

Reeves: “I believe there is a leadership crisis in the system.”

Governor selects committee to search for new MDOC commissioner; appoints interim

By Othor Cain
Editor

Tate Reeves was sworn in as Mississippi’s 65th governor Tuesday, Jan. 14, prior to being elected governor, he served as lieutenant governor for the past eight years. In his capacity as lieutenant governor, Reeves presided over the state Senate and had much influence over the state budget and the funding at the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), an agency he now says is “experiencing a leadership crisis.”

MDOC is the magnolia state’s prison system and just this past weekend amid reports of riots, prison escapes and other inhumane videos circulating on social media, two inmates died, bringing the total reported to seven inmates that have died in the past few weeks.

To make matters worse, two of MDOC’s top officials stepped down earlier this month.

Former MDOC Commissioner Pelicia Hall, shined a light on the gravity of the situa-



Reeves

tion, highlighting a severe officer shortage of guards and officers that plagued the agency. Hall’s request for pay raises for entry level starting salaries for cor-

rectional officers was denied by lawmakers, while Reeves served as lieutenant governor.

In his first press briefing as governor, Reeves said, “We have



Flaggs

all seen the catastrophe that the current state of our prison system has allowed for, we must

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Inhumane conditions, violence and death represent everyday life at Mississippi’s Parchman Prison



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Tuesday, January 14, hip-hop superstar Jay-Z sued the head of the Mississippi Department of Corrections and the warden on behalf of 29 prisoners who have complained that officials have done nothing to stop the violence at Parchman. The conditions at Mississippi’s Parchman prison makes it one of the

worst detention facilities in the world, according to reform advocates and human rights organizations.

Death and violence are rampant, many inmates are without beds, and electricity, plumbing, and fundamental human rights are absent. At the same time, mold, roaches, mosquitos and rodents far outnumber the more than 5,000 inmates.

In the suite filed in U.S. District Court in Greenville, Mississippi, Jay-Z addressed the recent deaths at the prison.

“These deaths are a direct result of Mississippi’s utter disregard for the people it has incarcerated and their constitutional rights,” the mogul said in the court filing.

The suit names Department of Corrections Commissioner

Pelicia Hall and Mississippi State Penitentiary Superintendent Marshall Turner as defendants.

Earlier this month, hip-hop stars T.I., and Yo Gotti called on the governor to close the prison or to address the issues adequately.

“This is unacceptable,” T.I.

Parchman
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Rev. William Barber addresses systemic racism, poverty and voting rights



Reverend William Barber II, president of the North Carolina state chapter of the NAACP, delivered an electrifying speech during the 2017 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. PHOTO: FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Following the Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court case, which gutted key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place before the 2016 Presidential election, and there were 868 fewer polling places across the country, according to the Poor Peoples Campaign.

Rev. William Barber II believes that everyone has a right to live.

Through his Poor People’s Campaign, Barber is continuing to build a movement to overcome systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation, militarism of the budget and the false moral narrative of white religious nationalism.

In an exclusive telephone conference with the Black Press of America, Barber and his Poor People’s Campaign co-chair, Rev. Liz Theoharris, said America has a moral crisis.

“Democrats run from poverty and Republicans racialize poverty,” Barber stated during the more than one-hour discussion.

“We have invited both sides of the political fence. We’ve invited the White House to come and talk with us. They’ve refused,” stated Barber, the founder of Repairers of the Breach, a national leadership development organization, which expands upon his Moral Monday movement.

“This administration has been virtually silent on the issue of poverty. The president talked about unemployment being down, but underemployment is up. The number of people that have dropped out of the workforce is up,” said Barber, who, along with Theoharris, and others launched the Poor People’s Campaign, spearheaded initially by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The campaign conducted what it said was a 50-year audit of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and

the war economy in the U.S.

They said the findings have already helped to inform and build state and local, nonpartisan fusion movements that are committed to challenging laws and policies that are antithetical to the broad tenets of social justice.

Barber and Theoharris, who is a pastor from New York, told the Black Press that the ranks of the Poor People’s Campaign would increase as they broaden their efforts.

They noted figures that show 140 million poor and low-wealth people live in the United States – from every race, creed, sexuality and place.

“We aim to make sure these individuals are no longer ignored, dismissed or pushed to the margins of our political and social agenda,” Theoharris stated.

With 2020 counting as a pivotal election year, Barber pointed out that voter suppression laws in many states have only contributed to poverty.

The Poor People’s Campaign has noted that, since 2010, 23 states have passed racist voter suppression laws, including racist gerrymandering and redistricting statutes that make it harder to register.

Because of this, early voting days and hours have reduced, officials have purged voter rolls, and there have been more restrictive voter ID laws.

While these laws have disproportionately targeted black people, at least 17 states saw voter suppression cases targeting American Indian and Alaskan Native voters in 2016, Barber stated.

“Thirteen states that passed voter suppression laws also opted not to accept expanded Medicaid benefits offered under the Affordable Care Act,” he added.

“These attacks follow a broader pattern of restricting and curtailing democratic processes by drawing on legal

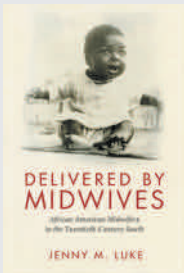
Barber
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Inside

Jackson’s Zeta Phi Beta Sorority welcomes sisters homecoming



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Hinds County Board Of Supervisors assisting Hinds County Sheriff with detention officer recruitment

Mississippi Link Newswire

Among other physical improvements to the Hinds County Raymond Detention, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors is partnering with the new Hinds County Sheriff, Lee Vance, to increase the number of detention officers in an effort to promote public, officer and inmate safety and secure the jail.

In a press conference January 15, Vance announced that the Sheriff's Department is initiating a career path for individuals interested in serving the Hinds County community in the

capacity of sheriff's deputy starting as a detention officer. With a starting salary of \$27,500.04 annually, there is a clear direction for advancement once an individual is hired and trained.

The Hinds County Board is looking to assist the sheriff in adding a minimum of 40 new detention officers through this recruitment drive in the coming weeks.

Positions are available for all three shifts. Applicants must:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)

- Be a United States citizen
- Be able to pass a background investigation and drug screen.

All interested men and women, who are looking for a stable, rewarding career as a public servant and willing to put forth an honest effort are encouraged to apply for the detention officer position immediately.

Applications can be obtained or at the Hinds County Sheriff's Office behind the Circuit Court Building at 407 E. Pascagoula Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or at the Raymond Detention Center, 1450 County Farm Road,

Raymond, MS 39154.

Additionally, applications may be picked up in the Hinds County Personnel/Human Resources Office located on the 2nd floor of the Hinds County Chancery Court Building or at the security desks on the 1st floor of the Hinds County Chancery Court (316 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201) and Circuit Court Buildings (407 E. Pascagoula Street, Jackson, MS 39201).

For more information contact the Hinds County Sheriff's Office at 601 974-2900.



Vance



JPD 59th Recruit Class
September 29, 2019 - January 17, 2020
William L. Skinner
Training Academy
Jackson, MS

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



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Reeves

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right the wrongs. ”I believe there is a leadership crisis in the system,” Reeves said. “This starts at the top. High-quality leadership, not just money, is key.”

Reeves said Thursday, “we are going to work with the legislature and we are going to ask for the amount of funding that is necessary to properly and adequately house these prisoners.” A request that seemingly fell on deaf ears when he presided over the senate.

“We cannot rush the critical job of finding a new commissioner for the Department of Corrections. We must get this right for the people of Mississippi. I am turning to my fellow Mississippians to help me in this mission,” he said.

Reeves named Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs Jr., as chairman of a search committee that will be responsible for finding MDOCs next leader.

“We will ensure that the next leader of MDOC is transparent, open with the press and quite frankly open with the people of this state,” Reeves said. Flagg agrees. “We must find a leader who can clean up this department, institute much needed reform and bring some peace,” Flaggs said. “I’m ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work...this work is too important to continue playing the blame game.”

Flaggs expressed sharp criticism toward those that would criticize and not join the efforts in finding solutions. “I maintain that if you are not a part of finding solutions then you are part of the problem,” he said in his office Tuesday in Vicksburg. ‘I think this is an issue or cause that the Black Caucus should get behind and help fix...the time is now.”

Flaggs a longtime former state lawmaker, who served from 1988 until 2013, will be joined on the search team by:

Greg Waggoner, retired Leake County sheriff

Jody Owens, Hinds County district attorney

Joel Smith, Harrison County district attorney

Kathy Henry, who previously served on the parole board and the governor’s juvenile justice advisory committee

Steve Rushing, Lincoln County sheriff

Sean Tindell, judge serving on the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

Reeves named Tommy Taylor, mayor of Boyle and former chairman of the House Corrections Committee, as interim MDOC commissioner until a permanent replacement is hired.

Parchman

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wrote on his Instagram page.

“The conditions in the prisons operated by the Mississippi Department of Corrections are absolutely inhumane and unconstitutional,” Yo Gotti wrote in a letter to former governor Phil Bryant, a Republican.

“To see this happen so close to my hometown of Memphis is truly devastating. That’s why we’re calling on Mississippi state leaders to take immediate action and rectify this issue. If they don’t right this wrong, we’re prepared to take legal action to provide relief for those that are incarcerated and their families,” Gotti stated.

In an alarming 2019 report on Parchman and other Mississippi prisons, The Marshall Project found that gang activity isn’t limited to some of the people incarcerated. They discovered that some prison employees, including some high ranking officers and managers, are affiliated with one of two gangs, the Vice Lords or Gangster Disciples. The reasons vary.

“Some staffers said gang loyalty gives some officers a measure of protection; since gangs have a lot of control, they can prevent certain attacks,” The Marshall Project reported. “Others say gang affiliation began before employment; according to lawsuits, testimony and interviews, gangs directly recruit women to apply for correctional officer jobs.”

In a tweet, Pro Publica officials stated, “Understaffed and underfunded, Mississippi’s #ParchmanPrison recently received media attention for its grisly violence, gang control, and subhuman living conditions. Lawmakers have known about these issues for years – and have done nothing to fix it.”

Earlier this month, five inmates were killed after allegedly trying to escape.

Video captured by cellphones, which are routinely smuggled into the prison, surfaced online this month appearing to show inside Parchman and the conditions in which inmates live.

One shows individuals in orange and white prison uniforms walking through piles of trash and dirty water. Mold is apparent, and there’s no electricity, heat, plumbing, and many inmates sleep on concrete because there aren’t enough beds.

“We sleeping on straight concrete. There are no mats,” one person on the video states. The individuals than demonstrate that there’s no running water by trying to flush toilets and opening faucets and showers. In another video, two inmates also complain about the lack of running water. “Please get us some help,” they plead.

In still another video, an inmate appears to breakdown emotionally as he sits in an area where prisoners have disposed of their feces.

In the heart of the Mississippi Delta, the prison, once a plantation that was home to hundreds of slaves, has a long history that’s intertwined with Mississippi’s racist past.

In 1901, the state government of Mississippi established Parchman Penitentiary, taking advantage of an opportunity to continue to profit off of cheap black labor, much like whites had done for generations before, while also continuing to exercise violent control over the descendants of former slaves.

Historians at the University of North Carolina said Parchman was modeled after a traditional southern plantation, for-profit prison in Sunflower County was segregated until 1971. “While a small farm held white convicts, black inmates labored on Parchman’s massive, twenty-thousand-acre plantation, where they picked cotton, chopped wood, and plowed fields under the control of armed guards,” the historians stated.

Today, of the more than 5,000 inmates at Parchman, more than 60 percent are African American. The prison has an 11-to-1 inmate to guard ratio, and no one is safe.

“I will be requesting that the U.S. Attorney General launch an investigation into the ongoing failures in safety, security, health, and environmental standards within the Mississippi Department of Corrections,” stated U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.). “This is unacceptable,” Thompson wrote on Twitter.

Barber

Continued from page 1

cies of racism to undermine local efforts to organize for better conditions,” Barber stated.

As of July 2017, 25 states have passed laws that preempt cities from adopting their own local minimum wage laws. Most of these are in response to city councils passing or wanting to pass minimum wage increases.

“We found that people can work a minimum wage job and can’t afford a two-bedroom apartment,” Barber said. “We found out that there are 2 million people who work every day for less than the living wage. Some of them live in their cars, and they go to work every day.”

Theoharris spoke of Maria, a woman they met in El Paso, Texas, separated from her family because of immigration issues.

“We waded into the Rio Grande River – the river that separates the U.S. from Mexico – with an action called “Hugs, not Walls.” Maria got to see her son for the first time in 16 years. And for those couple of minutes that Maria had with her husband and her son were the first and only two minutes that she got to see her family members because of unjust immigration policy,” Theoharris stated.

The Poor People’s Campaign is organizing the Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington, June 20, during which Barber said they would rise as “a powerful moral fusion movement to demand the implementation of our moral agenda.”

“The fact that there are 140 million poor and low-wealth people in a country this rich is morally indefensible, constitutionally inconsistent and economically insane,” Barber added.

