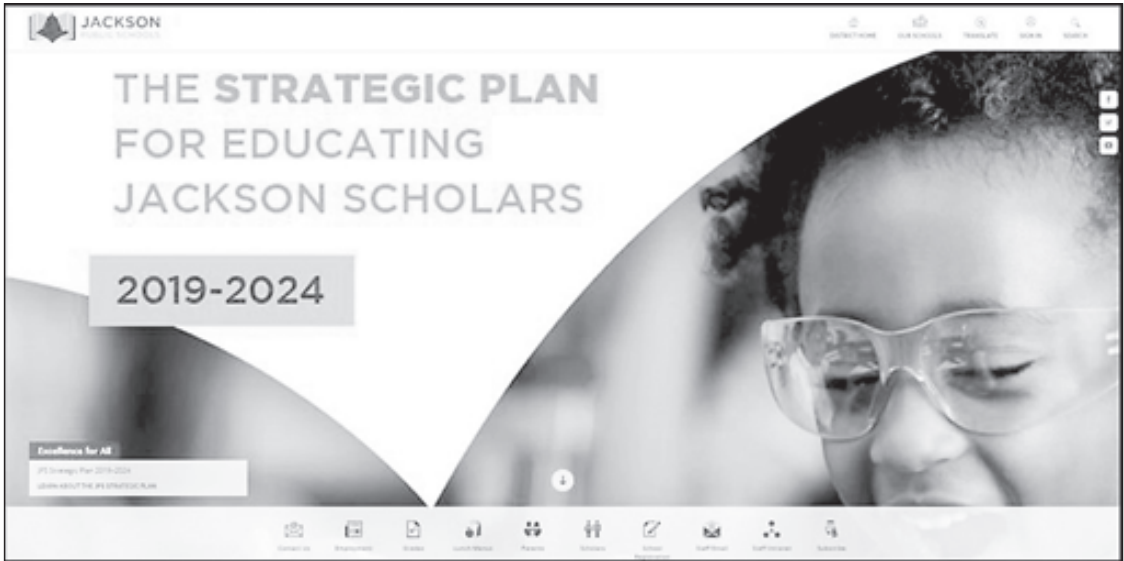
Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School District is partnering with Blackboard once again to redesign our district and school websites. The product of this endeavor will enhance the existing responsive and engaging web experience enjoyed by our website visitors. With a simplified homepage and re-tooled menus, the website promises to make it easier for our site visitors to navigate and find the information they are looking for.

Additionally, our community will appreciate the responsive design which ensures the JPS website can be easily read and navigated on a wide range of devices – from desktops to mobile phones and tablets.

“This project complements the other rebranding efforts we have undertaken in the last year,” said Sherwin Johnson, executive director of Public Engagement. “Having our websites hosted on a single platform and sharing a uniform look and feel provides cohesiveness across the organization and builds the District’s brand.”

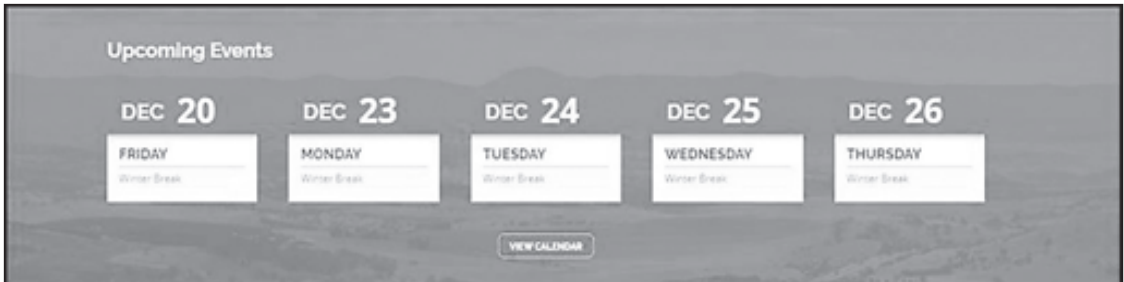
Our website platform allows school web managers to easily post and update webpages in a user-friendly and scalable environment that empowers teachers and grade-level teams to add classroom sections to school sites.



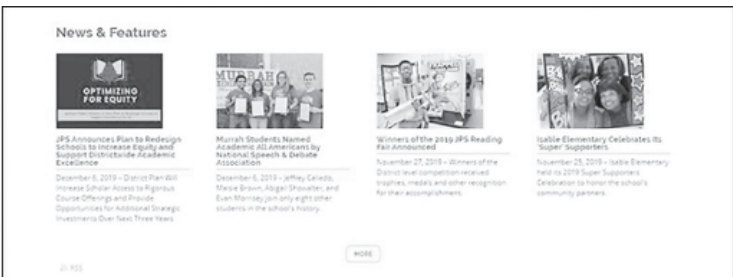
The New Homepage

Menus will stick to the top of the screen and display with a new horizontal orientation ensuring all options are visible on the screen. The Site Navigation menu and the My Start Bar will switch places. The Site Menu will move to the top of the screen and the universal My Start bar will be positioned below it and just above the main banner graphic rotator. As you scroll down the page, the Site Navigation menu sticks to the top of the screen.

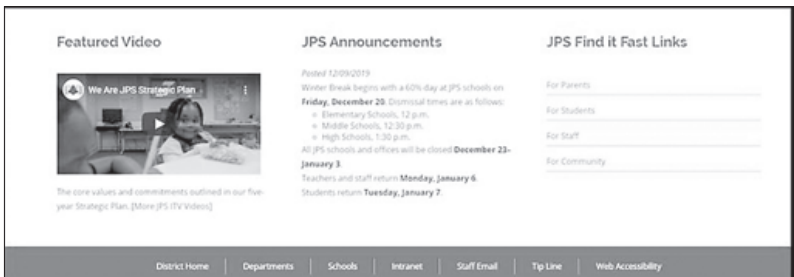
The Global Icons bar, located below the main banner graphic, replaces the popular links menu providing even more efficient access to popular destinations like the online job application, ActiveParent for parents to check students’ grades, Lunch Menus, School Registration, and Staff Email.



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Hinds CC graduates nursing, allied health students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Michael Ahner of Vicksburg is another step closer to his goal of living a life to help others.

Ahner, 46, decided his job at a software company wasn't fulfilling his need to help others. He graduated Dec. 18 from Hinds Community College with a Practical Nursing degree. He plans to earn an associate degree and become a registered nurse.

"It sounds like a cliché. I didn't like what I was doing so I re-evaluated my life and decided I was happiest when I was helping people," he said. He plans to keep working in Vicksburg until he finishes his education.

Throughout three different ceremonies, Hinds awarded a total of 1,316 credentials to 958 graduates, with some graduates receiving more than one credential.

Of the fall graduates, 158 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 95 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 124 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average.

Hinds President Clyde Muse recently announced his retirement June 30, 2020, after 42 years as the college's leader.

"Community colleges are open door institutions. We welcome all students who have the desire to achieve; our cost is low, our quality is high, and we understand that most students have family and job obligations that require some flexibility in their program. We strive to offer unlimited options that will meet the needs of our students," he said.

The speaker for all three graduations was Phil Cockrell,



It's celebration time after nursing and allied health graduates from Hinds Community College receive diplomas Dec. 18. The ceremony was at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus in Pearl. PHOTOS BY APRIL GARON/HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Raymond Campus Engineering and Drafting Design Technology instructor who was selected as Hinds Community College's HEADWAE honoree for 2020.

In his remarks, Cockrell told graduates to consider "why" they are on the path they have chosen. Quoting pastor Charles Swindoll, Cockrell noted that 10 percent of life is what happens and the other 90 percent is how you react to it.

"Challenges present an awesome opportunity to choose who you want to be by how you react to those challenges," he said.

Grand marshal and mace bearer for all three ceremonies was Dr. Libby Mahaffey, district dean of health services and of Nursing and Allied Health programs, who retired in 2019 after 37 years.



Macy Noblin bought flowers for her friend Allison Crosswhite of Pearl, left, who received a practical nursing degree from Hinds Community College Dec. 18.



Taking a selfie together are Patara Mortin and Taylor Perrin of Carson, who received an Associate Degree in Nursing Hinds Community College Dec. 18.



Soon-to-be nursing and allied health graduates prepare to receive their diplomas from Hinds Community College Dec. 18.



Nursing and allied health graduates from Hinds Community College Dec. 18 leave the auditorium immediately after their ceremony.

Hinds CC a perfect place to begin careers for Vicksburg siblings

The Mississippi Link Newswire

De'Harvey and Ke'Harvey Gary, both of Vicksburg, are fraternal twins, though they're often mistaken for one another.

"We just hope to get started going into the Welding Technology program soon," Ke'Harvey said.

Each earned a career certificate from Hinds Community College during fall graduation exercises Dec. 18 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Hinds awarded a total of 1,316 credentials to 958 graduates during the three ceremonies, with some graduates

receiving more than one credential.

Of the fall graduates, 158 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 95 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 124 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average.