During the march, Barber said some of those living in poverty would attend and speak for themselves. He stated that it was essential to know that poverty comes in “all colors” and that it’s more than just African Americans who are struggling.

He noted that the City of Flint was under emergency management when it decided to switch its water source from the Detroit Water System to the Flint River.

That move poisoned a community of almost 99,000, with a 42 percent poverty rate and in which 56 percent of residents are black, and 37 percent are white.

Also, Barber noted that 6.1 million people had been disenfranchised because of felony convictions, including one in 13 black adults.

During the call, Barber continued to lash out at the current administration’s controversial immigration policies.

The Poor People’s Campaign has found that undocumented immigrants contributed \$5 trillion to the U.S. economy over the last ten years.

They paid \$13 billion in Social Security in 2010, but only received \$1 billion in benefits.

They also pay eight percent of their income in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest one percent pay just 5.4 percent. Yet undocumented immigrants and most lawfully residing immigrants are barred from receiving assistance under the major public welfare programs, causing hardship for many poor immigrant families.

In fact, among the 43.7 million immigrants in the U.S., there are 19.7 million – undocumented and lawfully residing – who cannot vote, Barber noted.

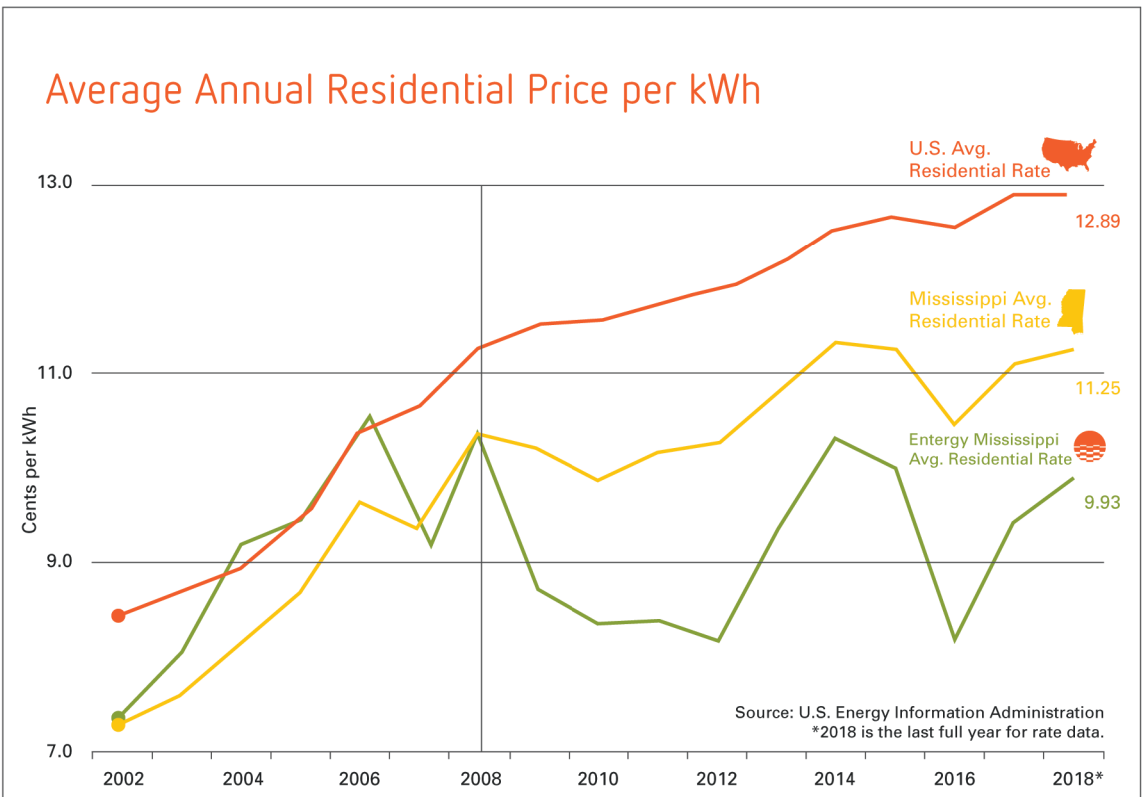
“So, we have to understand the history of systemic racism. And we have to see how systemic racism is impacting not just people of color, but also white people today,” Barber stated. “When Reverend Barber says that repressed voter suppression can create and further poverty amongst white people, amongst black people, amongst Latinos, amongst young people and old people.”

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Special to the Mississippi Link

The MS Legislative Black Caucus Foundation for Education for Economic Development (FEED) will have its Annual Blackmon, Ellis, Fredericks and Young Banquet, Thursday, January 30, at the Westin Jackson Hotel, Jackson, MS at 7:30 p.m. The speaker for this year’s banquet is Eddie Glaude, Jr., MSNBC political commentator.

Glaude, according to his bio, is a scholar who speaks to the black and blue in America. His most well-known books, *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, and *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, take a wide look at black communities and reveal complexities, vulnerabilities and opportunities for hope. Hope that is, in one of his favorite quotes from W.E.B Du Bois, “not hopeless, but a bit hopeless.”

Other muses include James Baldwin, Malcolm X and Bobby “Blue” Bland. In addition to his readings of early American philosophers and contemporary political scientists, Glaude turns to African-American literature in his writing and teaching for insight into African-American political life, religious thought, gender and class.

He is chair of the Department of African American Studies, a program he first became involved with shaping as a doctoral candidate in Religion at Princeton. He is the current president of the American Academy of Religion. His books on religion and philosophy include *African-American Religion: A Very Short Introduction* and *Exodus!*



Glaude

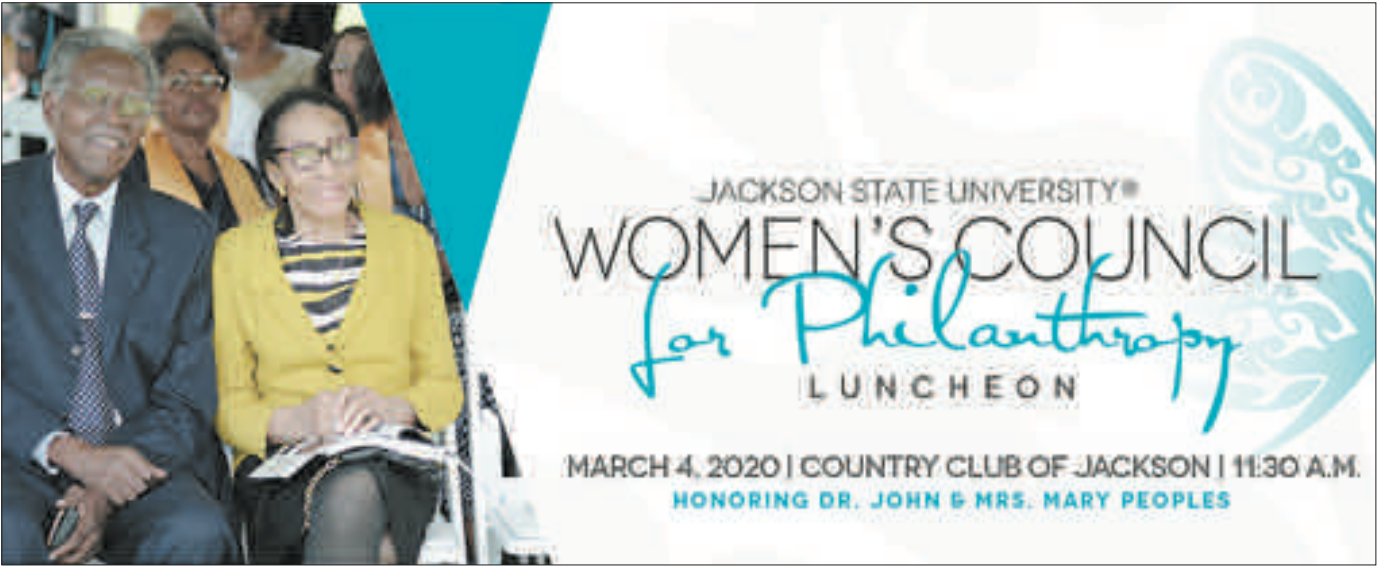
Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America, which was awarded the Modern Language Association’s William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize. Glaude is also the author of two edited volumes, and many influential articles about religion for academic journals. He has also written for *The New York Times* and *The Huffington Post*.

Known to be a convener of conversations and debates, Glaude takes care to engage fellow citizens of all ages and backgrounds – from young activists, to fellow academics, journalists and commentators, and followers on Twitter in dialogue about the course of the nation. His scholarship and his sense of himself as a public intellectual are driven by a commitment to think carefully with others in public. Accordingly, his writing and ideas are cited and shared widely.

Claude, originally from Moss Point, Mississippi, will share during his visit to his native state, “2020 – The Gathering Storm.”

Tickets available to the public for \$100. For ticket information, contact Patricia Trowles at 601 954-9645.

Women’s Council for Philanthropy to honor John A. and Mary Peoples during inaugural luncheon



By LaToya Hentz-Moore
jsumsnews.com

The event will initiate Women’s History Month by honoring JSU’s former president and first lady, John A. and Mary Peoples. The inaugural luncheon will be held Wednesday, March 4 at the Country Club of Jackson.

The mission of the WPC is to change the face of philanthropy by working with female students from diverse backgrounds so they may see themselves as philanthropists through leadership, scholarship and mentorship.

Council members also

serve as role models and provide career mentorship to the student ambassadors who implement community service projects throughout the semester.

“The council is comprised of a diverse group of accomplished and professional female leaders who work diligently towards enhancing our university through philanthropy,” says Veronica Cohen, vice president for Institutional Advancement/

External Affairs and executive director for the JSU Development Foundation, Inc. “The funds from this luncheon will enable the council

to establish an endowed scholarship for students at JSU.”

President Emeritus Peoples served as the sixth president and was instrumental in helping Jackson State gain university status in 1974. Peoples is also a legendary history maker with numerous other accolades in higher education and civic and social activities throughout his lifetime.

Mary Peoples will be acknowledged for serving as a long-time educator in the Jackson Public School system and as a diligent community leader who supports

numerous diverse civic programs and organizations.

“Council members, alumni, university friends and family will have an opportunity to display their gratitude for John and Mary Peoples,” says Cohen. “Additionally, the luncheon will highlight the accomplishments of Mary, which is most appropriate during Women’s History Month.”

“We are excited about this event because the additional funds will assist our students with staying in school and developing leadership skills that will withstand long after they graduate.”



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Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through collaboration with local entities

“Atmos Energy is delighted to partner with Habitat for Humanity in the home rehab project for the Broadmoor Initiative. We care about investing in the communities we serve. Homeownership is an essential part of achieving the American dream. Atmos Energy is proud to donate our time and our capital particularly on Dr. Martin Luther King Day, to make sure a deserving family has a new home.”

- Bobby Morgan, Atmos Energy Public Affairs vice president

Mississippi Link Newswire
Monday, January 20, Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) began their first extensive home rehab of 2020 by honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In collaboration with Anderson United Methodist Church, Atmos Energy, Baptist Health Systems, Butler Snow, Christ United Methodist Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Galloway United Methodist Church, Madison United Methodist Church, Mississippi College School of Law, New Hope Baptist Church, North-

minster Baptist Church, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, HFHMCA will be able to provide a safe, decent, affordable home for a first-time homebuyer.

“This is a special opportunity to honor Dr. King’s legacy,” said executive director of HFHMCA, Merrill McKewen. “A local family in need of a home will benefit from this extensive, collaborative partnership and we are grateful for those that are making this possible.”

Amongst the 13 entities, up to 360 volunteers will participate the



following 12 Saturdays. This rehab project brings together a diverse group of individuals to empower a local family to purchase a home through an interest free mortgage.

HFHMCA homeowners make a down payment and contribute 125 hours of sweat equity on the con-

struction of their home or the home of others. They also participate in homeownership classes about budgeting, home maintenance and being a good neighbor. They purchase their home with a zero-interest 30-year mortgage.

About Habitat for Humanity

Mississippi Capital Area
Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area is a faith-based organization founded in 1986. We have built or renovated simple and sustainable homes for 645 families in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties. Habitat homes are sold

at no profit with an interest-free mortgage to families who cannot 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.





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Students at Wingfield can benefit from Ag partnership with Hinds CC

Mississippi Link Newswire

Wingfield High School is home to the Academy of Natural Resource Utilization. The program prepares scholars who are interested in careers in agriculture. Students may now take advantage of a new pre-apprenticeship through a partnership with Hinds Community College and the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program that will expose students to agribusiness and entrepreneurship. Through the program, students will receive personal leadership development and community service learning opportunities. Pre-apprenticeship programs prepare students to enter and succeed in an apprenticeship program.

Participating Wingfield students will also complete the Mississippi Community College Board's Smart Start Program. This program is designed to teach the technical and social



Academy of Natural Resource Utilization scholars and educators at Wingfield High School.

skills that students need to be successful as employees. Scholars who complete the program will have an opportunity to take the ACT WorkKeys assessment

that measures a range of hard and soft skills relevant to any occupation, at any level, and across industries. These students may earn a National Career

Readiness Certificate that demonstrates to employers that they have acquired the skills needed to be successful in the workplace.