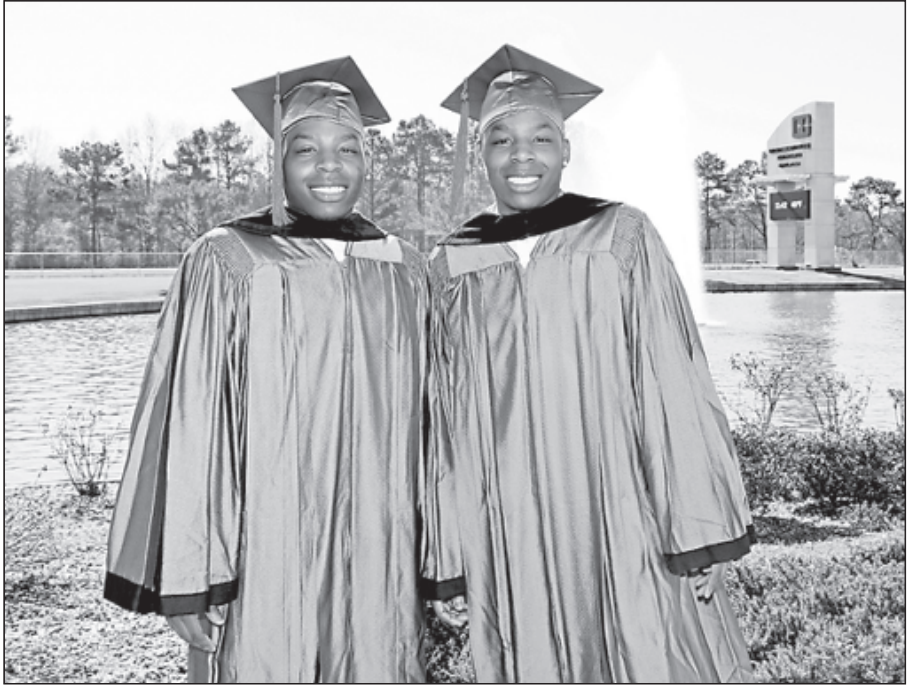
The speaker for all three graduations was Phil Cockrell, Raymond Campus Engineering and Drafting Design Technology instructor who was selected as Hinds Community College's HEADWAE honoree for 2020.

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De'Harvey and Ke'Harvey Gary

Black girl magic: Steele and Monger, recent JSU grads, share plans to effect positive change in the lives of others

by Rachel James-Terry
rjames@sumsnews.com

On Dec. 6, Yemekia Steele, 22, became the first in her family to graduate college. Raised in New Orleans by her grandmother, Steele met her mother for the first time at the age of 13.

“My mother was on drugs. He was not able to care for me. I thought it (the meeting) could create a relationship for the two of us, but it didn’t,” she shared.

Then, in 2008, Steele's grandmother passed away, and custody was transferred to her father. However, his lack of stability, battle with alcoholism, and abusive behavior led to her being placed in foster care.

At the age of 14, Steele spent the first night of many in a group home, where she struggled to process the abrupt changes in her environment. "I became very angry and bitter, and I resented a lot of things. I was unable to communicate my feelings for a very long time," she revealed.

Enraged with the world about things beyond her control, Steele found it challenging to appreciate positive people in her life. She shared that time she grew to understand that lashing out was not the right way to resolve her issues. “As I grew older, I knew that I needed to handle my anger and forgive so that I could live a better life,” said Steele, who bounced around from home to home until finally aging out of the Department of Human Services system.

After receiving an associate degree from Hinds Community College in 2015, she enrolled at Jackson State University in 2017.

"I chose Jackson State because it feels like home. It's a huge campus, but the people are very connected to you," said Steele. "They care about where you're trying to go and what you're trying to do."

Steele said spending a chunk of her life in group homes influenced her decision to major in social work.

"I would see a bunch of women coming in and out and buying different things for the children," she said.

Eventually, she met a case-worker for some of the children in foster care. "I asked her a couple of questions about what she does and what she liked about her job and what she didn't like. That was kind of where my interest in social work began," she explained.

Steele said that she wanted to make a difference in the lives of others who had gone through similar if not worse circumstances than she had.

Now, graduating with a bachelor's degree has brought her closer to one day opening her own group home and creating a nonprofit organization.

"It will support youth, veterans and the displaced in the Metro Jackson area. I want to create shelter for them and be a voice for them," she said.

For now, she is focusing on applying to JSU's graduate program and studying to become a licensed social worker. "I thank JSU for maturing me and giving me a better outlook on life and letting me know there is success in the



Yemekia Steele graduated Dec. 6 from Jackson State University with a bachelor's degree in social work. The New Orleans native wants to channel what she learned from her experiences into changing the lives of youths in challenging conditions. PHOTO SPECIAL TO ISH



Mauda Monger, a graduate of Lanier High School, said part of the reason she wanted to get her Ph.D. was to show the young ladies in her mentoring organization the “She Project” that their future is limitless. PHOTO BY CANDICE HARRIS

struggle.”

If the phrase "making a difference" were a person, Mauda Monger could possibly be it. As chief operations officer for My Brother's Keeper, a

private nonprofit whose mission is to reduce health disparities throughout the United States, Monger works with 19 jurisdictions across the South, building the capacity for HIV

testing, treatment and prevention.

On Dec. 6, she added an executive Ph.D. in education leadership from JSU to her resume, and she said the thought

almost brings tears to her eyes.
“It was the most amazing

feeling. I'm a first-generation college student and getting my Ph.D. in front of my entire family was huge. It was amaz-

ng. It still feels surreal,” she
shared.

Monger said one reason she chose JSU's executive Ph.D. program is because her colleagues gave it great reviews. She also shared that she was attracted to the cohort model and the way it was structured.

“What is different about this model is not only are you attending class together in a cohort but from the moment you start they are building this cohort,” she said. “You stay at the same hotels as these people. You are in study groups with these people.”

The Lanier High School graduate explained that it's more than building relationships with classmates, but it's about building relationships for future collaborations.