JPS board approves redesign plan to support 'Excellence for All'

Mississippi Link Newswire

On January 7, the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees approved unanimously the district's Optimizing for Equity school redesign plan. The plan will expand the district's pre-kindergarten opportunities, support the development of a world-class teaching and learning center, and generate cost savings that pave the way for long-term strategic investments.

The school redesign plan builds upon the district's five-year strategic action plan released earlier this school year, which outlines five key commitments the district made to scholars and families that are guiding its decisions and actions. In addition, the district relied heavily on information gathered through its ongoing community engagement ac-



tivities and data from a recent enrollment study conducted by Education Resource Strategies based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to inform the school redesign plan.

After releasing the plan December 6, 2019, the district held community meetings to inform parents about the specific impact of the redesign plan on their scholar's school. The full school redesign plan was presented to the board for consideration as information only at its regular board meeting December 17.

JPS announces Parent, Teacher, Administrator of the Year at Spring Convocation

Mississippi Link Newswire

Each year, usually in the spring, Jackson Public Schools unveils the Parent, Teacher, and Administrator of the Year at separate school-level programs. This year, these presentations were made during the Spring Convocation held January 6.

Two categories were added this year for Support Employee of the Year and Education Leader of the Year. The 2019-2020 honorees are:

JPS Parent of the Year

Mark Anthony Davis Jr., Spann Elementary

Davis has two children at Spann Elementary, Lia in second grade, and Clair in first grade. His oldest son Mark Anthony III graduated from fifth grade at Spann in 2019. As a parent, Davis tries to prepare his children for life, and that includes helping them succeed in school, prepare for college and careers and navigate family and friend relationships. While he does not expect his children to have the same interests that he did as a child, he expects them to give 100% at whatever they do. He is deeply involved in their activities, which include ballet, kung fu and reading clubs. He works with their mom to make sure they can take advantage of great opportunities with the hope of passing on what they have learned from life to make their children's lives better.

JPS Teacher of the Year

Tia Carr-Hall, Lanier High

Carr-Hall was born and raised in Jackson and is a product of JPS schools. She attended Boyd and Green Elementary Schools, Chastain Middle School and Bailey Magnet High School. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in education with an emphasis in mathematics from Jackson State University. As an undergraduate at JSU, she was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She has taught mathematics and Algebra I at Lanier High School since joining the district in 2013. Hall believes all students can learn. She includes a variety of techniques and strategies in her lessons so that she can reach each of her students on their level and help each of them experience success.

JPS Administrator of the Year

Vicki Conley, Dawson Elementary

Conley is the principal of Dawson Elementary School. She started her career in education as a fourth-grade teacher in Greenwood, Mississippi. While she held a full-time teaching position at the Virden Early Childhood Center, she also worked as a substitute teacher at other area public schools. She began working in Jackson Public Schools in 1998 as a second-grade teacher and later became an assistant principal. In her tenure as a building-level administrator, she has led two schools from failing to being rated successful. At John Hopkins Elementary, she helped the school improve from an F to a C. Under her leadership, Dawson

Elementary has improved from an F to a B. Conley involves community partners and parents in initiatives that promote achievement, growth and confidence in the scholars at Dawson.

JPS Education Leader of the Year

Anthony Moore, Casey Elementary

Moore is currently serving as the assistant principal at Casey Elementary. He is the district's first honoree for Education Leader of the Year. Moore started his career in education as a substitute teacher and afterschool tutor. He eventually landed a teaching position at the Career Academic Placement Alternative School at Duling. During his tenure in JPS, he has served in the roles of principal, assistant principal and teacher. Moore holds a Specialist

in Educational Leadership – Administration & Supervision from Mississippi College, a Master of Arts in teaching from Belhaven University, and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Southern Mississippi. His favorite quote about education is "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," by Malcolm X.

JPS Support Employee of the Year

Patricia Ransom, Property Accounting

Ransom is a lifelong resident of Jackson. She grew up in the Georgetown area and graduated from Lanier High School. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in business administration from Hinds Community College. Her first position after graduating was in human resources at Jackson Public Schools, where she was responsible for assigning substitute teachers. Eight years later, she moved to the Property Accounting Department, where she has served as a data clerk for the last 20 years. Ransom has three children that attended JPS schools. She believes you cannot educate a child's mind without also educating the heart and that everybody in the district plays a role in this, from the cafeteria worker to the custodian, to the bus driver, to the teachers and administrators.

Each honoree was nominated

by their schools and selected by a committee based on a rubric to assess their performance. Their selections are representative of the outstanding talent in the schools and administrative offices throughout JPS. Each honoree received a personalized plaque and gift bag. The Parent, Teacher and Administrator of the Year will represent the district for the state-level recognition program.

"We have so many talented people in Jackson Public Schools," said JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene. "We wanted to acknowledge as many as possible. Thank you to all of our winners and to everyone else who's out there doing big and little things to serve our children and families."

More than 4,000 JPS employees gathered to kick off the start of the second semester at the 2020 Spring Convocation. Themed "Ain't No Stopping Us Now," the district highlighted a number of achievements worth celebrating. The number of schools rated B increased by 17%, and the number of schools rated C, considered successful, increased by 25%. With a five-year strategic plan in place and guiding the path to success, JPS is poised to realize a promising future for the district and scholars.

Convocation gives JPS administrators an opportunity to impart the direction and vision for the district.

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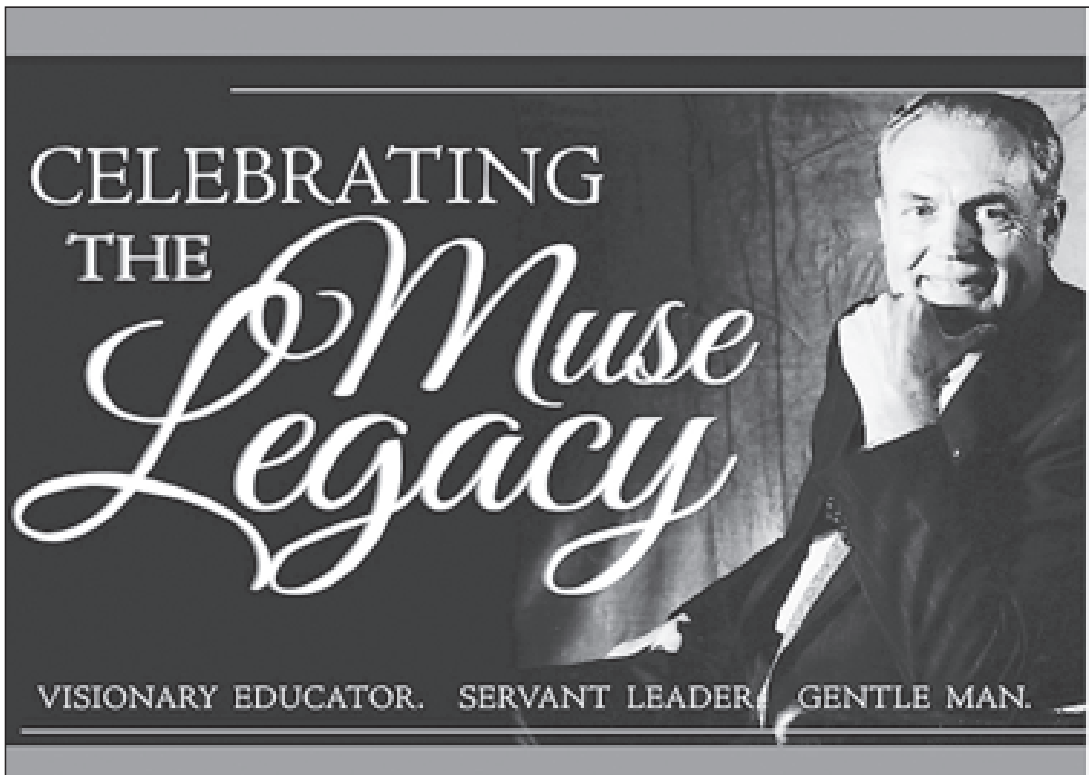
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‘Celebrating the Muse Legacy’ honoring retiring Hinds CC President Clyde Muse



Hinds Community College Foundation cordially invites you to a *Celebration* honoring *Dr. Clyde Muse* and his *Legacy*.

~ February 20, 2020 ~

Lunch to be served at 11:30 a.m. Program to follow.

The Clyde Muse Center
Rankin Campus
515 Country Place Parkway
Pearl, MS 39208

Individual tickets - \$100
Sponsorships available.

All proceeds will fund The Muse Legacy Endowment. For more sponsorship details or more information call 601.857.3630 or email jgranberry@hindsc.edu.

You may also give online at foundation.hindsc.edu/muselegacy

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The legacy of retiring Hinds Community College President Clyde Muse will be celebrated Feb. 20, 2020 at a fundraising event with proceeds going toward the Muse Legacy Endowment.

The “Celebrating the Muse Legacy” event is 11:30 a.m. at the Clyde Muse Center on the Rankin Campus in Pearl. Individual tickets are \$100 each with a series of sponsorship levels and benefits available for groups.

“The Muse Legacy Endowment has been established by friends of Muse to honor him and support those endeavors near to his heart – No. 1 being students, No. 2 being faculty and staff and No. 3 being the communities that we serve,” said Jackie Granberry, executive director of the Hinds Community College Foundation. “He is known as someone with a big heart for all people and lives out his value of ‘servant leader.’”

The college is also compiling a memory book to present to Muse upon his retirement. Anyone wishing to send a personal message or share a remembrance can mail a letter to Hinds Community College Foundation, c/o Muse Memories, P.O. Box 1100,

Raymond, Miss 39154 or email to jgranberry@hindsc.edu. The deadline for submission is April 30.

Muse announced to the Board of Trustees at the Dec. 4, 2019 meeting his intention to retire June 30, 2020 after 42 years as chief of the college and 68 years as an educator.

Muse became president of then-Hinds Junior College on July 1, 1978. He is the longest serving community college president in Mississippi history and among the longest serving college presidents in the nation. He is often called the “Godfather” of Mississippi community colleges for his committed vision in moving all the colleges forward, not just Hinds Community College, and his ability to assemble diverse groups of stakeholders to bring a project to fruition for the benefit of all. He has been the architect of many partnerships with business and industry, especially for workforce projects.

Most of all, however, he is known for his love for and dedication to the students the college serves and its employees. Early in his presidency, he coined the term “The College for All People” while working to ensure all Mississippians have the oppor-

tunity for a quality, affordable and accessible higher education.

A native of Benton County and a preacher’s son, Muse is a graduate of East Central Community College, Delta State University and Mississippi State University. He was a teacher and coach in Canton and Starkville before becoming a principal in Starkville and then school superintendent in Hinds County from 1969 to 1971 and Meridian from 1971 to 1978. He served a total of 26 years in K-12 public education in Mississippi, including leading Hinds County schools through desegregation in 1970.

His accomplishments at the college since then are vast. Over the last 42 years, Muse has improved infrastructure at all six Hinds locations, guiding two branches that began as vocational-technical centers into comprehensive campuses, the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center and the Vicksburg-Warren Campus, which recently opened the George-Oakes Building. Nursing and allied health programs moved from the Raymond Campus to Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center in 1982.

The Rankin Campus on Highway 80 in Pearl began in 1983

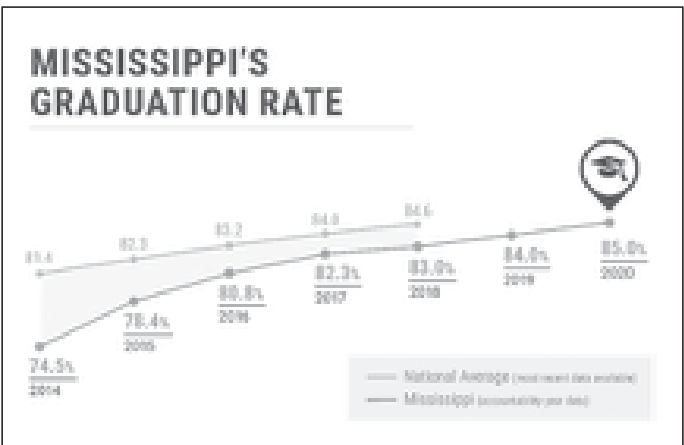
with vocational-technical programs for the county’s nine public high schools. The size of the campus more than doubled in 2007 with the addition of 60 acres of land on the south end of the current campus bordering Interstate 20. The Garner family donated 20 acres and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors bought another 40 acres on behalf of the college.

The Clyde Muse Center, where the event is being held, is located on the additional property. Opened in 2011, its construction was funded by the taxpayers of Rankin County through the Rankin County Board of Supervisors.

Muse also oversaw the expansion of the Raymond Campus across Highway 18 to Seven Springs Road where agricultural programs are housed at the Ted Kendall III Agricultural Complex. As the demand increased for business and industry training, Eagle Ridge Conference Center opened in 1996.

For more information, call 601 857-3630 or email jgranberry@hindsc.edu. Anyone wishing to donate can also do so online at foundation.hindsc.edu/Muselegacy.

Mississippi’s graduation rate exceeds national average



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently released the high school graduation rates for the 2018-19 school year, which show the state’s graduation rate has hit an all-time high of 85%, higher than the most recent national graduation rate. The 2019 national graduation rate is expected to be released later this month.

The graduation rate for students with disabilities nearly doubled from 23.2% in 2014 to 42.2% this year.

The state’s drop-out rate fell to an historic low of 9.7%, a decrease from 13.9% in 2014.

“Mississippi’s rising graduation rate is the result of our students’ significant academic gains in recent years. Student achievement is at an all-time high and is continuing to climb,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “I congratulate teachers, school leaders and parents for helping students complete high school prepared for college, postsecondary training, the military and the workforce.”

High school students now have the opportunity to earn an endorsement with their high school diploma. Starting

in grade 9, students choose whether they want to work toward a traditional diploma, or take additional classes to earn an academic, distinguished academic or career and technical education endorsement. Students can earn more than one endorsement.

Each diploma option prepares students to be successful after graduation, whether that be in the workforce, a career and technical training program, the military or college.

Students who earn an academic or distinguished academic diploma endorsement from a public high school automatically qualify for admission into any of the state’s public universities.

Mississippi’s high school graduation rate is calculated in accordance with federal and state law using a four-year cohort method. The 2020 graduation rate is based on students who entered grade 9 for the first time in the 2015-16 school year.

Graduation rates for 2018-19 will be reflected in the accountability ratings for the 2019-20 school year.

2020 Graduation Rate Report: mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Accountability

Hinds CC rated among best in nation for associate degrees

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College has been named among the best online colleges in the nation for associate degrees for 2020.

Seattle-based Intelligent.com, an independent academic research group, gave Hinds the designation Most Online Class Options among a group of 60 regionally accredited institutions that offer associate degrees and have fully online programs available. The comprehensive research guide was based on an initial study of 383 education programs at 149 accredited colleges and universities offering associate degrees, with 60 institutions making the academic research group’s list of finalists.

Programs were rated on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and postgraduate employment. Hinds rated 30th out of the 60 finalists overall on those factors and was the lone two-year

college in Mississippi named a finalist.

Hinds Community College offers nearly 500 online class sections each fall, spring and summer semester through the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC), a consortium of 15 community colleges in Mississippi offering Internet-based courses. Students at its member colleges are offered flexibility in testing and other vital resources.

For spring 2020, Hinds has experienced an increase of 4.5 percent in online students taking both academic and career-tech courses, compared to spring 2019.

Intelligent.com provides comprehensive information on higher education programs as well as financial aid, internships and study strategies, among other resources.

Results of the survey may be found at <https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-colleges-for-associates-degrees/>

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Nine months ago, the 15 presidents in the Mississippi Community College system commissioned an economic impact study that would evaluate the support of its mission. With the recent completion of the study, the presidents now have that information to utilize for more strategic planning and decision-making.

The report, prepared by the National Strategic Planning and Research Center at Mississippi State University, will be the subject of a Jan. 21 press conference, which is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the second floor rotunda of the Capitol.

Among the data in the “Investing in Mississippi” impact report are such facts as

- 96 percent of community college students are Mississippi residents.
- More than two-thirds of Mississippi college-bound public high

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NEWS CONFERENCE

MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 • 10:30 - 11:15 A.M. • CAPITOL, 2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA

INVESTING IN MISSISSIPPI

- 96% of community college students are Mississippi residents.
- More than two-thirds of Mississippi college-bound public high school graduates enter community colleges within one year of graduation.
- Nearly 81,000 Mississippians are trained each year in community college non-credit workforce programs, supporting the creation of 1,240 additional jobs.
- On average, 8,876 Mississippi community college graduates enter the Mississippi workforce every year. These graduates support an additional 6,421 jobs, create \$509 million in wages and salaries, \$73 million in state and local tax revenue, and contribute \$1.2 billion to the state's GDP.
- Of the approximately 13,000 undergraduates awarded degrees annually from public four-year universities in Mississippi, about 58% previously attended a Mississippi community college.



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ter the Mississippi workforce every year. These graduates support an additional 6,421 jobs, create \$509 million in wages and salaries, \$73 million in state and local tax revenue and contribute \$1.2 billion to the state’s Gross Domestic Product.

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annually from public four-year universities in Mississippi, about 58 percent previously attended a Mississippi community college.

“Understanding the value of public education and workforce training has historically been challenging, until now,” said Jesse Smith, Jones College president and Legislative Committee chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

“We intend to show legislators, county officials and the citizens of Mississippi how critical community colleges are for the successful future of the State of Mississippi. Specifically, we can make a reasonable assumption on the return on investment to the State of Mississippi and the potential for increased earnings for the student who earns a community college degree or workforce credential.”

For more information on the impact study, contact Finee Ruffin, finee.ruffin@jccj.edu.

Sonic Boom featured in new Dear Silas and Big K.R.I.T. video

‘I GOT IT’

A black and white photograph of six young women standing in a row outdoors. They are all smiling and wearing matching cheerleader outfits consisting of dark, polka-dot crop tops with gold trim, dark shorts, and fishnet stockings. They are also wearing white sneakers. The woman on the far left has her hand on her hip, while the others have various poses. The background is a bright, slightly overexposed outdoor setting with some foliage visible in the distance.

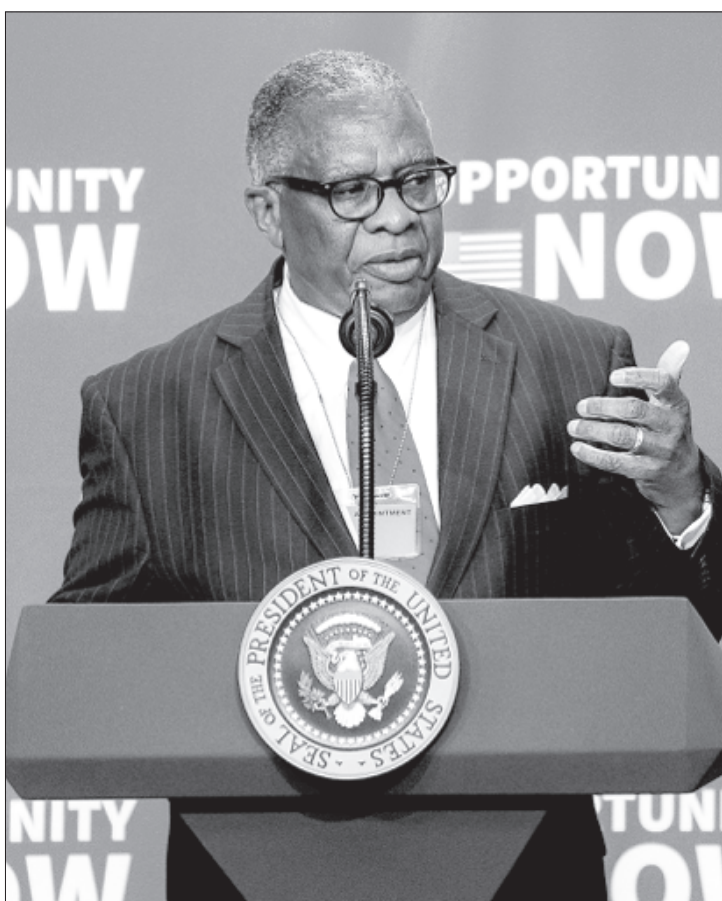
Governor Tate Reeves announces nationwide search for new MDOC commissioner

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Governor Tate Reeves announced a group of diverse, experienced Mississippians to help in the mission of finding a new leader for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC). Holding a press conference in the Governor's press briefing room, Reeves was joined by the group, led by Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs Jr., that will assist in a nationwide search to provide a recommendation for the MDOC Commissioner.

"We cannot rush the critical job of finding a new commissioner for the Department of Corrections. We must get this right for the people of Mississippi. I am turning to my fellow Mississippians to help me in this mission," said Reeves.

The Honorable George Flaggs, Jr. is currently serving his second term as mayor of the City of Vicksburg. He first took the oath of office in 2013. Previously, Flaggs served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1988 to 2013. He served as chair of the Corrections Committee and served



Flaggs

on several other committees, including Appropriations, Banking and Financial Services, Constitution, Legisla-

tive Budget Committee, Public Health and Human Services and Rules.

Other members of the search



Waggoner



Henry

group include:

Retired Sheriff Greg Waggoner has over 43 years of law enforcement experience, serving 20 of those years in corrections. He retired with the rank of captain and ran for sheriff of Leake County in 1999. He has served as Leake County sheriff for 20 years, recently retiring from that office. Waggoner has a Bachelors degree from Mississippi College in administration of justice.

District Attorney Jody Owens currently serves in the Hinds County District Attorney's Office. He previously served as managing attorney of the Mississippi office of the Southern Poverty Law Center. In this role, he brought civil rights cases throughout Mississippi. In his legal career, he has tried civil and criminal jury trials. He has experience litigating cases in several states, including Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi both in state and federal court. Previously, Owens served as a Hinds County special prosecutor. He is a graduate of Jackson State University and received his law degree from Howard University Law School. Jody is a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserves and has proudly served his country for over seven years.

District Attorney Joel Smith currently serves in the Harrison County District Attorney's Office. In his duty as district attorney, Smith prosecutes and defends on behalf of the State, in all courts of the County. In his legal career, he has experience trying criminal and civil cases.

Kathy Henry recently served for over 5 years on the Parole Board, appointed by Governor Phil Bryant. Prior to that, she served 20 years on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, appointed by Governor Kirk Fordice and reappointed by Governor Haley Barbour. Henry was also appointed by Barbour as Mississippi's Representative on the National Juvenile Justice Advisor Committee. For eight years, she worked for Congressman Chip Pickering,



Owens



Rushing

where her duties required her to work with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Sheriff Steve Rushing currently serves as sheriff of Lincoln County, having recently been elected to serve his fourth term. He began as deputy sheriff in Lincoln County in 1996, moving up to captain of investigations before becoming sheriff in 2006. During the last 13 years as sheriff, he has been a member of the National Sheriff's Association, a member of the Mississippi Sheriff's Association where he was elected twice to serve as president, and currently is serving on the legislative committee of the Mississippi Sheriff's Association. Rushing is a graduate of Copiah-Lincoln Community College and holds a degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Judge Sean J. Tindell currently serves on the Mississippi Court of Appeals. Previously, Tindell served in the Mississippi Senate from 2012 until his appointment to the bench. He was chair of the Senate Judiciary A Committee and vice chair of the Senate Tourism Committee. From 2002 to 2007, he was an assistant district attorney for the Second Circuit District of Harrison, Hancock and Stone Counties. Tindell entered private practice in 2007, also serving as a prosecutor for the City of Biloxi and as city attorney for the City of Diamondhead.

Reeves also announced the interim commissioner for the Department of Corrections during the press conference.

"While we work to find the right fit for our state and our people, we need an experienced leader who can step in and step up to restore order in the short term. I have asked Mayor Tommy Taylor to serve as interim commissioner for the Department of Corrections, and I am glad to announce that he has accepted this critical task. Taylor has proven his dedication to serving our citizens – today he is



Smith



Tindell



Taylor

stepping up to serve Mississippi once again," said Reeves.

Taylor has a long and storied career of serving Mississippi. Before serving as mayor of Boyle, Taylor was a member of the House of Representatives. He served as chair of the Corrections Committee and served on several other committees, including Judiciary B, Judiciary En Blanc and Military Affairs. Taylor's service to Mississippi also includes time serving as a district attorney investigator, chief deputy sheriff, city police officer, prison warden and election commissioner in Bolivar County from 1985 to 1987.

During the press conference, Reeves disclosed that on his first day in office he instructed the Department of Public Safety to assign an officer from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigations to bring order and root out the underlying issues at the State Penitentiary at Parchman and throughout the Department of Corrections. Stationed at Parchman, the officer is tasked with uncovering any criminal activity – whether it be conducted by inmates or correctional staff – and providing a full, independent investigation.

"The ultimate responsibility for violence always lies with those who carry it out. But in this moment, we must ask if there is more that we can do to eliminate the opportunity for such actions. Can we do more to provide for peace? I believe we can. To do so, we must get to the heart of the problem. And it starts with bringing order to Parchman," Reeves said.



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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

African Americans are 40 percent of the nation's homeless population

TriceEdneyWire.com

The total number of homeless is 567,715 and 40 percent or 225,735 are African-American, although only 13 percent of the nation's population is black, according to "The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress."

The numbers are based on "Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness" taken one night in January 2020. The Point-In-Time Estimates reported that 27 percent of the 56,381 who were unsheltered were black. Unsheltered homeless means they are sleeping in cars, on the streets or in parks or on buses, subways and elevated trains.

"African Americans have remained considerably over-represented among the homeless population compared to the U.S. population," according to the report.

Blacks represented 52 percent of the homeless population with children.