"It is great networking. These people come from all over the world and they're doing various things. It's not just an association. You develop friendships," she said.

Monger, 42, has worked in HIV education for about 15 years, spending 10 years at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She started at My Brother's Keeper this year. Additionally, she has a consulting business called MLM Center for Health Education and Equity, where she educates others on everything from mental health to trauma.

“You have to get clients from a place of standstill to a place of movement for the betterment of their health,” said Monger, who also heads the “She Project,” an organization he started in 2013 that centers on women empowerment.

Here, she caters to the holistic well-being of ninth- and 10th-grade girls with an emphasis on health by helping them navigate through high school and life, while grooming them for leadership. Many of the teens also go on to become first-generation college students.

Monger's longtime dream was to open an all-black girl's school with a health component that educates young ladies from k-12. "Research shows a correlation between health and higher education outcomes," she explained.

After graduating high school in 1994, Monger attended Tougaloo College, where she received a bachelor's in economics and business administration. She then received a master's in public health from LSU in 2007.

Having several irons in the fire, Monger admitted that the most strenuous part of getting a Ph.D. was trying to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Although school made it difficult for her to find time and energy for her mentees, Monger credits them as partial motivation for pursuing her Ph.D. "She wanted them to see the sky is the limit" and if she could do it, so could they.

*To learn more about Mon-
ger's health advocacy and
mentorship program, email
smonger1@gmail.com or
call 601 983-7852.*

MDE seeks 2020 Summer Food Service sponsors

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Child Nutrition (OCN) is seeking sponsors to operate the 2020 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in counties across Mississippi. The program provides nutritious meals to children during school vacation periods.

In most areas of the state, the program operates from June through August. Meals and snacks are served to children in places such as schools, churches, playgrounds, libraries and parks. Public or private nonprofit schools, units of local, municipal, county or state government, residential summer camps and public or private nonprofit organizations may qualify as program sponsors.

To be eligible, potential sponsors must: (1) show they are financially and administratively capable of operating the program; (2) provide continuing services to the community; and (3) serve meals on a regular schedule to children or provide meals as part of an organized program for enrolled children at camps.

To find out more information about the program, the Office of Child Nutrition invites all potential sponsors to the SFSP “squash sessions.” These meetings, designed to answer questions about the program, will be provided in various locations statewide. Tentative sessions dates are:

- January 14, 2020 (Pearl)
- February 18, 2020 (Mississippi Delta)
- February 21, 2020 (Gulfport)

Potential sponsors should contact MDE’s Office of Child Nutrition immediately to receive registration and exact location information for each session (no walk-ins, please). Organizations may contact Susie Q. Gater (SFSP director) susie.evans@mdek12.org or April D. Catchings (SFSP outreach coordinator) acatchings@mdek12.org with MDE Office of Child Nutrition, P.O. Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205; phone 601 576-4954.

More information about the SFSP may be accessed through the USDA website at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>.

McInnis named assistant state forester

The Mississippi Link Newswire

State Forester Russell Bozeman announced recently that Richard McInnis has been named the assistant state forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC).

“Richard brings more than two decades of experience with him into this new role,” Bozeman said. “The knowledge of Mississippi’s forest industry and resources he brings into his new role will continue to make him a valuable asset to the agency.”

McInnis has worked for the MFC for 27 years. In his current role as forest management chief, McInnis oversaw the daily operation of a number of the MFC’s programs, including the State Forest Program, Public Lands Program, Forest Stewardship Program and State and Federal Cost-share Programs.

As assistant state forester, McInnis will provide technical assistance to the state forester. He will work with federal, state, industry and nongovernmental organization partners to promote Mississippi’s forestry industry. He will also oversee the MFC’s Forest Legacy Program as well as the state Forest Inventory and Analysis Program.

A 1988 graduate of Mississippi State University, McInnis resides in Wesson with his wife Becky and sons, Will and Sam.

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 Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church

Volunteers from Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent Dec. 21 to provide food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Greater St. James 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 Mt. Wade Missionary Baptist Church

Volunteers from Mt. Wade Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, shared their time and talent on Dec. 21 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Mt. Wade 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.

HUD awards \$272,000, teams up with VA to help Mississippi homeless veterans find permanent homes

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In a continuing effort to end veteran homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced \$29.3 million to 216 local public housing agencies (PHAs) across the country to provide a permanent home to veterans experiencing homelessness. The supportive housing assistance is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA.

A component of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, the HUD-VASH vouchers being awarded enable homeless veterans to obtain affordable, decent housing in the private market. These vouchers are critical tools in helping communities effectively end homelessness among veterans.

Over the last year, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness declined by two percent and has dropped by nearly 50 percent since the HUD-VASH program was created.

“President Trump has made ending veteran homelessness a priority and with his leadership we have continued to see it decline. Our nation’s veterans have given so much for our country and freedom,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “It is our duty to make certain every single veteran has a place they can call home.”

“President Trump remains committed to using every tool at our disposal to help veterans exit homelessness and remain in stable housing,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “HUD-VASH has been critical to the nearly 50% decline in veteran homelessness since 2010 and is proof that the federal government and local agencies are capable of solving complex problems together.”

With the addition of this new award, more than 100,000 vouchers have been awarded and more than 170,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program since 2008. More than 600 PHAs already administer the HUD-VASH program, and this most recent award includes 37 additional PHAs, increasing HUD-VASH coverage to several new communities. Rental assistance and supportive services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation’s veterans.

In the HUD-VASH program, VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) assess veterans experiencing homelessness before referring them to local housing agencies for these vouchers. Decisions are based on a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of homelessness and the need for longer term, more intensive support in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff offers.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.

VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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The world around you is in desperate need

PART 1

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



When you became a Christian, God had more in mind than just getting you saved. He wants you to influence people. He did not say that you are the salt of the church. He did not say you are the salt of your Sunday School class. He did not say you are the salt of your fellowship. God said you are the salt of the earth. We read in Matthew 5:13-16, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under

a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

When God calls you to go anywhere, He wants you to operate with integrity, purity, honesty and fairness. The world around you is in desperate need of salvation. Their answers are not working, but God has an answer for every possible situation, and His answers still work. Just a few grains of salt can make a whole glass of water salty.

It is important that God called us “the Salt of the Earth,” because He wants us to be in direct contact with people who need to be salted. How do you salt your eggs? Do you move the salt shaker close to your eggs? No, you have to sprinkle salt on the

eggs. That is what you have to do with people, spiritually speaking.

Notice the prayer of Jesus in John 17:15, which reads, “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.” God wants us to be the salt of the earth. He did not pray that we would be taken away from the sinners. He prayed that we would be kept from the corruption that is in the world

Getting comfortable among our Christian friends and forgetting about being in direct contact with the world that needs Jesus Christ is easy. Having a relationship with the local congregation is important for every Christian. Everybody needs a pastor and a relationship with the local congregation. The local church is where the Christian is nurtured, challenged,

taught, corrected and encouraged. The church is where he grows and finds fellowship.

Our vision has to be much bigger than just going to church. The church should be the launching pad for reaching the world for Jesus. It should be the home base, not a retirement village. Until the sheep and the shepherd understand this, we will not be able to rise to the occasion of God’s call for this generation. We are not to withdraw ourselves from contact with sinners.

The only way we can be salt of the earth is to be rubbed into that corrupting thing. Are you helping to rescue those who are perishing?

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

Trusting God’s plan with patience

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“It’s the most wonderful time of the year” are words from one of my favorite Christmas songs. Every time I hear it, I think about

waking up Christmas morning, opening presents with my family and listening to my father’s favorite singer, Johnny Mathis, sing the best Christmas songs.

However, this time of the year isn’t just about thinking ahead to joyous Christmas celebrations. For me, it’s also a time where I excitedly reflect on how many of my goals I met and didn’t meet for the year. Did I lose weight like I wanted to? Did I save money like I said I would?

There’s still so much I set out to do but haven’t done yet. However, rather than think about what goals I didn’t meet, I am thankful for the goals I did meet. And instead of considering the other goals as unmet, I still consider them goals “in progress.”

Also, being a writer helps me think about my goals in a different way. In fact, one important thing I’ve learned is that the process and journey of writing is sometimes more transformative than the actual finished book, article or paper because of what it teaches about patience.

Even if you are not a writer, being able to seek and trust God’s plan might make the importance difference in how you see your ability to patiently and persistently reach your goals.

Here’s a prayer about trusting God’s plan from my book, “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: Inspirational Prayers for Writers.”

“I thank you God for showing me your plan and your direction. I may sometimes struggle fol-

lowing you with my cloudy eyes of faith. But I pledge to trust you and your plan for my life (as a writer.) I thank you God for loving me enough to plan with meticulous care every detail of my life. I trust you in the good and bad times and when I don’t know how to take my life’s circumstances. I trust your hand to guide me through the sometimes dark, unclear areas of my life.”


Jeremiah 29:11-13 is a great scripture that also reminds us of this. “I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. “When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.” When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”

One of my favorite quotes that also encourages me as I think about those “goals in progress” is by Saint Francis de Sales, patron saint of writers. “Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them – every day begin the task anew.”

Perhaps one of the best presents this Christmas we can give ourselves as we strive to meet our “in progress” goals is the gift of patience.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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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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.

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

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS

 - 1. South by east
 - 4. Essays of original research
 - 10. Container
 - 11. Interruption of power
 - 12. Make a mistake
 - 13. Rim
 - 14. Angry
 - 16. Sixth sense
 - 17. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - 18. Cincinnati locale
 - 20. Road (abbr.)
 - 22. Decorative needle case
 - 26. Telecommunicate
 - 29. Departure
 - 31. Eave dweller in winter
 - 33. Legume
 - 34. Insert (2 wds.)
 - 35. Time period
 - 36. Armor plate
 - 37. Escudo
- DOWN