About 48 percent or 270,607 of the homeless are white. They also comprised just over half of the unsheltered population or 57 percent of 119,487.

Asians were 1.3 percent or 7,228 of the homeless population. Hispanics or Latinos were 22 percent or 124,615 of the homeless population. Native Americans were 3.2 percent or 17,966 of the homeless population.

Men and boys comprise 343,187 or 60.5 percent of the homeless compared with women who comprise 219,911 or 38.7 percent of homeless.

States sue to stop changes to Food Stamps Program



TriceEdneyWire.com

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have filed a federal lawsuit to prevent the Trump Administration from cutting off nearly 700,000 Americans from participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under new, more restrictive guidelines they have proposed that will take effect later this year.

The lawsuit filed by the state attorneys general seeks a preliminary injunction to prevent the rule from going into effect April 1, 2020.

The lawsuit challenges a U.S. Department of Agriculture rule that would limit states' ability to extend SNAP or Food Stamp benefits. The changes propose a three-month time limit for SNAP benefits for jobless individuals 18 to 49 who are not disabled or raising children.

In addition, the coalition charges that the rule undermines Congress' intent for SNAP and that the USDA violated the federal rule-making process.

New York, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and the District of Columbia are coalition members.

The states sued the United States Department of Agriculture and George Perdue III, the department's secretary, in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

On July 24, the Trump Administration proposed changing the way states calculate who is eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

The federal government pays the full cost of SNAP benefits but shares the cost of administering it on a 50-50 basis. According to the Department of Agriculture's proposed rule, people with a gross income of \$16,000 or with assets of more than \$2,500, would no longer qualify for SNAP benefits.

SNAP benefits provide the largest nutritional safety net, feeding 37 million Americans. People who are SNAP eligible receive \$127 or about \$1.39 per meal in SNAP benefits.

Nearly 9 million African Americans receive food stamps each month, which is 25 percent of the black population, according the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C., progressive think tank that analyzes federal and state budget policies.

"Denying access to vital SNAP benefits would only push hundreds of thousands of already vulnerable Americans into greater economic uncertainty," said New York State's Attorney General Letitia James.

The states argued that the Trump administration's proposed changes:

Contradicts statutory language and Congress's intent for the food-stamp program

Raises health care and homeless costs while lowering economic activity in the states

Amends the law for arbitrary and capricious reasons

Violates the federal rule-making process.

The SNAP benefits program was established in 1964. Congress amended the program in 1996 to encourage greater workforce participation among recipients.

Is Dr. King's dream being denied or deferred?

Disparities in housing perpetuate racial wealth gap

By Charlene Crowell
TriceEdneyWire.com

Once again, the only federal holiday honoring a person of color has been celebrated across the nation. The 38-year span of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life continues to be remembered and revered. Since his tragic death, time has shown he was also prophetic.

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle," said Dr. King. "And so, we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent."

From voting rights to desegregation in public accommodations, transportation and employment, Dr. King's Baptist cadence resonated with a generation to champion what was wrong, and to also speak up for what is right. In that noble pursuit, he came in 1964, the youngest person to become a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Yet in 2020, much of the hard-won rights championed by King are under attack by the very governments charged to enforce both laws and regulations. Especially for black America, rollbacks of much-needed programs jeopardize access to basic life needs such as nutrition, safe water, legal justice and housing itself.

The irony is that the enactment of the historic 1968 Fair Housing Act followed less than a week after King's assassination in Memphis. Hence, as we honor Dr. King, we are also called to continue progressive efforts to better include all of the Americans whom historically have been locked out or left out when it comes to housing: people of color, women, families, people with different physically challenged and all who still suffer the insidious nature of housing discrimination

As the number of homeless Americans now number more than 560,000, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, chair of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee (HFSC), has added homelessness and homeless prevention to her committee's 2020 priorities.

"Homelessness affects the very fabric of our communities," noted Waters. "When I speak to families in my district who are dealing with homelessness, I see the toll this housing insecurity is taking on them, including their children, who can't concentrate in school because they're sleeping in a car at night... We need to do more if we are going to address the rental housing and homelessness crisis: we need to preserve the affordable housing that we have, and we need to increase investments in programs that develop new housing or provide rental aid. We know what the solutions are to this problem; we just need the political will and resources."



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving "I Have a Dream" on Aug. 28, 1963.



lem; we just need the political will and resources."

While lawmakers debate the appropriate federal commitment to affordable housing, consumers are increasingly financially challenged to keep a roof over their heads.

For the past 30 years, the National Low Income Housing Coalition has annually published Out of Reach, that tracks the cost of rental housing across the nation. According to its 2019, report, the average monthly fair market rent for a two-bedroom or one-bedroom rental home is \$1,194 and \$970 for a one-bedroom unit.

"[L]ow wages, wage inequality, racial inequities and a severe shortage of affordable rental homes leave too many vulnerable people unable to afford their housing," states the report. An average renter must work 52 hours per week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment

Consumers seeking to transition from renters to homeowners face another daunting challenge. According to the National Association of Realtors in December 2019, the median existing-home price for all housing types in October was \$271,300, up 5.4 percent from November 2018 (\$257,400), as prices rose in all regions. That means a 10 percent down payment for a median-priced home would require \$27,130. Moreover, a 20 percent down payment, which would remove the added cost of private mortgage insurance would be double in cost – \$54,260.

According to calculations by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), nationwide it would take 14 years for a prospective homebuyer earning the national median income

to save a 10 percent down payment for a median-priced home. But for black and Latino households earning the median income, the number of saving years expands to 21 and 17 years respectively to amass a 10 percent down payment on that same-priced home.

"When the president asks, what do African Americans and minorities have to lose? How about affordable, quality housing and a shot at the American dream," queried Congressman Emanuel Cleaver in a January 9 Politico article.

Ample research documents how far the nation has yet to travel when it comes to housing, homeownership and the still-widening racial wealth gap.

A new report released days before the 2020 King holiday, States with the Most Racial Progress (January 2020) by WalletHub.com, names and ranks states with the best and worst disparities in housing segregation, as well as wealth and employment. This research found that DC (District of Columbia), Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were each among the 10 states with the worst housing segregation. When wealth and employment were ranked by state, these same states along with Minnesota were also among the worst ranks of the nation.

"Volumes of research have shown that when people from diverse backgrounds are together in school, neighborhoods, or workplaces everybody wins," said Meera E. Deo, a law professor with Thomas Jefferson School of Law and one of the report's authors. "Making the unfamiliar more familiar means every-

body wins."

"An obvious advantage of living in an ethnically diverse city is increased intergroup contact," added co-author Kelln Li, a Ph.D. and assistant professor of sociology at California State University's Dominguez Hills campus. "Such interaction might happen at various layers of the city: among students in school, or neighbors living on the same street."

"Thanks to this opportunity to get to know people who are unlike us, research has shown reduced prejudice, stereotypes, or negative attitudes across people of different ethnic or cultural background," concluded Li.

Comments by the St. Louis Fed Center for Household Financial Stability would appear to have reached similar conclusions through its independent findings as well.

"We find that families who are thriving tend to be white, college-educated and/or older," said the St. Louis Fed. "We find that families who are struggling tend to have one or more of these characteristics: black or Hispanic; no four-year college degree; and/or younger. We also find that many families across the board are striving for more economic security."

For these reasons and others, it does not make sense for the Trump Administration to suspend rules and data mapping tools that alert communities to potential fair housing violations. Yet on January 6 HUD proposed suspending its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule that provides HUD program participants with a planning framework and data tools to enable them to take meaningful actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

This year, it would be prudent to ask, 'What happened to the dream King had to make America's promises of freedom, justice and equality – true for all peoples?' And its corollary, 'What are we prepared to do about it?'

"Discrimination in housing is not a thing of the past, it is ongoing and real," observed Nikitra Bailey, an EVP with the Center for Responsible Lending. "Low-income communities and communities of color now more than ever need the government to provide them with critical tools to combat discrimination in housing and the insidious harms that result. Instead we have seen HUD, under the current administration, do the opposite."

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications deputy director. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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www.mississippilink.com

Christian Living

Part III

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



We read in Philippians 1:6: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Perhaps Paul’s joy in these people at Philippi was that he was seeing them by faith. Not as they were, but as they would be when God’s work was done. He was looking at them with the eyes of faith. He was sure that He who began a good work in them was going to finish it, so Paul could say that, even though he may have been rubbed the wrong

way once in a while. This is the key to getting along with other Christians. Sometimes it’s difficult but when we realize what they will be, we can do it.

You and I today are not living in the Day of the Lord; we are not living in the day of the Old Testament; we are not living in the day of the Millennium; we are not living in the day of eternity, we are living in the day of Jesus Christ. We are all partners in the Gospel together.

If you are part of the church or if you belong to Christ, then you are a partner in the gospel. The gospel brings people from different backgrounds (Acts 16). The gospel is the great unifier. People from

different social, racial and economic backgrounds all together in the church are united in Christ.

We read in Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” The gospel brings us all together.

The Bible says that we are all saints in Christ Jesus. My friend, I want us to learn that leaders and lay people are partners together. This letter is all about being partners in the gospel, so Paul emphasizes that he and Timothy are fellow servants of Christ Jesus. Paul doesn’t just address the leadership or the people in the church, he addresses them to-

gether. This letter is addressed to all of them. Why, because leaders and lay people in the church are partners together.

Look at Paul’s greeting in verse two: “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2). This was Paul’s favorite greeting to those whose lives had been changed by the gospel, emphasizing God’s grace in salvation and the peace we have with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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P R E S E R V E D

Steps of Faith

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



I’ve always considered myself a woman of great faith. But this year, I’ve been challenged more than ever to not just call myself woman of great faith. The challenge this year has been whether I’ll be able to keep taking those steps of faith.

Ask yourself this question – which has the biggest impact on your life? The fear of following God, the fear of not following God or the fear comes once you start following God? Recently, I’ve been dealing with each one of those fears and stating things like, “My life won’t really change if I don’t do what God wants me to. I mean, I’ve been obedient in other areas so what’s so wrong with me not doing this one thing?” I realized this as I struggled being completely obedient and as I prayed for God to show me His will for my life.


The more I prayed, the more I saw the signs and felt the spiritual nudging to go in one specific direction. In the past, I’d been more willing to go where I felt God’s spirit was leading me. This time, however, I didn’t want to do it. In fact, I’d been resisting the nudging of God’s spirit for at least 9 years. Not believing I had enough faith to do it was part of the reason I struggled. Now that my faith has increased to a level where I

believe I can complete the goal; I find myself with a new struggle.

The first step of faith is hard, but I’ve learned the next step of faith is sometimes the hardest. Why? Sometimes you are so glad to have taken the first step. Also, you have the option of not going any further. You also have the option of going forward and completing your faith walk. James 2:14, 17 says that we have to do something when we say we have faith because “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?... Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Lately, I’ve been working on and walking out my faith. It’s taken me nearly 9 years to go from being a woman of faith who boldly says “I can do it” to being a “walker of faith” who takes one faith filled step after the other. Psalm 37:23-24 says, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.” It says “steps” and not “step” which makes me think that we fulfill our God-given purpose when we trust God and keep walking in faith.

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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Sure glad to be black

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



When you think about the harsh treatment black people have experienced, and still experience in this country, when you think of 400 years of black people being enslaved, having gone through Jim Crow, segregation, lynching and every indignity you can think about, don't you at least say to yourself, "I'm sure glad I'm black?"

I say that because I watch the news religiously, and listen to all sides of this Trump thing. I look at everybody involved, and none of the crooks or accused crooks look like you or me. I know some of our ancestors suffered severe and outrageous beatings and other sinful indignities, but we've never heard of any of them engaged in conduct like that attributed to Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Rudy Giuliani, William Barr, Robert Hyde, Devin Nunes, and all of those unsavory characters who meet at the Trump Hotel bar. You can take note that none of them look like you or me.

Despite a few bad apples among us from time to time, none of them are major players in this plot to get dirt on the Bidens or subvert national interests.

Rachel Maddow interviewed Lev Parnas who described what can only be called a serious mob operation. If just one half of what Parnas has shared with us is true, we are living in a very dangerous country, and I'm sure glad to be Black.

I read about Darryl Scott (one of us) and others trying to pull a fast one down at Virginia Union University in Richmond by trying to entice people to be present to honor Donald Trump and Jared Kushner on the sacred day America observes Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The hook was to offer money — lots of it to unsuspecting black people who didn't know the real purpose of the event. Yes, I admit that was a bad act, but even that does not rise to the level of what black people (red, yellow and brown people, too) have seen on the news every night. I know Scott is friends with Trump and his supporters — but what he tried to do is small time compared with what Trump's friends from another mother have done and are now trying to cover up.

Black people, for once, can be glad to be black. I know I am. I pray that my good white friends are wishing they could be black, brown, red or yellow, too because we've never committed any act remotely close to the current crimes we're seeing.

All white people aren't involved, and I congratulate them; but think about their new, uncomfortable feeling every time they turn on their televisions observing only white people, many with whom they identify and support, mixed up in this corruption.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to be black know well what daily re-criminating, negative news feels like. Imagine how it feels to those whites whose new reality is that our current national disgrace is not shared.

Imagine having these accusations directed at you or those who reflect your values. The leader of this mob has been impeached, but, unlike typical consequences for those of us who are non-white, for all the witness verified, condemnable acts, unless there is a miracle of justice, 45 won't even be convicted.

Many of the senators elected to represent all of us have already indicated that they will turn a blind eye to the voluminous evidence that would change the mind of a normal, objective person.

At least for the next few days non-white people can watch and live without the fear or threat of being maligned and condemned for involvement in this national travesty.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. (www.nationalcongress-bw.org). She's also host of WPFW.FM 89.3's "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

Will a woman be president in 2020

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



In a most unusual endorsement, the *New York Times* has endorsed both Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Amy Klobuchar (MN) for the Democratic nomination for president. Apparently, the Editorial Board of the *Times* disagrees with Senator Bernie Sanders (VT), who allegedly told Warren that a woman could not win the presidency. I'd love to see the right woman in the White House, but I've been among the many who have wondered openly if, in a polarized and sexist United States, a woman can win both the nomination and the presidency.

Though polls are not a definitive measure of who will win an election, Warren and Klobuchar tend to poll more weakly than the men in the race — Vice President Biden, Sanders and former Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Have we come such a long way since 2016 that a woman is electable? Can so-called progressive men who want to get 45 out of the White House overcome their gender bias to vote for a woman?

Clearly, the *Times* not only thinks a woman can win, but in endorsing two women for the Democratic nomination, they are saying that women are the best of the Democrats in the race. And, in the past two years, we've seen signs that women are gaining politically. The women's sweep of the 2018 elections certainly bodes well for women. At the same time, is gender a sufficient qualification for the presidency?

Three years after the first flawed but overwhelmingly successful Women's March in 2017, the realignment of the March "movement" has illustrated cracks in the foundations of feminism.

These flaws perhaps go back to the scuffle over who should get the vote first between our nation's first feminists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and civil rights activists like Frederick Douglass. In resenting the fact that black men got the vote before white women, those early feminists used extremely disparaging language against black men, using terms like "savage" to suggest these men did not deserve to vote.

Can anybody say "intersectionality?" Or to make it more clear, use the words of Sojourner Truth and say, "Ain't I A Woman." The women's march move-

ment fell apart because women were not on the same page. Accusations against Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour, two of the co-chairs of the march caused much discussion and rancor, so much so that the second Women's March attracted a fraction of the people who showed up to the first one. And the third march was operated on a different model. It did not equal the excitement or momentum of the first march, although there were many more local marches and other activities associated with the marches.

Women can't "come together" unless they acknowledge our differences, as well as our similarities. Thanks to Tarana Burke and folks like Professor Kimberly Crenshaw, some black women are openly addressing issues of race and class in feminism. But I've heard few white women, either politicians or intellectuals, deal with issues of racism in the women's movement. Is there really "a women's movement?" There are women's issues, and women's marches, and an exhilarating display of anti-Trump sentiment three years ago (don't forget that 53 percent of white women voted for that man), but when do women come together?

In other words, gender is not a qualification for higher office. And if the women endorsed by the *New York Times* do not fully explore the concept of intersectionality and speak on it, they will likely sideline some votes, even though many others would vote for Bubba the Fool to get rid of 45.

Both Warren and Klobuchar are exciting candidates. Warren's progressive ideas endear her to the left, and Klobuchar's more moderate approach to social and economic challenges appeals to others. The *Times* did a good job of contrasting the two women.

But can either win the president? When then one-term Senator Barack Obama ran for president, I liked him very much but didn't think a black man could succeed in this racist nation. Thankfully, I was wrong. Can a woman win in 2020? I'm hoping the best candidate will win, and the best candidate may well be a woman.

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

MLK's legacy even more relevant as hate crimes continue to rise

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate." — Martin Luther King Jr.

A report that hate crimes surged in America's five largest cities last year has broken just as we honor the nation's best-known victim of a hate crime.

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, found that hate crimes were at their highest level since September 11, 2001, in New York, Los

Angeles, Chicago, with the Jewish community being the most frequent target in all five of the cities.

"These data reflect several trends, including an escalating tribalism, where various prejudices like anti-Semitism, xenophobia and homophobia, among others, are widely shared across a diverse grouping of people," Brian Levin, the report's lead author, said. "Next, local demographic changes in densely populated cities means more people are coming into contact with each other right at a time when fearful stereotypes are increasingly become the kindling for violent behavior."

In the wake of the shooting and stabbing attacks on Orthodox Jews in New York and New Jersey, far-right trolls hoping to exacerbate racial tensions have been posing online as Jews to post racist screeds against African Americans.

Online sleuths who traced the racist plot back to the website 4chan — a site that author Elad Nehorai called "a

radical breeding ground: — found slurridden comments like "You are throwing high-quality octane fuel" on the "fire" of Jewish-black relations, "Let's see some riots," and "If you break the black-Jewish alliance, it's all over for the Jews."

It's instructive to note that the goal of white nationalists is to drive a wedge between marginalized groups. And vital that we actively and forcefully resist these efforts.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," King wrote in Letter from a Birmingham Jail. "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

The National Urban League, as one of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity Anchor Institutions, celebrated the fifth annual National Day of Racial Healing the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The day is a call to action to mobilize communities, or-

ganizations and individuals across the United States in support of truth, racial healing and transformation. More than 70 events around the nation were scheduled, and you can follow the conversation on social media using the hashtag #HowWeHeal.

As one of the Anchor Institutions, we stand side-by-side with racial justice and organizations representing Latinos, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and other ethnic and religious communities — tied together, as King said, in a single garment of destiny.

As disheartened as we may be by the rising level of hate crimes, and as disgusted as we may be to read the words of online trolls, we must guard against meeting hate with hate.

Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, "Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster."

The monster of racism feeds on hatred. The only way to kill it is to starve it.

The legislature could help a lot by doing a lot less

By Jon Pritchett
Mississippi Center for Public Policy



The new year brought a new legislative session to Jackson. It also brought new estimates from the Census bureau on Mississippi's population.

For the fourth time in five years, Mississippi lost population. The state's population declined by 4,871, the sixth highest total in the country. Mississippi and neighboring Louisiana, which saw a decrease of 10,896 residents, are the only states in the south to lose population over the past year. This is a continuing trend.

A look at a map of domestic migration, which measures where Americans are moving over the past year, shows a picture of the haves and the have-nots when it comes to population growth.

Large swaths of the northeast and midwest show a declining population, while the interior west, west coast (save for California), and the southeast saw population gains, substantial gains in some states.

So what can we do to join our southern neighbors?

We may look at Mississippi and say things like, "we don't have any cool large cities today that people want to move to." But honestly, were Salt Lake City or Raleigh or Nashville that cool

30 years ago? They certainly looked and performed much differently than they do today.

People moved to those places because of opportunity, and made them cool. And there are policies the state can adopt that would put Mississippi ahead of the curve when it comes to national policy and position the state to be competitive nationwide.

For starters, Mississippi needs to move away from a desire to overregulate commerce and embolden government bureaucrats. Mississippi has more than 117,000 regulations that cut across every sector of the economy. A successful model to stem this growing tide would be a one-in, two-out policy where for every new regulation that is adopted, two have to be removed. If a regulatory policy is so important, make the government prove it.

The Trump administration adopted a similar executive order in 2017, and the numbers show we are actually seeing decreases greater than two-to-one.

This could be particularly beneficial in healthcare and tech policy. No department regulates more than the Department of Health, but our goal should be a push toward free market healthcare reforms that encourage choice and competition. Certificate of Need reform would be a good place to start.

In tech policy, the state has the opportunity to be one of the first states to es-

entially open the door for innovation, rather than one where entrepreneurs need to seek permission from the state. If Mississippi wants to get in the technology world, and we are convinced this is essential, a permissionless innovation policy in healthcare would be a big step in the right direction.

We need to continue to reform our occupational licensing requirements. This includes providing universal recognition of licensing, following the path paved by Arizona. If you have been licensed in one state, that license should be good in Mississippi. Again, we could lead on an issue that would be particularly beneficial to military families.

Our current licensing regime serves to lower competition and increase costs for consumers, while not providing those consumers with a better product. Occupational licensing is an example of how Mississippi misses the opportunity to grow her economy by acting in defensive ways to protect the slices of our economic pie for the well-connected when the reality is we could create a much bigger economic pie if we encouraged more creative disruption, competition and risk-taking.

Finally, Mississippi needs to shed its abundant reliance on government and the public sector. Whether for public assistance, grants, contracts, jobs or specific tax breaks, the citizens and

companies in Mississippi are too dependent on state government. And the state is too dependent on the federal government. We have the third highest level of economic dependence on federal grants-in-aid in the nation (43%) and the fourth highest level of our economy driven by the public sector in the country (55%).

Politicians, state agency directors and government bureaucrats cannot create the economic growth we need. They can, however, work together with our various representatives and create an environment that allows and encourages private economic activities. Ultimately, with such an environment, it will be the entrepreneurs, business owners, productive workers, creative disruptors, capitalists, managers and consumers who deliver the economic growth we all seek.

There's no rule that Mississippi has to lose population. Alabama, with whom we share much in common, had a domestic migration growth that ranked 18th in the country last year. We'd celebrate that. Some will look at Mississippi's woes and say the problem is that government doesn't do enough. As the success of our neighbors shows, that couldn't be further from the truth.

Jon Pritchett is the president and CEO of Mississippi Center for Public Policy, the state's non-partisan, free-market think tank.

State's 2020 CMNH Champion keeps the beat with a mended heart



The Cumberland family includes parents Tara and Jason and children Davis and Sybil.

umc.edu

As a competitive dancer and tumbler, Sybil Cumberland of Preston moves to a musical beat.

Thanks to Children's of Mississippi cardiologists and surgeons, she steps to that beat with a healthy heart.

Named Mississippi's 2020 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion during a celebration in Meridian Wednesday, Sybil has been a patient of Children's of Mississippi's Children's Heart Center since she was an infant.

Born with a congenital heart defect, Sybil underwent two surgeries at the state's only children's hospital, recovering in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit.

"Sybil's life was saved by Children's of Mississippi care," said her mother, Tara Cumberland. "Anything we can do to support the children's hospital, we will do."

Sybil couldn't agree more. During December, she collected toy donations to give to children's hospital patients. Tara, Sybil and older brother Davis delivered wagonloads of Barbie dolls, action figures, stuffed animals, games and books to Children's of Mississippi in time for the gifts to brighten Christmas for patients.

She's also been a regular at the an-



Sybil performs a routine with her fellow dancers.

nual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon, a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals fundraiser that benefits Children's of Mississippi, broadcasting her story with Meridian-area stations.

During the 2019 college football season, Sybil was the Kid Captain for Mississippi State University when the Bulldogs hosted Alabama. She's also active in supporting other causes, serving as an ambassador for the March of Dimes' March for Babies and modeling in fashion shows for the American Heart Association.

"Children's of Mississippi keeps my heart healthy," Sybil said, "and I will do my best to represent the children's hospital and the patients there."

Every year, 170 local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals identify a Champion in each of their local communities to serve as the face for children treated at their local children's hospital. These ambassadors spend their year advocating for the charitable need of children's hospitals across North America.

Tara said Sybil's Champion year will combine "two of her loves, dance and Children's of Mississippi."

With her healthy heart, Sybil performs with a dance company from Carol Merrill Academy of Dance in Meridian, competing in dance forms as varied as

ballet, tap and jazz, among others.

"Dance is in Sybil's heart," said studio founder Merrill. "It just pours out of her. Sybil always strives to do her best, and she is all about learning her craft."

Merrill includes an improvisational time during dance lessons, and she had put on the Kidz Bop version of "Fight Song" to inspire choreography by her students.

Sybil heard the words, "This is my fight song, take back my life song," and told Merrill, "That's my song."

"She is a fighter," Merrill said, "and she's a very special little miracle."

Today a healthy second-grader at Kemper Academy, Sybil sees pediatric cardiologist Dr. Aimee Parnell to make sure her surgical repairs grow as she does.

"Sybil has always been a precious little thing," said Parnell, associate professor of pediatric cardiology. "Every time she comes to see us at Children's of Mississippi, she's really sweet and friendly. She's more reserved now, but as a younger child, she loved to run around the exam room."

Sybil has known Parnell as long as she can remember, since she was just 9 months old when Parnell became her cardiologist.

"I don't remember having my heart



Surrounded by her fellow dancers, Sybil gets a hug from her dance teacher, Carol Merrill.

surgeries because I was a baby then, but I am happy to be healthy now," Sybil said. "I see my doctor once a year so she can check my heart."

Sybil entered the world at a healthy 7 pounds, 5 ounces, but unbeknown to her family and physicians, she arrived with a broken heart.

The first sign of trouble: Sybil didn't take her first breath until several minutes after birth. "They put her on a CPAP immediately," Tara said.

Sybil had a healthy weight, so she went home after two and a half weeks in a neonatal intensive care unit. However, she was growing weaker by the day.

At first, her feeding problems were blamed on reflux, but when Sybil, about 2 months old, went into distress, the Cumberlands knew they needed a higher level of care. Tara and husband Jason took Sybil to Children's of Mississippi, where they were told their daughter was suffering from congestive heart failure. Holes in her heart were stealing blood from the rest of her body and sending it to her lungs.

Children with congenital heart defects spend so much of their energy on breathing and on circulating blood through their bodies that they fail to thrive because there's little energy left for eating.

About one in every 100 babies born

has a congenital heart defect, making it the most common type of birth defect. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 million children live with congenital heart defects. Because of medical advances, there are now more adults – about 1.4 million – than children with congenital heart defects.

Once Sybil's heart defects were discovered, she was too weak for the surgery to close the holes. At 2 and a half months, a band was placed on Sybil's pulmonary artery to restrict blood flow to her lungs. Sybil then regained her strength for a more extensive surgery at 6 months that closed the holes in her heart and removed the band on her pulmonary artery.

"Children's of Mississippi not only treats children. They treat the entire family," said Tara. "The treatment she received was unbelievable. Jason and I were new to the heart world, but the doctors and nurses were beside us, answering our questions."

Both surgeries went well, but Parnell said Sybil will need to see a cardiologist throughout her life to monitor her heart's condition.

"She has a low risk of ever needing more surgery," Parnell said, "and she should have a healthy life ahead."

If obstructive sleep apnea makes rest elusive, a new device can help

umc.edu

Susan Walters didn't realize how much sleep she wasn't getting until her University of Mississippi Medical Center specialist team gave her the therapy to get a full night of restful slumber.

Since the late 1990s, Walters said, "I was waking up several times a night, gasping for breath and snoring. I didn't think there was anything to it, and that everybody snores."

Her sister thought otherwise. "She was using a CPAP mask, so I got tested for one," Walters said of continuous positive airway pressure, a ventilator therapy for sleep apnea patients that uses mild air pressure delivered through a mask to keep airways open.

The CPAP wasn't for Walters; much newer technology offered by an implant that uses a gentle electric pulse to open up her airway was. "I thought I was sleeping, but I'd get up and feel like I hadn't rested at all," she said of the CPAP. "The machine cord was inconvenient when I turned over in the bed. I used a chin strap, and I had to keep my mouth closed and breathe through my nose. It was difficult."

Walters coped with obstructive sleep apnea, a condition in which a person suffers disrupted sleep and low blood oxygen levels because their tongue is sucked against the back of their throat. That blocks their upper airway, often causing the patient to snore, be unusually sleepy during the day, and sometimes suffer cardiovascular problems, depression or loss of concentration.

Trying to better troubleshoot the problem, 77-year-old Walters underwent a sleep study conducted by Dr. Allen Richert, division chief in the UMMC Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and medical director of UMMC's



Walters uses a surgically implanted device, activated by a remote control, that works to open up her airway, allowing her to sleep soundly without interruption caused by snoring and loss of breath.

Sleep Center, located at Select Specialty Hospital in north Jackson.

The majority of studies involve patients spending the night at the Sleep Lab so that their breathing, snoring, movement and oxygen levels can be monitored. Some patients, though, take part in an in-home study that records air flow, oxygen levels and chest movement.

Richert said that the large majority of the sleep studies performed at UMMC are to determine if a patient has obstructive sleep apnea. The most common treatment is CPAP or a newer version of that machine that adjusts during the night. "If the machine notes apnea, it will increase the air pressure on its own," Richert said.

Richert suggested Walters visit Dr. Andrea Lewis, an associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences. Lewis determined that Walters was a candidate for a sleep therapy device that delivers mild

stimulation to the hypoglossal nerve that controls movement of the tongue and some airway muscles. How much stimulation can be controlled by up and down buttons on a small, hand-held remote control.

Lewis implanted the small device in Walters' chest as an outpatient procedure, then activated it about a month later after giving the three small incisions time to heal. Walters said she felt immediate relief.

"I was surprised the first time that it worked," Walters said. "I felt so different when I got up in the morning. I was rested and could stay up later without being drowsy the next day. I realized what I hadn't been getting all those years."

The FDA-approved device, designed to provide long-term relief, has a battery life of about 11 years. It works inside the body to address the root causes of obstructive sleep apnea, Lewis said. An electrical impulse delivered to the tongue

via a coil running from the hypoglossal nerve to a battery acts much like a pacemaker, she said. A sensor placed between the muscles in the rib area detects when the patient takes a breath, activating a gentle pulse that opens the airway.

"The patient uses a remote control to turn the device on before they go to sleep, and off again after they get up," Lewis said. "It takes about 30 minutes for it to start working," which gives the patient time to fall asleep, she said.

The patient hears two beeps when they turn on the remote and a green light shows to indicate it's been activated, Lewis said. "The patient feels a single pulse on their tongue when it connects," she said. Patients turn off the device by pressing a gray button, then listening for two beeps. "A status ring on the remote will turn white," Lewis said.

Walters is among the first patients to receive the implant surgery from Lewis, who began performing it in 2017. Lewis works with patients to find the right setting to give them the best sleep. "You can step up the setting by one level to increase the stimulation, or you can step down if it feels uncomfortable," she said.

Most patients tend to slowly increase the stimulation during the first two months of use "until they aren't snoring, or feel that they are sleeping better," Lewis said. "Some people feel like they get so much benefit that they don't turn it any higher, but when they have a follow-up sleep study, they find that they could use more."

"The purpose is to find the setting that gives you comfortable sleep," Lewis said.

UMMC's sleep team strives to find a solution for all patients, whether it's the device implanted by Lewis; surgery ranging from removal of tonsils to the

more uncommon breaking of the patient's jaw to move it forward and stretch the face; to CPAP or the use of mouthpieces that hold the mandible forward and mouth closed.

And, weight loss is an important treatment, Richert said. "As the body mass index goes up, the incidence of sleep apnea goes up," Richert said. "It's becoming more common. We're more aware of it."

Lewis has performed 30-plus procedures, more than any other provider in the state. Lewis has served on the American Academy of Otolaryngology's national sleep committee and holds certification in sleep medicine from the American Board of Sleep Medicine. UMMC is an ABSM-accredited sleep center.

She's collecting data at the Medical Center as part of her committee duties. "I was on staff at the University of Pittsburgh when this device was originally researched," said Lewis, who also is a member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Walters said the device, manufactured by Inspire Medical Systems Inc., has helped her both physically and mentally. The mother of three grown daughters, Walters retired to Clinton after working for 21 years at an insurance company in Ohio.

"I'd fall asleep, but I'd be back up about an hour and a half later with the CPAP," she said. "Then I'd fall asleep in my chair. This was such a big change."

"I should have done this long ago. I mostly did it to please my sister, but once I found out what a difference it made ... She was right."

To be evaluated for the sleep therapy implant, call the Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences at 601 815-0821.

LEGAL

Advertisement for Proposals

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30PM Central Standard Time on February 11, 2020, Office of City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, to supply labor and equipment as required to perform all related items of work covered under the 2020 Mosquito Abatement Services for the City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City”).

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on January 22, 2020 at 3:00PM in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street. Jackson MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The City is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the Ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the services are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Warren Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

The City hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.

The City is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various services, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) and the EBO Plan (one signed original plus five copies included with the proposal) shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package: “REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SERVICES. Interested companies may obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals at no charge from the City's Website at <http://www.jacksonms.2ov/bids> or from James Caldwell, Manager, Infrastructure Management Division, City of Jackson, Department of Public Works, Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Suite 531, Jackson, MS 39201 or j.caldwell@city.jackson.ms.us

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS.

Robert K. Miller Director, Department of Public Works

1-16-2020, 1-23-2020

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

CAUSE #: **P2019-222 O/3**

BY: Asia Lynn Woodley

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SHIRLEY TERRY WOODLEY, DECEASED

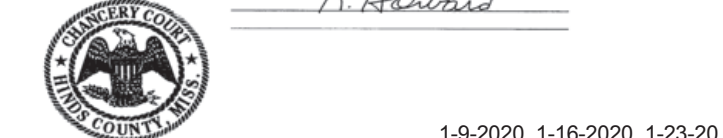
You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Asia Lynn Woodley Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Shirley Terry Woodley.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:30 o'clock p.m., on the 17th day of March, 2020, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi, before Honorable Denise Owens 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 12th day of December, 2019.

Eddie Carr
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi



1-9-2020, 1-16-2020, 1-23-20

LEGAL

Alta Woods Park and Medgar Evers Park aka
Viriden Addition Playground Resurfacing CDBG Projects

BID CANCELLATION NOTICE:

By way of this notice, the Alta Woods Park and Me dgar Evers Park aka Viriden Addition Playground Resurfacing CDBG Project has been cancelled, and will be re-bid in the near future.

We will make every attempt to notify everyone in the current Central Bidding “Visit List”.

New Playground Equipment and Rubber Surfacing - Alta Woods Park Park, 2026 Alta Woods Park Blvd. and Medgar Evers Park aka Viriden Addition, 3157 Edwards Ave., Jackson, Mississippi (CDBG Project).

1-16-2020, 1-23-2020

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Physicians Mutual

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LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid

Re-Bid 3111 Provine High School Restroom and Locker Room Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 12, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Provine High School Restroom and Locker Room Renovations will be held at Provine High School, 2400 Robinson Street, Jackson, MS on January 24, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$200.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601-713-1128 or Email: kl@duvalldecker.com.

1-16-2020, 1-23-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bid

Bid 3117 New Fortinet FortiGate 3401 Firewall

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 06, 2020 at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Un-priced bid proposals will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. (Local Prevailing Time) Friday, January 31, 2020. Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Prior to this cutoff time, all interested vendors will be the given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at HYPERLINK “<http://www.centralbidding.com>” www.centralbidding.com on February 06, 2020 beginning at 2:00 p.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SIGN VARIANCE FOR ELIZABETH CLAIR'S

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR ELIZABETH CLAIR'S TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SIGN VARIANCE FOR DISTRICT DRUGS

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR DISTRICT DRUGS TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

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LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT GRAVITY THICKENER #1 AND #2 REHABILITATION PROJECT

Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT GRAVITY THICKENER #1 AND #2 REHABILITATION PROJECT, SRF LOAN NO. DWI-L250008-02. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (300) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City of Jackson”) is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material and/or supply needs. This contract is funded in whole or in part by funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 214 (H.R. 3547); therefore, this project must comply with the American Iron and Steel Requirements of the Act. Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole or in part by anticipated funds from the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) loan program from the State of Mississippi. Neither the State of Mississippi, the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, the MS Department of Health, the MS Commission on Environmental Quality, nor any of their employees, is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting or related contracts. This procurement will be subject to all applicable sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as they apply to local governments, in accordance with Appendix D of the DWSIRLF Program Regulations.

The PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

- Office of the MSDH/DWSIRLF Program: located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson, Suite U232, Jackson MS 39215, call Colleen Cook, Project Manager at 601-576-7518.
- Office of the Consulting Engineer: Cornerstone Engineering LLC, located at 710 Northside Drive, Suite A, Clinton, MS 39056, call Mauricka McKenzie, P.E., Project Engineer at 601-473-2403 office. One copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured from the Consulting Engineer, upon payment of \$250, none of which is refundable.
- Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations:

- Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP)
- Mississippi Development Authority, Minority & Small Business Development
- Woolfolk Building
- 501 North West Street, Suite B-01
- Jackson, MS 39201
- Contact: LaTisha Landing 601-359-3448

The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference will be held on February 5, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Robert K. Miller
Director, Department of Public Works

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bid

Bid 3118 Child Nutrition Kitchen Furniture and Equipment

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 10, 2020, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Un-priced bid proposals will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. (Local Prevailing Time) Monday, February 3, 2020. Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Prior to this cutoff time, all interested vendors will be the given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at [HYPERLINK "http://www.centralbidding.com"](http://www.centralbidding.com) www.centralbidding.com on February 10, 2020 beginning at 2:00 p.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/25/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 204-075 CMTE 2.0 (Storage Building)
East Mississippi Community College
RFx #:3160003415

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: PryorMorrow PC - Columbus
(Columbus, Mississippi, through the Office listed herein)
Address: Post Office Box 167
Columbus, Mississippi 39703
662-327-8990
Phone: 662-327-8990
Email: mail@pryor-morrow.com

A deposit of \$150.00 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

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/25/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 213-054 New Student Housing
Northwest Mississippi Community College
RFx #: 3160003429

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects - Jackson, P.A.
(Biloxi through the Office listed herein)
Address: 329 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Phone: 601-354-2572
Email: jeley@egh.ms

A deposit of \$250.00 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

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/25/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 217-016 GHEC - New Chiller
Mississippi Delta Community College - Greenville Higher Education Center
RFx #: 3160003430

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Edmonds Engineering, Inc.
(Hoover, Alabama, through the Office listed herein)
Address: 1900 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601-362-6478
Email: dstrickland@edmondsengineering.com

A deposit of \$100.00 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

1-23-2020, 1-30-2020

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CITY HALL

219 S President St

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3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

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4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

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2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES

3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

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Northside Drive

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653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA

Jackson Medical Mall

350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

SHELL FOOD MART

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SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55

MURPHY USA

6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

REVELL ACE HARDWARE

Terry Rd (South Jackson)

WALGREENS

380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

A & I

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

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3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

COMMUNITY MART

743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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K & K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WELCOME CENTER

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SUNFLOWER GROCERY

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

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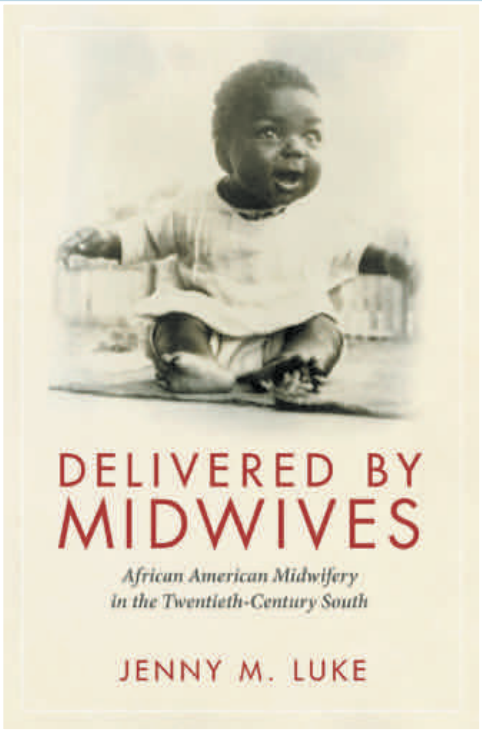
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BOOK REVIEW: DELIVERED BY MIDWIVES:

AFRICAN AMERICAN MIDWIFERY IN THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY SOUTH

BY JENNY M. LUKE

C.2018, UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

\$30.00 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 193 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The mailman’s come and gone for today.

He never brings you much anymore anyhow, just a few bills and a card sometimes; now and then, you might get a box of something you purchased and that’s always fun. You know, though, that the mailman doesn’t always bring you what you ordered. As in “Delivered by Midwives” by Jenny M. Luke, someone else brings a different kind of package.

At the turn of the last century, if you were an African-Ameri-

can woman and you were pregnant, you might have struggled with more than just labor: white doctors simply didn’t have to treat black patients if they didn’t want to. Because of this, “many African-American women in the Jim Crow South had no expectation of medical care for pregnancy and childbirth.”

And so, as did their foremothers when they were slaves, laboring women relied on “granny midwives” to “catch” their babies. Doing so was a natural conclusion, says Luke, since both men and women in early black communities were “autho-

rized to be healers,” which was “a power that the white medical establishment could not undermine.”

What the white establishment could do, however, was to point out the high rate of maternal and infant death in black communities. Because of this, laws were made in the 1920s to regulate midwives of all races. Classes on hygiene and cleanliness were taught to help improve the health of the most poverty-stricken mothers and their families, and joining a “midwife club” was mandatory.

As World War II began, how-

ever, so did the perception that not calling a doctor for a baby’s birth indicated “an indifferent negligence toward” the child. Black mothers still reached out to midwives but it was increasingly becoming “a marker of status” and more “scientific” to have a hospital birth. By 1970, and though racism persisted and “hospital care and medical expertise were... not expectations of African Americans...” nine out of ten black women delivered their babies in hospitals.

The tide is turning back again, says author Jenny M. Luke, but there are issues – specifically,

educational requirements for professional midwives have become steeper, which can lead to questions of affordability.

Still, in “Delivered by Midwives,” she shows a continued need for midwives, especially in poorer communities – though getting to that point here can sometimes feel a lot like labor.

Luke moves her history at a good pace before repetition forces everything to slow down, then it speeds up again, so things move quickly inside this book – and then they don’t. We’re treated to painful, wincing tales of past midwives and what their pa-

tients endured, and those things might make you scream before you hurry-up-and-wait for relevant-but-scholarly information that slows the process down. It ends in a somewhat-frazzling, acronym-laden whoosh.

That doesn’t make this a bad book – it makes this informative and interesting, good for students and prospective midwives, but not a curl-up-by-the-fire something to read.

Still, if it’s the kind of medical, African-American, or feminist history you’re looking for, “Delivered by Midwife” is the total package.

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Jackson's Zeta Phi Beta Sorority welcomes sisters homecoming



By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
and Alexandria Williams
Guest Writers

Clad in sky blue outfits, Jackson-Mississippi's Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, zestfully welcomed sisters coming home. Converging in the Dr. Ollye Shirley Media Room, Jackson

Medical Mall, Zetas celebrated the sorority's centennial January 16.

Come Home

The national office called all Zeta sisters to come home. Responding to the plea Jackson's Zeta chapter enthusiastically provided an opportunity for

them to take advantage of the National Centennial proclamation.

Zeta's Proclamation theme is, "All ABOARD: THE ZETA TRAIN TO RECLAIM SISTERS ENCOURAGED TO COME HOME TO ZETA."

Astute Leaders

The Jackson response is championed under the leadership of Lucille Green. They collaborate with the International President, Valerie Hollingsworth Baker.

They also cooperate with the Regional Director M. Kathy R. Tatum and the 16th State Di-

rector of Mississippi Kenya L. Washington.

The proclamation's purpose is to bring sisters back home to Zeta because, "Once a Zeta always a Zeta."

Historical Landmark

Jackson's Zeta Phi Delta Sorority was organized October

14, 1938 at 727 Rose Street Jackson, Mississippi.

ZETA's main thrust is community service which consists of education, final womanhood and sisterly love.

Green serves as Jackson's chapter 24th president.

Healthcare concerns loom large for Mississippi voters as new legislative session opens

Mississippi Link Newswire

Making healthcare more accessible and affordable in Mississippi has overtaken infrastructure repair and public school funding as the most important priority for Magnolia State voters.

The Millsaps College/Chism Strategies State of the State Survey for January 2020 found that over 70% of voters are worried about being able to afford the cost of medical coverage for themselves and their families, including insurance and out-of-pocket expenses. Meanwhile, support for expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act has remained steady with 60% in support and 29% opposed.

United States Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith is seeking reelection this year to a full six-year term in Washington. Of the surveyed voters, 44% approve of her job performance in the Senate while 36% disapprove. A full 19% of the Mississippi electorate neither approves or disapproves of her performance with the election ten months away.

According to our findings at this early stage, Hyde-Smith holds a nine-point lead over likely Democratic challenger Mike Espy with nearly 20% of the electorate undecided, including 34% of Independents and 30% of Republican leaners.

"This quarter's State of the State Survey informs us that Mississippians are worried about the availability, accessibility and affordability of health insurance and favor expanding Medicaid by a wide margin," said Nathan

R. Shrader, chairman of the Department of Government and Politics and director of American Studies at Millsaps College.

"One of the trends we see in this quarterly survey is that Mississippians – who are frequently seen as being politically divided – agree on several important policy questions. Aside from strongly supporting Medicaid expansion, 78% extend negative evaluations of the state's roads and bridges, 62% support amending the state's Jim Crow-era provisions for state elections in the Mississippi Constitution, and nearly 60% want to bring teacher salary and benefits up to the southeast regional average."

Looking at the views of Mississippians regarding national politics, a majority of voters (82%) say they are closely following the impeachment proceedings against President Donald J. Trump; 53% of Mississippi voters oppose the president's conviction and removal by the Senate while 42% are in favor. These numbers differ from recent national polls which find voters equally split regarding conviction and removal by the United States Senate.

Additional highlights from the 10th quarterly State of the State Survey:

- 50% of voters believe the state is heading in the wrong direction, while 42% say it is heading in the right direction.
- 44% disapprove of the job performance of the Mississippi Legislature, while 31% approve.
- 56% favor adding some form of Medicare option to reduce the


amount that families pay for their health insurance. Among these voters, 33% back allowing Americans to choose between a public option or private health insurance, while 23% favor replacing the current health care system by expanding Medicare to cover all American citizens. 36% say they instead want to reduce existing regulations in the insurance markets.

- 55% support using public-private partnerships to fund infrastructure projects.

Although 78% say that the quality of the roads and bridges in Mississippi are only fair or poor, just 45% are willing to pay higher taxes, tolls or fees to fund improvements.

"We invite the recently elected statewide officials and lawmakers to dig deeply into this report," said Brad Chism of Chism Strategies. "They will see how their constituents feel about a number of public policy options. And as always, we welcome the opportunity to work with the faculty at Millsaps to produce this scientific statewide survey of the Mississippi electorate."

The State of the State Survey involves a partnership between the Millsaps College Department of Government and Politics and Chism Strategies. The survey was conducted January 3-7, 2020 with a sample size of 618, with 51% of interviews conducted via cell phone and 49% via landline. The survey has a Margin of Error of +/- 3.94%. Results were weighted to reflect voter turnout for the 2020 Mississippi elections.



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Dallas Examiner publisher Mollie Belt to receive NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

A tragedy initially brought Mollie Belt into the world of newspaper publishing.

Now, 34 years after the tragic murder of her parents – *Dallas Examiner* publisher and civil rights leader Fred Finch Jr. and Mildred Finch – Belt’s foray into the news business is nothing short of a triumph.

A former longtime government employee, Belt is set to receive the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) 2020 Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award during the trade organization’s Annual Mid-Winter Training Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, January 24.

The NNPA’s Executive Committee unanimously selected Belt for the honor.

With the theme, “Publishing Industry: Innovation & Sustainability of the Black Press of America,” the three-day conference, which begins on Jan. 23, includes training workshops, panel discussions and presentations.

“It is with great pleasure that the NNPA Executive Committee has selected Mollie Belt for the honor of the Publishers Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the NNPA for so many years,” stated NNPA National



Belt

Chair and *Houston Forward Times* publisher Karen Carter Richards.

“Mollie has demonstrated great leadership and guidance to uplift the publishers and the entire organization,” Richards stated.

NNPA President and CEO, Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., stated that the NNPA “resolutely congratulates Mollie Finch Belt for being selected to receive the 2020 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.”

“Mollie’s local, statewide, regional and national leadership as the distinguished publisher of the *Dallas Examiner* exemplifies the best of the Black Press of America,” Chavis stated.

For Belt, the conference isn’t just about accepting such distinguished honor from her peers, but it’s a reminder of

how important the Black Press remains to its readers, sponsors and advertisers.

“It’s imperative that we publish the news and remember at all times that we are the voice of the black community,” Belt stated.

“We have to remember that we are here to print the news. I always think of what someone told me years ago, which was to not worry about getting more advertising, to just print the news, and if your editorial content is good, the advertising dollars will come,” she added.

In Dallas, Belt observed that when *The Dallas Examiner* was founded it was the only black-owned newspaper in which the community could receive hard news.

“Black newspapers are the only real voice of the community that I know of in Dallas. We don’t have a black-owned television station or a black-owned radio station,” Belt stated.

Born in 1943 in Dallas, Belt’s mother was a mathematics instructor while her father was an attorney and civil rights leader who, in 1986, founded the *Dallas Examiner*.

Tragically, after publishing just four issues of the newspaper, Belt’s parents were murdered in their home.

Belt attended Spelman college for one year then transferred to the Uni-

versity of Denver where she graduated with a major in sociology and psychology when she was forced to take over the paper.

She did so without any experience.

Belt spent her career working as an employment counselor for the Texas Employment Commission, and she also held several positions for the city of Dallas and the federal government.

“I was the only child, I inherited the newspaper,” Belt stated.

“I did not know the newspaper industry, and it was something that I had to learn on the job. My father wasn’t a newspaperman either and when I look back, there are a lot of things that we do differently today,” she noted.

“We have a niche market, and we have to continuously stress that,” Belt added.

“Even though we know that we now live in a digital world – and we have to have a digital presence – we also have to remember the print edition and that our community still enjoys reading the print edition and our community loves pictures.”

After taking over the paper, Belt decided to pour much of her resources into making the *Examiner* a success, in part, to carry out her parents’ legacy.

In a 2013 HistoryMakers interview,

Belt noted that she successfully applied for a grant from AT&T to start “Future Speak,” a publication aimed at developing young minority journalists.

She also used the *Dallas Examiner* to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention by publishing numerous articles and special supplements, including her award-winning pieces titled, “PROBE,” “Battling AIDS in Our Community” and “Innocence Lost.”

Under Belt’s guidance, the *Dallas Examiner* has won a host of local, state and national awards. In 2002, the newspaper earned honors as “Best Weekly Newspaper” by the Texas Publisher’s Association.

The *Dallas Examiner* also has captured at least twelve awards from the regional chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, including “Best Newspaper” and “Best Practices.”

For Belt, the NNPA Publishers Lifetime Achievement Award will forever stand out as most special.

“When you receive an honor from your peers, it’s all the more meaningful,” Belt stated.

“I get a lot of awards and honors from various organizations, some of which are related to the community, but this one is very special, and I’m really touched,” she stated.

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