 - 1. Bundle of yarn
 - 2. Baseball player Yogi
 - 3. Heron
 - 4. Meat alternative
 - 5. Salutation
 - 6. Terminal abbr.
 - 7. Sensible
 - 8. Chicken product
 - 9. Ooze
 - 15. Pro
 - 19. She
 - 21. Cafes
 - 23. Wigwam
 - 24. Drug does
 - 25. Abraham’s son
 - 26. State treasury
 - 27. American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
 - 28. Roman thirteen
 - 30. Heredity component
 - 32. Hertz

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by William Shakespeare

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
													N												

X B N N C I F Y S E K F Y L K O C B I N D O
G Y K O ' D J I X G Y K O L X S E S N G K
F Y L K O C B I N D O X B N N C

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Crossword Solution

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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

A FOOL THINKS HIMSELF TO BE
X B N N C I F Y S E K F Y L K O C B I N D O
W I S E , B U T A W I S E M A N K N O W S
G Y K O ' D J I X G Y K O L X S E S N G K
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Week of December 22, 2019

There’s still some good in the world

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire

 Today is my birthday, and my church planned its usual wonderful holiday party that just happened to fall on the date I was born. The party planners had assured me they would include my favorite bubbly drink. I had my tickets. Unfortunately, as I was leaving church, I received a call that my dear younger brother had suddenly and unexpectedly died. There went my hopes for a happy birthday party while latching my personal celebration onto my church’s holiday party that is always a great celebration.

Naturally, I wanted to feel sorry for myself after spending so many recent days feeling so down about what I had been hearing during the impeachment hearings. I saw some of the worst behavior and heard some of the most awful things said about totally innocent people. I could hardly believe my ears what so many of the Republicans were saying. I knew what they were saying was not true.

I thought about what Donald Trump has put our country through these past three years, and how he seems determined to erase every positive thing President Barack Obama did, and all the things Michelle did to make us feel good about how many of us were working to perfect our union and help America live up to her promises for good for all of us. We didn’t hear hateful words often. We didn’t hear of taking away things like healthcare that many people so desperately need. We didn’t hear vulgar language coming from the White House. We didn’t hear of White House and other government officials being fired or going to jail so frequently. While America has never been great for all of us, we at least believed Obama and his team were trying to make America great for everybody, leaving no one behind.

Well, under the current president things have been different and not at all great for a great many of even those who hang onto the hate Trump projects daily. We are on overload for the negative, but in recent days we have seen some acts of kindness that give us hope, and I would like to mention a few of those things.

A few days ago, officials, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), participated in the dedication ceremony for the statue of Ponca Chief Standing Bear of Nebraska in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

Chief Standing Bear desiring to live up to his dead son’s wishes wanted to bury him at home because his son was worried that if his bones were not buried with his ancestors, then he would be alone in the afterlife. Standing Bear made sure his son’s remains were taken home. That was an act of grief and love that led to the chief’s being honored as a civil rights hero and a place in the Capitol. Thanks to Nebraska for making a good thing happen. It is my wish that other states will follow in replacing those negative symbols they have with more positive ones.

A few days ago, another young man provided us with a positive act. Joe Burrow, LSU quarterback and winner of the Heisman Trophy thought of the people in need in his hometown in Ohio and immediately began raising funds for their needs.

After a zillion years, the Washington Nationals won the World Series, the Washington Mystics won the finals in the WNBA for 2019. Sorry, but Washington Football Club lost again – just as they have been told – until they change their name.

During this holiday season, let’s try to find other good and praise it!

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.”


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Remembering Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher: First of Firsts

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire

 “I thought that it was the greatest thing in the world that he was going to be our mayor. He was someone who looked like

us and fought for the things we believed in and needed. But the thing that struck me the most about Hatcher was his accessibility. In his 20 years at City Hall, Hatcher was always accessible to everyone. He was a rock star then, but he made sure that he met everyone.” – Karen Freeman Wilson, current mayor of Gary, Indiana

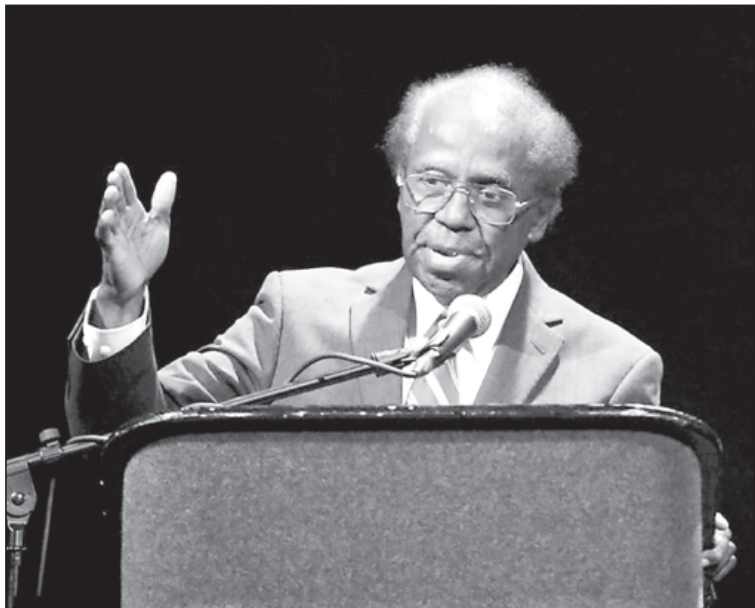
“He literally opened the door to black political empowerment on the local level, state level and federal level. He sent a message across the country and he gave rise to other black mayors in small and big cities.”

When Richard Hatcher was inaugurated as mayor of Gary, Indiana, in 1968 one of the nation’s first black mayors of a big city, he insisted upon inviting a little-known “youth group” to perform alongside the major stars.

“Nobody wanted to hear the youth group,” Rev. Jesse Jackson told radio station WBZE. “They wanted to see the stars.”

The “youth group” was Gary’s own Jackson 5, who went on that year to sign with Motown Records.

Hatcher, who passed this week at the age of 86, was a visionary in



Hatcher

more ways than one.

A graduate of Indiana University and Valparaiso University School of Law, he served as deputy county prosecutor in the early 1960s until his election to Gary City Council in 1963. In 1967, he defeated the incumbent mayor in a primary and overcame resistance from the local Democratic machine to win with the support of national political figures like Sen. Robert Kennedy and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

During his swearing in ceremony, Hatcher promised that, “together, we shall beat a way; together we shall turn darkness into light, despair into hope and promise into progress. For God’s sake, for Gary’s sake, let’s get ourselves together.”

Hatcher’s election was the first

in a historic string of victories for black mayors across the nation, and the beginning of a trend that would put Gary at the center of black political power. Four years later, Hatcher would bring the historic National Black Political Convention to Gary. More than 10,000 delegates and attendees gathered to formulate a political strategy for Black America, including Rev. Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Shirley Chisholm, Amiri Baraka, Louis Farrakhan, Bobby Seale and Betty Shabazz.

In his speech at the convention, Hatcher warned that if the two major political parties continued to neglect their concerns, black Americans would create a third party, and “we shall take with us the best of white America...many a white youth nauseated by the

corrupt values rotting the innards of this society...many of the white poor...many a white G.I.... and many of the white working class, too.”

Hatcher was instrumental in founding Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) with Rev. Jackson, and later served as chairman of Jackson’s presidential campaign in 1984.

He served as the vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1981 to 1985 and as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.


In 1978, he co-founded TransAfrica, an advocacy group aimed at changing U.S. policy toward Africa and the Caribbean.

Hatcher paved the way for the many black mayors who would follow, including my own father, Ernest N. “Dutch” Morial, who was elected the first black mayor of New Orleans in 1977 – and for the later generation mayors that I joined when I was elected in 1994.

I was proud that the National Urban League was able to honor Hatcher, on the 50th anniversary of his election, during our 2017 Conference in St. Louis. As I noted at the time, Hatcher aspired to political office at a time that was not so far removed from lynchings, segregated schools and anti-miscegenation laws. Every step, every vote and every position attained was marred and marked by transparently racial barriers, and every victory was made all the more sweet by overcoming them.

Donald the Fool is not Jesus the Christ

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist

 The hours before the House of Representatives impeachment vote were a study in contrasts.

While Democrats approached the debate leading up the vote somberly, with all due consideration, and with historical references, Republicans seemed to think they were starring in a comedy show. And the now-impeached president added to the comedy with an unhinged and delusional letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that clearly illustrated the break he has taken from reality.

So he compared himself to the people who were executed (yes, executed) during the Salem witch trials in 1692-1693. Yes the fool had to go back more than 300 years to find a parallel for his “poor” treatment.

More egregiously, Trump was compared to Jesus the Christ, an abomination especially during this holiday season. We who are Christian celebrate the birth of the Christ child each year. It renews our faith. It provides us with hope. It should not be marred or besmirched by a paranoid charlatan who has the temerity to think he is anything like Jesus the Christ.

Who was Christ, anyway? The Jesus that the Bible celebrates was full of love for the least and the left out. In the Holy Bible, Matthew 25:40 Jesus said, “whatever you do for the least of these you do for me”. Yet our 45th president has had nothing but contempt for the least of these, cutting food programs, caging innocent children, spitting hate and nonsense at every opportunity. There was no Christ in the way that 45 attacked deceased Congressman John Dingell (D-Michigan), deliberately mocking his widow, now-Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. Mrs. Dingell was painfully transparent in her reaction to Trump’s ignorance. She lost her husband less than a year ago, and our “Commander in Chief” is spinelessly attacking her and her husband. Where is the compassion of Christ in that?

Beyond utter hubris, the Christ comparison is pure delusional arrogance, but this is what we have come to expect from this putrid and paranoid president and his pitiful minions. And while partisan discord is the name of the game, too many Republican who know better have decided that their oath of allegiance is not to the Constitution but to a morally flawed, constitutionally indif-ferent president.

The fact that Republicans, many who know better, many who acknowledge it “off the record” march in lockstep behind someone who has abused his power, is disturbing. Even more disturbing in the fact that too many Republicans think it’s okay.

Meanwhile, a mix tape of Christmas songs runs through my mind as I think of the temerity of Donald the Fool comparing himself to Jesus the Christ. “Oh Come Let Us Adore Him”. That’s what Donald the Fool wants – adoration. There is no sane Christian who will adore him because he is not the Christ, but a terribly flawed man who lies (15,000 y’all) and steals with impunity. Or the refrain from “Silent Night.” Sleep in heavenly peace. But this divider-in chief has brought us absolutely no peace, no quiet, no calm. As many of us spend these days around Christmas caroling and worshipping, it is repugnant that this charlatan compares himself to the virtuous Christ. Where are his virtues?

This comparison is also indicative of how conservative Christians (words that should not be used in the same sentence) have fractured faith by describing 45 as “the chosen one.” Chosen by whom and to what end? It is the height of hubris that one would

pick such a venal man as chosen, God did not choose this lying, genital grabbing crook for anything but to force us to organize, mobilize and tap into the power we all have within.

It would take days to unpack the several lies that Republicans used in their “defense” of their president. They said Democrats were out to get him from day one. It is true that a few were but the fact is that Pelosi was always measured in her approach to impeachment. She resisted it for the longest time, only capitulating when the Ukraine matter was too egregious to be ignored. They spoke of Democrats “hating” Trump, but disdain is not hate. They mangled the Constitution to their own end.

My mix tapes of hymns exalting the virtues of our Savior is in sharp contrast to the reality of Trump. To compare that horrid, venal man to anything resembling Christ is to slap every Christian in the face. Love is patient, love is kind, Trump is none of the above.

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.juliannealmaveaux.com

Hilton Hotel • Jackson, MS • December 20, 2019

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Christmas at 2659 Livingston Rd.

Special to The Mississippi Link

Garrett Enterprises, Children Defense Fund, The Mississippi Link Newspaper and The Mayes Group LLC had their annual office Christmas luncheon Friday.

Socrates Garrett invited representatives from area preschools to pick up new shoes and toys at a give-away marathon..

Stay tuned for more on this endeavor in 2020. Garrett will soon kick off a city-wide clothing give-away of brand new men's suits and shoes in the community.

Oleta Fitzgerald of The Children's Fund and Jackie Hampton of The Mississippi Link have agreed to partner with him and other community leaders in this endeavor.



The Mississippi Link and Children's Defense Fund employees and guests at Christmas lunch Dec. 19



Garrett Trucking crew and office employees



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



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To Qualify:

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

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

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

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To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

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

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

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD shows the spirit of giving across the district



Dear HCSD Staff, Parents and Community Supporters

May the Holiday Season ahead be peaceful and enjoyable. As you go your various ways for the holidays, I want to sincerely thank each of you for the contribution you make to the success of the Hinds County School District and to the success of our learners. Together we are making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities for each of our students.

Thank you again for all you do for the young people and their families that we serve, and enjoy this special time of the year.

Sincerely,

Delesicia Martin, ED. D.
Superintendent of Schools

District Highlights





Blackburn students present their best pot of greens for second annual cook-off

By LaToya Hentz-Moore
jsumsnews.com

Nine middle school students paired with parents, grandparents and friends from the community to cook their best pot of greens. Collard and mustard greens from the learning garden were used in the contest.

Heather Wilcox, assistant director for JSU’s Center for University-Based Development (CUBD) says, “This is a beautiful event because the students are actually learning how to grow vegetables from the beginning to the end. They are involved in the entire process from the seeding to the leaves being grown, and now they are able to actually cook what they grow.”

The cook-off had a host of judges from BMS, Jackson State and the community to try each contestant’s famous pot of greens. After the judging was complete, BMS alumnus Nick Wallace announced the winners.

In fall 2017, Wallace won part two of the “Alton’s Challenge” tournament on Food Network TV show “Chopped,” successfully following up his 2014 spot on the show “Cutthroat Kitchen.” He is currently the CEO and executive chef of Nick Wallace Culinary.

“They asked me to judge the contest and announce the winners but for me, this competition is much more than that,” says Wallace. “I graduated from this school and I’ve done so much with these students with creativity kitchen, so this is home.”

The winners were:
1st place: Nia & Moe Selassie, green and kale smoothie
2nd place: Kevin Trunnell and Ms. Davis, famous pot of spicy greens
3rd place: Jackie and Corday Kitchens, famous pot of greens and cornbread



The winners were Nia and Moe Selassie of the 2019 Greens cook-off are pictured holding the 1st place trophy.



Mother and son duo, Jackie and Corday Kitchens took the third place trophy and bragging rights in this year’s contest



“We are a really healthy family and we are also vegan. We wanted to make something healthy and quick so this ‘New You’ smoothie was our strategy. It is green and delicious. There is no salt or sugar in our recipe,” says Nia Selassie. Nia and her son Moe won 1st place.



Heather Wilcox, director for JSU’s CUBD shows the audience the size of the greens picked from the learning garden and also used for the cook-off.



2nd place winners Kevin Trunnell and Ms. Davis pose with their famous pot of greens. Ms. Davis admits that this is her first time cooking greens PHOTOS BY CHARLES SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS