

# Basketball legend Kobe Bryant – constructing a 2nd act – transcended sports



Kobe and Gianna

**By Barrington M. Salmon**  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*

Sports fans in the United States and around the world – plus people who are not necessarily sports-oriented – are mourning the sudden death of NBA legend Kobe Bryant at the age of 41.

Two years removed from retirement after 20 years in the NBA, the five-time NBA champion and Los Angeles Lakers superstar was settling into retirement and immersing himself in sports, entertainment, his family and business ventures when he was killed in a helicopter crash, Sunday, Jan. 26, near Calabasas, Calif.

The crash also killed eight other passengers, including his

13-year-old daughter, Gianna, a budding basketball phenom.

In addition to millions of adoring fans, he leaves to mourn him Vanessa Laine Bryant, his wife of 19 years, and three other daughters: Natalia Bryant, 17, Bianka Bryant, 3 and Capri Bryant, 7 months.

The group was on their way to Bryant’s Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks, Calif., where Bryant was to coach a game in which Gianna was to play. Federal investigators are trying to determine what specifically caused the crash which occurred in dense fog.

Bryant’s death has triggered an outpouring of grief, shock and disbelief among devastated

players, fans, celebrities and just those who equated his name with excellence. A common theme offered by tributes is that he had transcended basketball and had become larger than sports.

“Kobe was a legend on the court and just getting started in what would have been just as meaningful, a second act,” tweeted President Barack Obama. “To lose Gianna is even more heartbreaking to us as parents. Michelle and I send love and prayers to Vanessa and the entire Bryant family on an unthinkable day.”

President Trump deflected from his tweeting on impeachment to call the reports on the basketball star “terrible news.”

He later released a tweet that critics observed was strikingly similar to President Obama’s:


“Kobe Bryant, despite being one of the truly great basketball players of all time, was just getting started in life. He loved his family so much, and had such strong passion for the future. The loss of his beautiful daughter, Gianna, makes this moment even more devastating,” Trump tweeted. “Melania and I send our warmest condolences to Vanessa and the wonderful Bryant family. May God be with you all.”

Many struggled to find deeper meaning in the sudden death of a person so beloved who had be-

**Kobe**  
*Continued on page 3*

# An important step forward for Rx prices

**By Kimberly L. Campbell**  
*AARP Mississippi State Director*



On December 12, 2019, the House of Representatives took a vital step to lower prescription drug costs and passed The Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. This bipartisan bill offers real relief to the millions of Americans who struggle to afford their needed medications. The bill would allow Medicare to use its buying power to negotiate lower drug prices, create an out-of-pocket cap for seniors in Medicare Part D, and crack down on excessive drug price increases.

AARP has been tracking drug prices for 12 years. For each year, the price for prescrip-

tion drugs has increased much faster than inflation. That’s why AARP Mississippi thanks U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson on behalf of our 285,000 local members for voting “Yes” to rein in the out-of-control prices of prescription drugs.

It should come as no surprise that many AARP members tell us they can’t afford the medications they need, and are forced to make difficult choices as a result. In a recent survey of voters age 50 and older, four out of ten people responded that they did not fill a prescription their doctor ordered them to take due to the cost.

It’s not just patients who pay for greedy Big Pharma practices that help keep drug prices high – it’s also taxpayers. The AARP Public Policy Institute released

a new analysis in October 2019 that showed Medicare (meaning beneficiaries and taxpayers) spent an extra \$110 billion in recent years on drug price increases that exceeded inflation. Imagine how those savings could have been used to protect Medicare for years to come.

The passage of the Lower Drug Costs Now Act could be of great benefit for seniors. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, allowing Medicare to negotiate prices for high-cost drugs with no competitors – rather than being forced to pay whatever sky-high rates Big Pharma sets – would save a staggering \$345 billion. The House bill would invest those savings back into Medicare by creating new dental, hearing and vision benefits

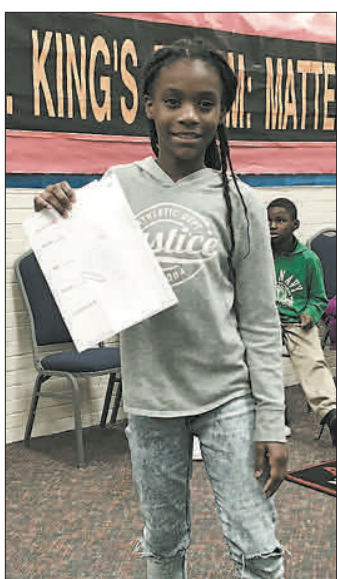
in the program. These needed investments would greatly improve the health and well-being of older Americans and help reduce health care costs down the road.

The fact that the House passed legislation on prescription drugs – and that the Senate is considering a related bill – is a major step forward. Thoughtful efforts to help reduce prescription drug prices and cover needed services could save billions of dollars for patients, taxpayers and our health care system.

We thank Rep. Thompson for his vote to lower prescription drug prices and make health care more affordable.

AARP is determined to win this fight on behalf of older Americans, and we stand with

# JHLS hosts MLK Essay contests and other activities



Simone Garner, 1st place winner



Dominic Dantzler, 2nd place winner

**By Jackie Hampton**  
*Publisher*

The Jackson Hinds Library System (JHLS) hosted several programs during the month of January in recognition of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Such programs included essay contests, MLK coloring contests, viewing of films, reading of books and the reading of poetry about the life of King. These special programs were held at various branches including Eudora Welty, Lois A. Flagg, Willie Morris, Margaret Walker Alexander, Bolden Moore and Medgar Evers Library.

One of the libraries which hosted an essay contest was the Medgar Evers branch, located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd. The branch manager is Anne Sanders. Students in grades K-12 were eligible to participate in the essay contest. The theme was “Living Dr. King’s Dream: Matters in 2020!”

Preschoolers from various schools competed by presenting posters focusing on what King stood and fought for.

Winners representing the preschools received joint cash prizes they could use for pizza parties.

Leaps and Bounds came in first place winning \$75; Kids University, second place winner, received \$60; Tons of Fun, third place winner received \$25 and Jamboree Child Development Center, fourth place winner, also received \$25.

**MLK Contest**  
*Continued on page 3*



Hines



Brown

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# Visit Jackson welcomes full Board of Directors



*Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mayor of the City of Jackson has recommended, and the City Council of Jackson has confirmed, the final seat on the Visit Jackson Board of Directors.

Visit Jackson’s completed board is:

Carol J. Burger – United Way, ret., Jackson Chamber of Commerce/Business Community representative and board chair

Susan Branson – director of External Affairs & Marketing at the Mississippi Children’s Museum, Attractions Association representative

Blake Brennan – general manager, Drago’s Jackson/Hilton Jackson, Restaurant Association representative

Mike Burton – general manager of Westin Jackson, Hotel

& Lodging Association representative

Shawn Cochran – general manager of the Downtown Convention Center Hotel (soon to be rebranded as the Delta by Marriott), Hotel & Lodging Association representative

Monique Davis – Mississippi Museum of Art, director of the Center for Art & Public Exchange, Education Community

representative

Pamela Junior – director of the Two Mississippi Museums, Arts Community representative

John T. Miller – owner of Johnny T’s Bistro & Blues, Mayor’s At-Large representative

Enrika Williams – owner of Fauna Foodworks, Restaurant Association representative

Al Rojas – general manager.

of the Jackson Convention Complex, JCC representative/ex officio member

“The talent, diversity and passion that is represented as a collective body on the newly appointed Visit Jackson Board of Directors fosters the forward momentum and expectations that the tourism industry has come to anticipate from its destination leadership organization,” said Rickey Thigpen, president/CEO of Visit Jackson.

“We are pleased to have such committed tourism and business professionals that are dedicated to identifying goals and policy to achieve the highest return on the economic benefit for the city of Jackson and its stakeholders,” said Carol Burger, Visit Jackson *Board chair*.



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## MLK Contest

Continued from page 1

about who you want to be and what you want to become.”

Ethel Mangum, administrative assistant to Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes, told the students to grow up and be somebody. “Talk to adults you can trust and don’t let others lead you down the wrong road,” she said.

Bo Brown, District 70 House of Representative and former City councilman, congratulated the winners and told the students, “you need a short stick, not a long stick, in keeping the dream alive.”

Kim Corbett, deputy director of JHLS and Stokes gave remarks. Both congratulated the winners and encouraged them to be the best they could be. Stokes, who is very active with the city regarding MLK activities, announced that even though the MLK scheduled parade had been cancelled due to the forecast of bad weather, there would be a walk in celebration of Dr. King’s holiday. Stokes was instrumental in providing cash rewards to the essay winners and participants.

The panel of judges included Mattie Stevens, Margaret Stubbs, Vera Bullock, Leon Williams and James Hampton, III. Kia Sullivan with the City of Jackson served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

*See photos, page 19.*



Ward 3 City Councilman Kenneth Stokes speaks as Mistress of Ceremony Kia Sullivan looks on.



Judges (l to r) Stevens, Stubbs, Bullock, Williams and Hampton



Dylan Parnell, 3rd place winner



Virtue Hill, 4th place winner



Full capacity

## Kobe

Continued from page 1

come a symbol of excellence.

“I didn’t know him well. I only met him a couple of times,” said former Vice President Biden on the presidential campaign trail in Iowa as reported by the *Washington Examiner*. “It makes you realize that you gotta make every day count, every single solid day, every single day count.”

Jalen Rose, a former college and professional basketball player and sports analyst with ESPN described his friend, Bryant, in terms beyond basketball.

“He is remembered for his dedication to his craft, educated, speaker of multiple languages, father, husband, disciplined hardworking, always gracious and respectful,” he said in a tribute. “He was always the hardest working guy in the room, smartest guy in the room ... he was Industry tastemaker, gave so much to humanity and is gone too soon.”

Kobe Bryant was born in Philadelphia, the only boy and youngest of three children of former NBA player Joe Bryant and Pamela Cox Bryant. He was first drafted by the Charlotte Hornets in 1996 straight out of Lower Merion High School.

Through hard work and extraordinary dedication to the game, he was seen as a transcendent player, unquestionably one among the best to ever play the game of basketball. But his success impacted beyond the game. In post-game retirement, he inspired hundreds of thousands of young people to aim high, push past their limits, whether it was on a court, a football pitch or in the creative arts.

Kobe, who won five NBA titles and who was an 18-time All-Star, won an Oscar for Best Animated Short in 2019 for the film “Dear Basketball.” The six-minute film is based on a poem Bryant wrote in 2015 announcing his retirement from the NBA. Bryant wrote and narrated the short, in which he shares his love of the sport for basketball.

Bryant considered himself to be a storyteller and had been moving into the film and entertainment industry since his retirement from basketball in 2016. He wrote, produced and presented a series for ESPN called Detail, in which he explained the intricacies of athletes in their respective sports. His multimedia company, Granity Studios, produced the ESPN+ series Detail and the podcast “The Punies.” In addition, he helped create four sports fantasy children’s books. According to media reports, the second volume of The Wizenard Series: Season 1, is set to hit bookstores March 31.

Still it was basketball for which he will always be world renown. Sports lawyer and businessman Michael Huyghue said an icon of the industry has been lost.

“What he stood for is an early example of an athlete transcending his sport,” said Huyghue, author, sports agent and president of Michael Huyghue and Associates, LLC. “His work in the community, building a brand, his eclectic nature and speaking several languages are a part of his legacy. “He was a very rare breed. He set the bar at a place where a lot of athletes could aspire to.”

Sports Journalist Elton Hayes Jr. said what sticks out to him is his

involvement with children and young people.

“I have been watching all these years. He’s a global icon,” said Hayes, who writes for CNHI News in State College, Pennsylvania. “What sticks out after retirement is the role he played with kids. He showed us his paternal side and the passion he had for women’s basketball. The WNBA is the sister organization to the NBA but there are discrepancies in salary and viewership. He was an active participant and took several women under his wing. I would consider him an ambassador for women’s basketball...I think a part of his legacy is the impact on a generation of aspiring athletes. With his Mamba Foundation, we will continue to see his legacy grow and will continue to see the impact.”

For the past two years, Bryant had focused on coaching Gianna’s AAU team.

“Coaching youth sports is so important to take very seriously because you’re helping the emotional [development] of young kids,” he said in a recent interview. “So it’s understanding not to be overcritical and understanding that [there] are going to be mistakes.”

And in an interview with *People* magazine, published online two days before his death, Bryant said he launched Granity Studios “as a way of teaching valuable life lessons to the next generation, with whatever they hope to do. The goal is to encourage children to develop their own inner magic and believe they can achieve the impossible and do so in a fun way.”

Bryant added, “Storytelling has always been an interest of mine, so the transition was an exciting one. I’m being challenged in a completely new way and have really loved the opportunity to exercise my creative muscles.”

Nearly everyone killed in the crash shared a love for basketball, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. They were Bryant and Gianna,” a budding basketball player who was ready to follow in her father’s footsteps; baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri and their basketball-playing daughter Alyssa; mother and daughter Sarah and Payton Chester; Mamba Academy basketball coach Christina Mauser and pilot Ara Zobayan,” the *Times* reported.

The beloved Bryant had a reputation as egotistical, a talented super-achiever, driven and difficult. But friends and colleagues spoke of all the good he’s done and the impact he had in his 41 years.

“Devastation, heartbroken describes how I feel,” said ESPN Analyst Stephen A. Smith. “I saw him on New Year’s Eve. He was full of life, happier than I’ve ever seen him. He was loving life in a peaceful place, euphoric of what laid ahead. He was looking forward to and planning on having a life more prosperous and illustrious than what he had accomplished as a basketball player.”

Smith concluded with a thought that’s been on the minds of millions since Sunday: “Never in our wildest dreams did we ever believe that the brilliant savant, a man at least trilingual, would leave like this ...”

*See photos page 16.*

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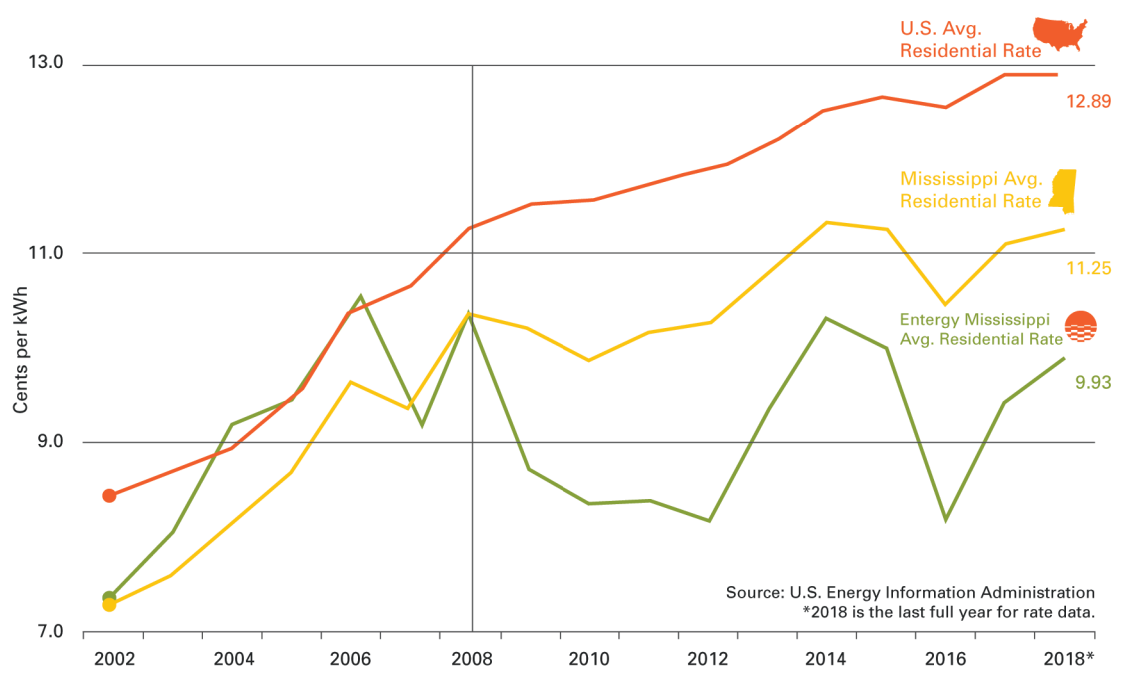
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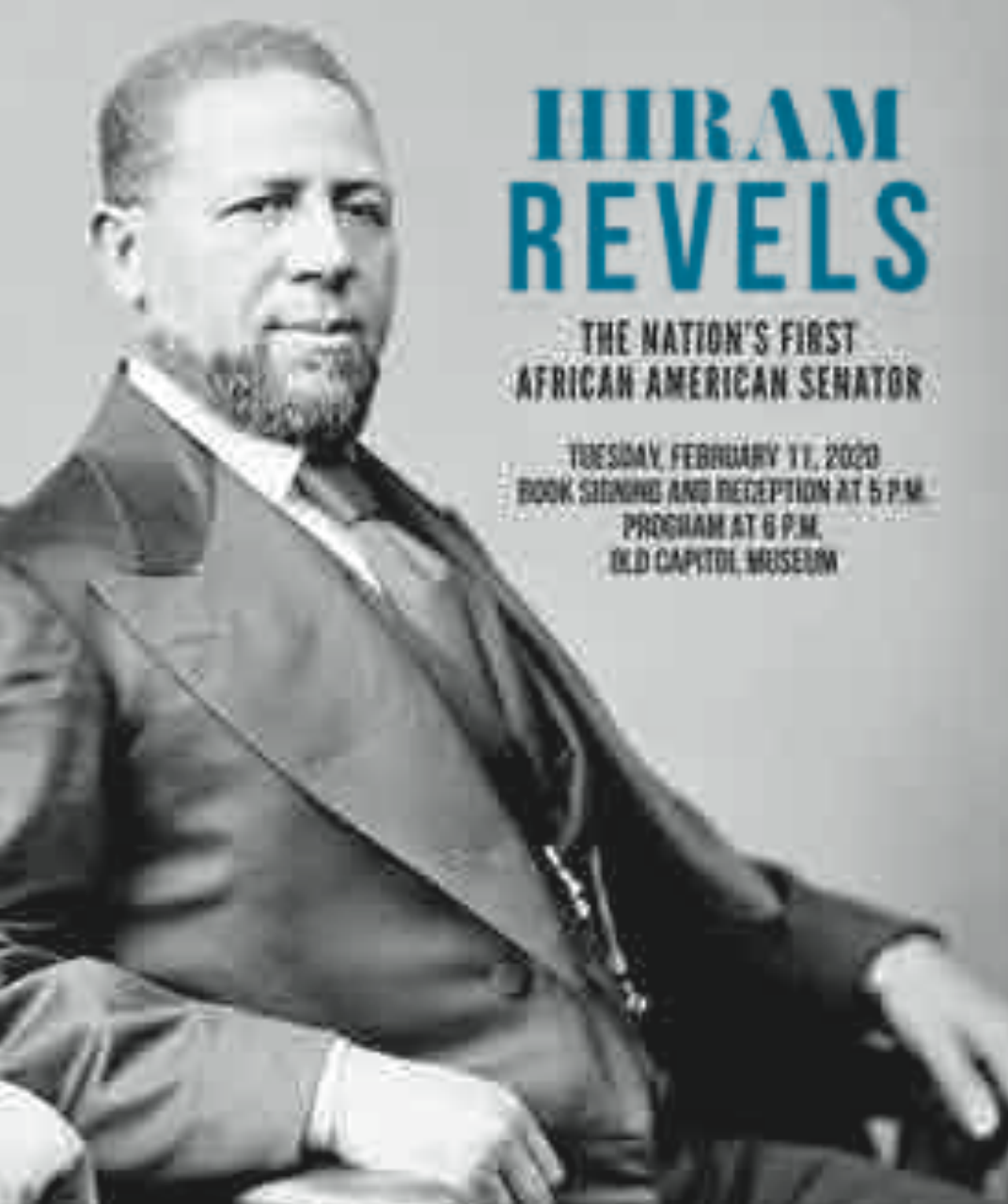
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# ‘Thank You, Kobe’: Howard University student tells how Kobe Bryant impacted him, Los Angeles and the world

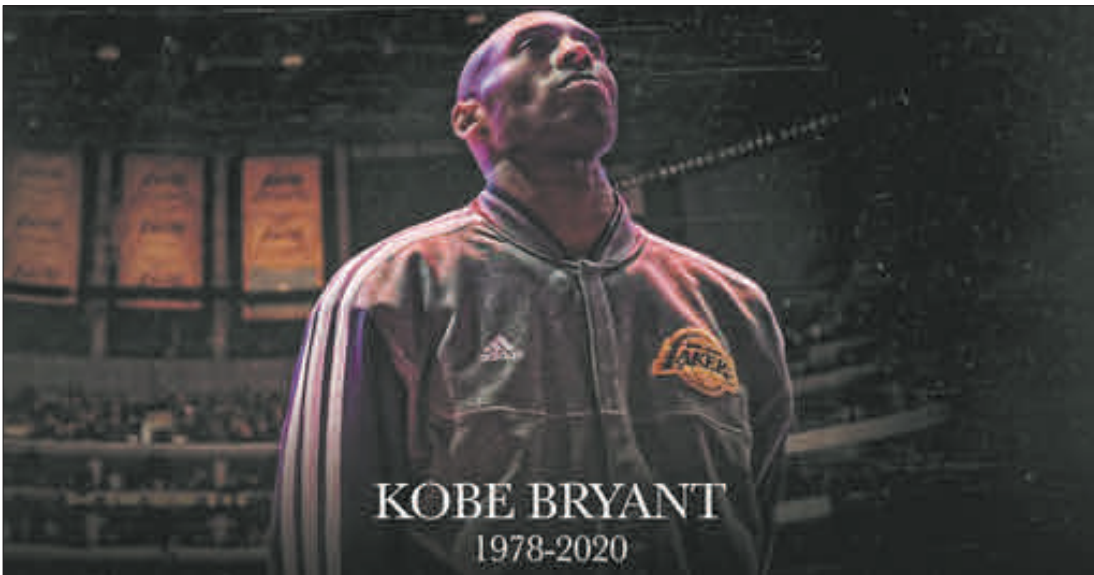
By Arthur Cribbs  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*

When I heard of the passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, along with seven others in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California, I had an initial feeling of shock, disbelief and numbness. And in the hours since hearing the news, that feeling has not gone away. For a lot of us in this world, this feeling isn’t going away anytime soon. It truly felt like losing someone close.

In this time of mourning, I just want to say thank you, Kobe.

Growing up in Los Angeles, you were everything for me. You introduced me to winning at an extremely young age. When I was born in 1999, you were a three-year veteran in the NBA and in my first three years of life, you helped the Lakers win three straight league finals. Although I was too young to remember those championship years, I do remember you leading the Lakers to two more NBA finals in 2009 and 2010.

Your ability to be a winner in-



spired my interest in sports and competition, and it has been a passion of mine ever since. And while winning is great, it was the way you won that stuck with me.

Your “Mamba Mentality” of being your best self and making sure nobody worked harder than you is a work ethic you consistently lived by, and I have been aiming to emulate you in that regard.

You also had infectious con-

fidence in your game that gave viewers confidence in themselves. I remember when you played your final game April 13, 2016. Everyone remembers the 60-point performance, but people may forget that you struggled early on in that game, going just 7-20 from the field in the first half. Several players would have just stopped shooting at that point, but you remained confident in your training and took 30

more shot attempts.

Your confidence influenced a generation of kids who watched you play. When I started playing organized basketball, you were in the midst of your MVP season and all I could hear at practice was “Kobe!” every time someone attempted a shot. When it came to shooting a fadeaway jumper or having a pre-free throw ritual, every kid tried to emulate your style.

You also were a symbol that brought unity in the city of Los Angeles. When the Lakers won their championships, you brought the city together at the championship parades. I personally remember waiting for several hours just to catch a glimpse of you.

When you played your final game, the country was heading into a heated presidential election. Watching you play though, people were able to detach from the stress of the real world and enjoy your play. Whether it was your first game or your last, you always put on a show and you gave your fans everything you could offer.

As someone who uses sports to connect with people, you helped me find the confidence to have conversations. With you being such a global figure, it didn’t matter how much the other person was invested in sports. We could always have a conversation about Kobe. With deeply rooted sports fans, I have formed so many close relationships that started by debating where Kobe

stands as the greatest of all time (GOAT).

Beyond my life though, you meant so much more to the world. You helped globalize the game of basketball, making the NBA popular in China. At a time when WNBA players struggle to receive support, you served as an advocate for the league. As a family man, you showed what it means to be a father, taking interest in your daughters’ passions and putting them in positions to succeed. When Gianna’s favorite player was Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young, you took her to Hawks games to watch Young firsthand.

Thank you, Kobe, for all the memories. You, Gianna and the seven others were taken way too soon, and this world will never be the same.

*Arthur Cribbs is a junior journalism major from Los Angeles. He is a Rhoden Fellow at ESPN for TheUndeclared.com. He also works with the Department of Athletics at Howard University and was a production manager for WHUT’s Spotlight Network.*

# Lakers legend Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna Maria Onore, were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Bryant was 41, and his daughter, affectionately known as GiGi, was only 13.

“As the reports came in on the death of Bryant, his daughter and the other passengers on board his helicopter, we all were shocked and saddened by the news of a life gone far too soon,” stated Danny J. Bakewell Sr., the chairman and executive publisher of a NNPA member newspaper, the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. “Whether you were a Laker fan or not, the news seemed surreal.”

Bakewell continued: “This tragic death of a young man dying in the prime of his life is a reminder to us all of just how precious life really is and how we must all embrace life, love and family and never forget what is really important.

“Kobe was a warrior on the basketball court, and he seemed to ease his way into retirement life with the same passion and enthusiasm that we all admired when he was playing in the NBA.

“My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents, his wife, his children and all those who admired Bryant not only as a basketball star but as a man, a son, a husband and father.”

Benjamin F. Chavi, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA, said the Black Press joins with the rest of America in mourning Bryant’s death.

“The National Newspaper Publishers Association expresses our profound sympathy and sincerest condolences to the family of Kobe Bryant,” Chavis stated.

Denise Rolark Barnes, the publisher of the *Washington Informer* also offered her condolences to the Bryant family. “Our hearts cry out for Kobe Bryant and his family,” Rolark Barnes stated. “Our memories of his phenomenal life and career will never die.”

TMZ reported that the 5-time NBA champion was enroute to his Mamba Academy for a basketball practice when the crash occurred. The academy is north of Los Angeles in the city of



Bryant

Thousand Oaks.

In a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Bryant was a giant who inspired, amazed and thrilled people everywhere. “He will live forever in the heart of Los Angeles and will be remembered through the ages as one of our greatest heroes,” Garcetti stated.

“This is a moment that leaves us struggling to find words that express the magnitude of shock and sorrow we are all feeling right now, and I am keeping Kobe’s entire family in my prayers at this time of unimaginable grief.”

The helicopter, an S-76 owned by Bryant, crashed and caught fire at about 10 a.m. Pacific time, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Rescue crews were on location within moments, but officials said it was too late to save anyone aboard.

“He’s way too young,” Laker legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson stated. “I was supposed to pass away before him. He’s gone way too soon. It’s a devastating loss for all of us.”

Another Lakers legend, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who played against Bryant’s father, Joe “Jellybean” Bryant, said he was stunned.

“Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players,” Jabbar tweeted. “But I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete.”

Shaquille O’Neal, who won three

NBA titles with Bryant and the Lakers from 2000 to 2002, tweeted that his late and former teammate was much more than an athlete. “He was a family man. That was what we had most in common,” O’Neal wrote. “I would hug his children like they were my own and he would embrace my kids like they were his. His baby girl Gigi was born on the same day as my youngest daughter, Me’Arah.”

Current Lakers star LeBron James was seen leaving the team’s airplane in tears. He didn’t address reporters.

A spokesperson for the Lakers said the team plans to address the heartbreaking matter “soon.”

Ken Miller, the publisher of the Inglewood, California-based NNPA member newspaper, *Inglewood Today*, said he was also in shock and devastated by the news.

Miller covered Bryant for years for the *Los Angeles Sentinel* and said the superstar had previously given him his personal cell phone number.

“We are going to do a special edition of our newspaper that will be totally dedicated to Kobe Bryant,” stated Miller, who coincidentally wore a Westchester High School basketball sweatshirt during last week’s NNPA Mid-Winter Training Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The conference concluded just one day before the Bryant tragedy.

Years earlier, Nike outfitted Westchester High School’s basketball players with Kobe Bryant’s Zoom Kobe IV sneakers that matched the Westchester’s black and red colors.

“When Jerry West drafted Kobe at the age of 17, no one knew exactly what the franchise was getting,” Miller stated. “He evolved to [become], I would say, the greatest Laker of them all, and I had the opportunity to cover and meet him personally and at one time just out of the blue, as a reporter. I was so starstruck by him, by his air, by his intelligence and he had a reclusiveness to him as well, that I just walked up to him and asked him for his personal cell phone. He gave it to me, and it was at a time when Shaquille O’Neill was gone, and the Lakers had just won three championships. He ultimately wanted to connect with the African-American community.”

Born in Philadelphia in 1978, Bryant

was initially drafted by the Charlotte Hornets with the 13th overall pick of the 1996 NBA draft, but forced a post-draft trade to the Lakers, stating it was the only team he’d join.

Bryant spent his entire career with the Lakers, winning five NBA championships and the 2008 MVP Award. He topped Michael Jordan for third place on the NBA all-time scoring list in December 2014 and retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final game.

His uniform numbers 8 and 24 were both retired by the franchise, making him the only NBA star to have two numbers retired with the same team. In 2018, Bryant earned an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for Dear Basketball.

The late superstar supported at least seven charities and foundations, including After-School All-Stars, Aid Still Required, Cathy’s Kids Foundation, and the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation, where he and his wife were dedicated to improving the lives of youth and families in need, both domestically and globally.

The foundation provides financial resources and develops unique programs that serve to strengthen communities through educational and cultural enrichment opportunities.

Even as a lifelong New York Knicks fan, a team that saw Bryant crush their hopes on many a night, the death of the man known as “The Black Mamba” is as stunning as any this reporter has seen. In 1979, in a similarly shocking tragedy, during a season in which they were trying to defend their World Series title, the New York Yankees lost their beloved captain, Thurman Munson, in a plane crash.

While Munson was only one of the cogs in a Yankee team that had captured back-to-back titles in 1977 and 1978, Bryant was the unquestioned leader of the Lakers, one of the most storied franchises in sports, who turned out such superstars as Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, James Worthy and Shaquille O’Neal.

“He was the greatest of all Lakers,” Magic Johnson stated.

Bryant is survived by his wife, Vanessa Laine Bryant, and children Natalia, Bianka and Capri.

# The Mamba Mentality - accepting nothing less than the best

By Eddie Fair  
*Hinds County Tax Collector*

Words cannot express the sadness felt upon hearing the loss of the legendary Kobe Bean Bryant and his daughter Gianna. The world has truly lost one of the greatest icons, not only in basketball, but in all of sports, period.

We were blessed to be witness to such a talent that could have only been heaven sent. Kobe’s accomplishment were nothing short of amazing: 5 time NBA Champion, 2 time Olympic Gold Medalist, 2 time Finals MVP, 2008 NBA MVP, 18 time NBA All-Star and Oscar recipient for Best Short Animated Film.

Although there are many more accomplishment that are too many to name, there is one in particular that stands out: the Mamba Mentality. This simply means “to be able to constantly try to be the best version of yourself, to strive to be better today than you were yesterday.”

This is the mentality that I try to live by each and every day. This is the mentality that we saw in Kobe every time he stepped on the court especially with the infamous, unstoppable Kobe and Shaq duo that lead to 3 consecutive NBA Championships. This was Kobe. A leader, a competitor and a motivator who would accept nothing less than the best.

So as we say goodbye to one of the G.O.A.Ts, I will continue to honor Kobe’s legacy by always keeping the Mamba Mentality mindset.

My prayers and condolences go out to the Bryant family, the other victims’ families involved, Laker Nation and all sports fans around the world. Mamba Out.



# JPS achieves 15 PREPS Value-Added Awards

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) has announced the winners of the 2020 Value-Added Awards. Jackson Public Schools has received 15. Winners will be honored at an awards luncheon and ceremony to be held Friday, March 6, in conjunction with the PREPS/MAPE Partnership Conference which celebrates achievements and collaborations in schools.

- 2020 JPS PREPS Awards
- Murrah High – ACT Value-Added Award
  - Murrah High – English II Value-Added Award
  - Murrah High – U.S. History Value-Added Award
  - Bailey Middle APAC Middle – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Bailey Middle APAC Middle – Math 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Northwest Jackson Middle – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Northwest Jackson Middle – Math 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Barack H. Obama Magnet Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Barack H. Obama Magnet Elementary – Math 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Casey Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Key Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Lester Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - McWillie Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Power APAC Elementary – ELA 3-8 Value-Added Award
  - Power APAC Elementary – Math 3-8 Value-Added Award



Murrah received ACT, English II and U.S. History PREPS Value-Added Awards.

The PREPS Value-Added analysis uses data from the previous school year's state accountability results. PREPS member schools deemed as adding value are those that perform significantly better than other schools with comparable socioeconomic circumstances. The mission of PREPS is to actively provide research and evaluation for public schools. The ACT average test score was used for the first time this school year.

# Callaway musician wins spot on elite Mississippi Lions Band

Mississippi Link Newswire

The hard work of a gifted trombone player has earned him a spot with the Mississippi Lions All-State Band. William Hulbert, a junior at Callaway High School, will travel with the Lions Band to Honolulu this summer to compete at the Lions Club International Convention.

Raised in Detroit, Hulbert began playing the trombone in seventh grade. When he moved to Jackson as a high school freshman, Hulbert sought to fine-tune his craft by joining the Callaway High School band and taking private lessons. That effort paid off during the Lions Band's rigorous selection process.

Candidates must play all 12 major scales and the chromatic scale during timed auditions. Directors also require the students to be so familiar with the two mandatory prepared pieces that they can play a selection on demand during the auditions.

Making the Mississippi Lions All-State Band puts Hulbert in an elite class of high school musicians. Out of an average of 800 applicants statewide vying for a chance to march with the Lions Band each year, less than 200 of them are selected to partici-



Hulbert

pate. In the last 14 years, only one other student from JPS has made the band.

The Mississippi Lions All-State Band is the state's premier honor band. The high school students selected for the group participate in a week-long camp culminating in a concert. Afterward, the entire band travels to compete in the Parade of Nations at the Lions Club International Convention. The Mississippi band has won more than 30 of these competitions.

The school's principal is Chuconna Anderson and the band director is Curtis Luckett.

If you are interested in helping Hulbert with expenses to travel with the band this summer, please contact Callaway High School at 601 987-3535.

# Spann Elementary principal named to Administrator Advisory Council

Mississippi Link Newswire

Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann named Spann Principal Lori Torrey to serve on a 19-member Administrator Advisory Council designed to provide input from Mississippi's public educators regarding legislation impacting schools. The council is made up of public school leaders from all nine regions of the state, including superintendents, principals and education program directors.

"For Mississippi to succeed, our public schools must succeed," Hosemann said. "This requires us to listen to educators and address their needs. I look forward to working with this group and other administrators to continue advancing student achievement and supporting our schools."

Torrey has served as an administrator at Spann Elementary since 2015 when she returned to Jackson Public Schools from Magee Elementary in the Magee (MS) School District. She started her career in education as a teacher at Siwell Middle



Torrey

School in JPS in 1999. Later, she moved to Van Winkle Elementary and served as

the school counselor with a range of responsibilities that included PBIS facilitator, Teacher Support team coordinator and School Test coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and a Master of Science in school guidance and counseling from Jackson State University as well as a Specialist degree in educational administration from Delta State University. Her objective as an educator is to use her expertise to improve the academic achievement and success of all students.

Torrey will represent the Capitol Area region along with Madison County School District Superintendent Charlotte Seals. Coincidentally, also serving on the Administrator Advisory Council with Torrey is her predecessor, Nicole Menotti. Menotti served as principal of Spann until 2018 when she moved to the Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District to serve as the director of Curriculum and Instruction.

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## The Mississippi Link™

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Graphics.....Marcus Johnson  
Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson  
Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
Ayesha K. Mustataa

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# WCU, Hattiesburg to host education conference



PREPS Associate Director Patti Permenter meets with Ben Burnett, dean of the William Carey University School of Education, about the MAPE/PREPS Partnership Conference.

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

**Calling all educators:**

- What: MAPE/PREPS Partnership Conference
- When: March 4-6
- Where: Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg
- Register to attend: Visit [www.mspreps.org](http://www.mspreps.org)
- Questions: Patti Permenter, 601 318-6229

**Hattiesburg to host state-wide educational conference**

The MAPE/PREPS Partnership Conference is coming up March 4-6 at Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg. The annual event celebrates achievements and collaborations in schools and draws educators from all over the state.

The conference is co-hosted by PREPS, the Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools, headquartered at William Carey University and MAPE, the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education.

“This annual education conference is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate schools and their achievements, learn from local and national speakers and network with educators and stakeholders from all corners of the state,” said PREPS Associate Director Patti Permenter.

The conference includes awards luncheons, national education speakers, a vendors exhibition and break-out sessions focused on the concerns of administrators, teachers and community partners.

For a conference schedule, download the registration brochure at [www.mapems.org](http://www.mapems.org). Highlights of the three-day con-



ference include:

**Keynote speaker**

Danny Steele will deliver a keynote speech March 5 at 8:30 a.m. With three decades of experience in education, Steele is a national education speaker and assistant professor of instructional leadership at the University of Montevallo. Steele is the co-author of two books, “Essential Truths for Teachers” and “Essential Truths for Principals.” He also authors an online education blog called, “Steele Thoughts.”

**Governor’s Awards Luncheon**

The Governor’s Awards Luncheon will be March 5 at 11:30 a.m. Elementary, middle and high schools – and their community partners – will be recognized for working together to develop projects to improve learning outcomes for students.

**Value-Added Awards Luncheon**

The Value-Added Awards Luncheon will be March 6 at 11:45 a.m. These awards will recognize K-12 schools from 49 districts across the state that are performing significantly better than other schools with students from similar socioeconomic situations in areas like ACT scores, algebra, biology, English, math and history.

“Mississippi public school teachers and administrators work extremely hard to prepare our students for their next steps. The PREPS Value-Added award ceremony is a way for us to recognize schools that we feel are beating the odds and encouraging their students in overcoming obstacles and adversity,” Permenter said.

The Value-Added Awards are sponsored this year by IMPACT Education Group.

*For a complete list of awards, visit [www.mspreps.org](http://www.mspreps.org).*

## Hinds CC names Fall 2019 President’s Scholars

**President’s Scholars are those with a cumulative 4.0 grade point average.**

Kelia Anderson of Byram  
Philip Beasley of Byram  
Jameria Blackmon of Byram  
Gabriel Chapman of Byram  
Tabatha Dunn of Byram  
Myles Gray of Byram  
Ellis Jackson of Byram  
Amaris Lee of Byram  
Lakisha Manning of Byram  
Angeliya McDonald of Byram  
Brianne Moncure of Byram  
Kenneth Newsome of Byram  
Minh Nguyen of Byram  
Tanishia Oliver of Byram  
Aquianetta Price of Byram  
Briana Reaser of Byram  
Ramonica Schuller of Byram  
Lacy Thomas of Byram  
Lasonja Thompson of Byram  
Marlon Wilkerson of Byram  
Haleigh Wright of Byram  
Moeshia Clemons of Columbus  
Tijah McCrary of Columbus  
Melissa Downs of Flowood  
Chase Ezell of Flowood  
Heather Frazier of Flowood  
Quangdai Huynh of Flowood  
Morgan Kaminski of Flowood  
Kyle King of Flowood  
Jasmine Melvin of Flowood  
Ella Powlett of Flowood  
Ashley Rigdon of Flowood  
Lenadus Cannon of Greenville  
Brianna Shaw of Grenada  
Lamont Bowman of Gulfport  
Zachary Grinder of Gulfport  
Randall Landrum of Gulfport  
Daniel Layton of Gulfport  
Valerie Pugh of Hattiesburg  
Aurelia Adams of Jackson  
Jada Adams of Jackson  
Sierra Adams of Jackson  
Debbie Archie of Jackson  
Britney Bailey of Jackson  
Adrian Beal of Jackson  
Sarrah Bell of Jackson  
Cheryl Benson of Jackson  
Jennifer Boerner of Jackson  
Shamaar Boyd of Jackson  
Carmen Bradley of Jackson  
Tommie Brent of Jackson  
Emily Britton of Jackson  
Jumika Brown of Jackson  
Marquis Brown of Jackson  
Erionna Burks of Jackson  
Emily Butler of Jackson  
Miranda Cheatham of Jackson  
Percy Clark of Jackson  
Colby Collier of Jackson  
Kiedra Collins of Jackson  
Stanley Collins of Jackson  
Mariecia Course of Jackson  
James Craven of Jackson  
Andrea Crawford of Jackson  
Lashandra Cuff of Jackson  
Claressa Davila Wilkins of Jackson  
Benjamin Deering of Jackson  
Ariel Dille of Jackson  
Darnella Dobson of Jackson  
Antonio Donelson of Jackson  
William Downing of Jackson  
Amber Engel of Jackson  
Aniya Esters of Jackson  
Javier Figueroa of Jackson  
Carlos Frazier of Jackson  
Jaquan Frelix of Jackson  
Alandria Galloway of Jackson  
Da’quincey Gamblin of Jackson  
Lyric Gibson of Jackson  
Mark Gomez of Jackson  
Gabriel Gonzalez-Fernandez of Jackson  
Emeril Green of Jackson  
Jay Grishby Jr of Jackson

Matthew Hairston of Jackson  
Shawnell Handy of Jackson  
Roderick Haynes of Jackson  
Emiya Henry of Jackson  
Lashanda Hicks of Jackson  
Tiffani Hurley of Jackson  
Blessing Igwe of Jackson  
Cory Jackson of Jackson  
Robert Jefferson of Jackson  
Latoynike Johnson of Jackson  
Linda Johnson of Jackson  
Zenaïs Johnson of Jackson  
Jayvone Jones of Jackson  
Kisha Jones of Jackson  
Briana Kendrick of Jackson  
Mylin Lewis of Jackson  
Makia Linzy of Jackson  
Timothy Manyfield of Jackson  
Ashley Martin of Jackson  
Breanna McNair of Jackson  
Derek Middlebrook of Jackson  
Gage Mitchell of Jackson  
John Mladineo of Jackson  
Jamya Moore of Jackson  
Isaiah Muhammad of Jackson  
Aaliyah Newsome of Jackson  
Caitlin O’Brien of Jackson  
Jacob Palmer of Jackson  
Star Parmley of Jackson  
Alyssa Ratliff of Jackson  
Courtney Reed of Jackson  
Kimberly Reese of Jackson  
Briana Rhodes of Jackson  
Willie Ringo of Jackson  
Darius Robinson of Jackson  
Haley Rooks of Jackson  
Rebecca Ross-Wright of Jackson  
Elliott Sanders of Jackson  
Janet Shoto of Jackson  
Oliver Spann of Jackson  
Slovakı Spann of Jackson  
DeJuana Sweargen-Parker of Jackson  
Harvey Taylor of Jackson  
Kaliyah Taylor of Jackson  
Linda Taylor of Jackson  
Miles Taylor of Jackson  
Matthew Thompson of Jackson  
Taevon Wallace of Jackson  
Brandie Wigley of Jackson  
Jeremy Williams of Jackson  
Taeler Williams of Jackson  
Timothy Willis of Jackson  
Clayborn Varnado of Mccomb  
Samuel Varnado of Mccomb  
Brandon Westbrook of Mccomb  
Miguel Easley of Meridian  
Brandi Bailey of Pearl  
Madison Batte of Pearl  
Alyssa Berry of Pearl  
Xavier Bilbro of Pearl  
Meagan Black of Pearl  
Kiedra Brower of Pearl  
Damario Brown of Pearl  
Brayden Cook of Pearl  
Chelsea Copeland of Pearl  
Haylee Copeland of Pearl  
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Jason Bates of Richland  
Amber Cook of Richland  
Naomi Gardner of Richland  
Michael Gray of Richland  
Brittany Henderson of Richland  
Laquesha McCloud of Richland  
Jordan McKey of Richland  
Jaycee Pilcher of Richland  
Kye Quichocho of Richland  
Kentrell Scott of Richland  
Dallas Chandler of Tupelo  
Andrew Ahlvin of Vicksburg  
Destiny Allen of Vicksburg  
Sharon Ames of Vicksburg  
Wesley Ballard of Vicksburg  
Terry Barton of Vicksburg  
Jarrod Bruce of Vicksburg  
Charles Bryant of Vicksburg  
Jaden Chatelain of Vicksburg  
Hannah Cranfield of Vicksburg  
Antonio Curtis of Vicksburg  
Ron’nesha Drayton of Vicksburg  
Michele Felberg of Vicksburg  
Anna Fielder of Vicksburg  
Cameron Gates of Vicksburg  
Mayra Gomez of Vicksburg  
Emily Gray of Vicksburg  
Katlyn Green of Vicksburg  
Carol Griffith of Vicksburg  
Chase Hanes of Vicksburg  
Natalie Harris of Vicksburg  
Garrett Holdiness of Vicksburg  
Kamesha Jackson of Vicksburg  
Lee Jenkins of Vicksburg  
Taylor Johnson of Vicksburg  
Brenda Kenney of Vicksburg  
Lashandra King of Vicksburg  
Shamesha Lenoir of Vicksburg  
Rodaecia Lindsey of Vicksburg  
Michelle Liu of Vicksburg  
Redford Lowery of Vicksburg  
David Mackey of Vicksburg  
Cian Miller of Vicksburg  
Jon Miller of Vicksburg  
Shelby Muirhead of Vicksburg  
Nicholas Niolet of Vicksburg  
Riddhi Patel of Vicksburg  
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Robyn West of Vicksburg  
Joseph Whatley of Vicksburg  
Corbin Williams of Vicksburg  
Gilda Williams of Vicksburg  
Makayla Williams of Vicksburg  
Xinxin Huang of Wylie

# Hinds CC trustees open search for new college president

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Hinds Community College Board of Trustees has opened a search for a new president with the goal of naming a leader by the end of April with an official start date of July 1, 2020.

The target date for applications is Feb. 20, 2020, but the application portal will remain open until the position is filled.

For detailed information, the presidential profile and information on how to apply please visit <https://www.hindscc.edu> or <https://acctsearches.org/>. To apply, go to <https://acctsearches.org/>.

For additional information,

nominations, or confidential inquiries contact:

- Kennon Briggs, ACCT Search Consultant, [kennondb@gmail.com](mailto:kennondb@gmail.com), 919.621.7988 (mobile)
- Mike McCall, Ed.D., ACCT Search Consultant, [mbmccall-sr@gmail.com](mailto:mbmccall-sr@gmail.com), 843.300.9646 (mobile)

The Hinds Community College website also includes the presidential profile created in conjunction with the Association of Community College Trustees through forums with college employees, students and the community.

“I believe that the most important responsibility of the

Board of Trustees is the naming of a president of Hinds Community College. We recognize the importance of choosing the right leader,” said Paul Breazeale, president of the Hinds Community College Board of Trustees.

“It will be our goal to select someone who has the ability to appreciate the history of our college and energize the vision to continue moving us forward. Hinds is a complex organization with many facets, which requires someone with the right experience, drive, passion and a commitment to excellence,” he said.

Hinds Community College is the largest of the 15 community

colleges in the state of Mississippi with about 29,000 credit and noncredit students annually. Hinds has six locations and covers five counties in central Mississippi in the metro Jackson area.

The college has a diverse clientele and a broad mission. The college’s vision is to be the preferred choice for quality education and training in the communities we serve and to provide quality, accessible, affordable education for all students in our district and be a premier education partner for business and industry.

The college offers a full academic program allowing transfer to four-year public and private

institutions as well as in-demand career and technical programs that lead to immediate jobs or continued training in fields such as nursing and allied health, commercial aviation, criminal justice, information technology, manufacturing, engineering and transportation logistics.

Candidate qualifications include an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum of five years of successful senior-level administrative or academic administrative. Candidates should also have a proven record of progressively responsible executive leadership in higher education, preferably experience in a com-

munity college setting. They should also have experience and relevant working knowledge of leading and managing a complex organization, educational policy, developing and administering education and workforce development programs and services, student success innovations and fiscal and facility management.

Clyde Muse, college president since July 1, 1978, recently announced his planned retirement June 30, 2020 after 42 years as leader of Hinds Community College. A committee of the 14-member Board of Trustees is leading the search for a new president.



# MLK keynote is still ‘sad, mad’ about 1970 ‘state-sanctioned murder’ on campus



Lawyer-activist Constance Slaughter-Harvey filed a lawsuit on behalf of the slain family members and others injured in the campus assault. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

By L.A. Warren  
jsmsnews.com

At a ceremony honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., lawyer-activist Constance Slaughter-Harvey said she’s still reeling from the aftermath of a “state-sanctioned murder” on Jackson State College that left two young black males dead and a dozen injured 50 years ago.

The keynote speaker at Jackson State University’s MLK Convocation by the Margaret Walker Center, said, “This is one of the most difficult times in my life in that I have been forced to relive – an era in Mississippi history that makes me sad, mad, angry, hurt and disappointed.”

Slaughter-Harvey spoke in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium Jan. 17. She’s the first African-American women to receive a law degree from the University of Mississippi and the first black female to serve as a judge in Mississippi (1975). She’s also founder/president of Legacy Education and Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc.

On May 15, 1970, Slaughter-Harvey remembers seeing the notorious Thompson Tank that was used to intimidate and herd protesters. The menacing vehicle, named after former white supremacist Mayor Allen C. Thompson, was outfitted with paramilitary gear.

On that fateful day, law enforcement unleashed 400 rounds of ammunition for 30 seconds on Alexander Hall, a women’s dormitory. Bullets tore through walls, windows and flesh during an early-morning assault. “It sounded like hail on a tin roof with gunfire smoke that smelled strange. The sky lit up and there were cries and screams of students running – and those unable to run because of their wounds.”

The slain victims were Philip Gibbs, a 21-year-old political science student at JSC and James Earl Green, a 17-year-old Jim Hill High School student, who was caught up in the crossfire while walking home from work.

Slaughter-Harvey filed a lawsuit on their behalf, as well as for plaintiff-students who are still alive today. “We thank all of you for being here today to salute them and to share their stories,” she told the audience. She also paid homage to King.

William B. Bynum Jr. agreed with the significance of celebrating the courage and “ultimate sacrifice” by King.

“I don’t know how many of us – with death threats not only to themselves but to their family members – would continue keeping on the way that Dr. King kept on,” Bynum said. “We say thank you to Dr. King for the freedoms we get to enjoy in this country.”

Also, Bynum acknowledged the effort by the Walker Cen-



Robert Luckett, director of the Margaret Walker Center said, “Dozens upon dozens of members in our community were physically and psychologically wounded when city police and highway patrolmen brazenly fired roughly 400 rounds of ammunition in 30 seconds into Alexander Hall, a women’s dormitory. And they did so under the cover of darkness.”



Speakers join in the singing of “We Shall Overcome.”



Audience members also show their solidarity during the King event held in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium Jan. 17.



Slaughter-Harvey is flanked by brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Members of the organization served as ushers at the MLK Convocation in honor of their fraternity brother Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ter to pay homage to Gibbs and Green by recommending that the two slain victims receive honorary degrees posthumously during the upcoming spring commencement ceremony. With blessings from a faculty committee confirmed, the College Board now will review the recommendation.

As well, Bynum said, members of the Class of 1970 will walk across the stage to receive their golden diploma during spring commencement. During that tumultuous year, the campus abruptly shut down and seniors were denied their graduation ceremony in the aftermath of the fatal shootings.

Robert Luckett, director of the Walker Center, reflected on the 1970 tragedy, too.

He said, “Dozens upon dozens of members in our community were physically and psychologically wounded when city police and highway patrolmen brazenly fired roughly 400 rounds of am-

munition in 30 seconds into Alexander Hall, a women’s dormitory. And they did so under the cover of darkness.”

He, too, offered words of gratitude to the keynote speaker.

“Thank you, Mrs. Slaughter-Harvey, for what you did to stand up to these people and to call out a racist and murderous power structure in this state and nation. I would point out that Dr. Margaret Walker did the same.”

Looking back at that deadly experience, Slaughter-Harvey recounts having to sue Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) to gain access to campus. She had wanted to consult with her legal clients and inspect Alexander Hall for evidence after the female dormitory came under siege. Instead, she was placed in the back of a police car.

Several legal actions were filed on behalf of the victims. Defendants were the state of Mississippi; City of Jackson; the mayor;

Mississippi Highway Patrol; the Jackson Police Department; the U.S. National Guard; and other conspirators.

Among the lawsuits included one filed in Hinds County (Dale Gibbs vs. City of Jackson) that was subsequently abandoned for one at the federal level (Burton vs. Waller). Plaintiffs were Myrtle Green Burton, the mother of Green, and Dale Gibbs, widow of Gibbs.

While Harvey-Slaughter paid homage to Gibbs and Green, she also acknowledged other plaintiffs: Tuwaine Davis Whitehead, who was struck in the stairwell of Alexander Hall; Vernon Weakley, who was hit in the leg in front of the west wing; and Leroy Kenter, who suffered chronic injuries to his legs as he attempted to run past the west wing.

The trial occurred in Biloxi with Judge Walter Nixon presiding. Ultimately, Nixon would be indicted, convicted and sen-

tenced to prison for lying to a grand jury. Still, later, an all-white jury exonerated the defendants in 1972.

“I shall never forget the reaction of the patrolmen and other officials when the verdict was read. It was the biggest display of rebel yells. And, I will never forget the pain that was reflected in the eyes of the plaintiffs.”

Slaughter-Harvey said she still agonizes over the loss experienced by families of Gibbs and Green. She especially feels the pain of bereaved mother Myrtle Green Burton, who Slaughter-Harvey met with monthly.

“Each time I visited Mrs. Burton she would ask if the governor or mayor had ever said that her son James Earl was not a bad boy. All I could say was ‘time would tell.’ Even a week before her death, Green Burton asked, “When are they going to say that Earl was a good boy?”

Nevertheless, after 12 years of

legal fights in U.S. District Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, ultimately, dealt a devastating blow by refusing to hear the case. Slaughter-Harvey said the only consolation had come from the Fifth Circuit, whose first opinion in 1974 declared that “the barrage of gunfire far exceeded the response that was appropriate.” It further held that seven officers were guilty of “torturous conduct as a matter of law.”

Today, she cites some progress in the judicial system, especially among African Americans who hold judgeships. These include Carlton Reeves, a JSU alum; Tommie Green, a Tougaloo grad; and James Graves, a product of Millsaps.

Could a tragedy similar to May 1970 happen again?

Slaughter-Harvey hints that it’s possible. She bemoans the “excessive use of force” in recent years in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Texas and other states.

Also, Slaughter-Harvey, who describes herself as hopeful but a realist, said the black community lacks a “sustained, organized and meaningful outcry” against injustices. In contrast, she commends the Committee for Concerned Students at JSU who displayed their rage and protected the Alexander Hall panel during that violent period 50 years ago.

“Many others stood out and spoke out against injustice,” she said, and they demanded, “Let us be heard. Their support was my oxygen.”

Today, however, she said, “The shootings of black children and of men and women in homes, schools, shopping centers, parks and churches will not stop unless we collectively and individually speak out. We need to do this by voting, monitoring public officials and, above all, remaining vigilant.”

She advises adults to listen to youth who are fed up with the status quo. “Pass the baton with supporting guidance. Remember that our youth will determine our destiny.”

As well, she urged individuals to follow the examples of those who fought against an unjust system and those who served in leadership roles.

Among them, she said, was King, who said, “The time is always right to do what is right.”

She lauded others as well. They included Rosa Parks who said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. Then, there was Harriet Tubman, who said, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. And, finally, Slaughter-Harvey quoted President Barack Obama: “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the change that we seek.”





## Lt. Governor meets healthcare professionals



*Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann*

It was a big third week in the 2020 Legislative Session. We met with healthcare professionals (including students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University, corrections reform advocates, educators and many others last week about the challenges facing our State.

As we discussed in a recent Mississippi Today podcast, I view every one of these meetings as an opportunity to work together to make Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

So far, we have referred more than 180 bills, with most going to the Appropriations, Finance, Education, Public Health and Judicial committees.

More legislation is coming down the pike every day, and we are reviewing it in a timely manner in accordance with the Senate Rules.

Speaker Philip Gunn has named his chairs and vice-chairs, so I anticipate committees in both chambers will get to work in short order. We are encouraging our chairmen and women to post agendas at least a day in advance of their meetings, and we are developing a method of posting those agendas online. You deserve to know about the business being conducted in your Capitol.

Thank you, as always, for your support. Despite the challenges we face, I have so much hope for our great State.



Lt. Governor Hosemann with healthcare professionals

## House names ed committee, Governor signs HB 1

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Committees have been named in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Rep. Richard Bennett of Long Beach will return as chair of the House Education Committee, and Rep. Kent McCarty of Hattiesburg will serve as vice chair. Other committee members are Representatives

Manly Barton of Moss Point, Randy Boyd of Mantachie, Charles Busby of Pascagoula, Larry Byrd of Petal, Alyce Clarke of Jackson, Angela Cockerham of Magnolia, Carolyn Crawford of Pass Christian, Sam Creekmore of New Albany, Clay Deweese of Oxford, Stephanie Foster of Jackson, Debra Gibbs of Jackson, Jef-

frey Guice of Ocean Springs, Greg Holloway of Hazlehurst, Mac Huddleston of Pontotoc, Timmy Ladner of Poplarville, Vince Mangold of Brookhaven, Jay McKnight of Gulfport, Carl Mickens of Brooksville, Daryl Porter of Summit, Rob Roberson of Starkville, Rufus Straughter of Belzoni, Zakiya Summers of Jackson, Cheikh

Taylor of Starkville, Kenneth Walker of Carthage, and Jason White of West. We look forward to working with them.

Gov. Reeves signed HB 1, the \$18.4-million teacher pay raise deficit appropriation to cover the shortfall that occurred at the end of the last legislative session.

Lt. Gov. Hosemann met

again recently with education advocates, making good on his promise to keep us in the loop and seek our input on education initiatives. We are off to a good start.

Now that House committees have been appointed, I expect activity in the Legislature to pick up considerably. We'll keep you posted as education

bills are considered, and we'll let you know when we need your help. In the meantime, ask a friend to join us, and check out The Mississippi Collective – a public education advocacy network of Mississippians under 40. The more of us there are, the better for Mississippi kids. Because together, we've got this!

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## The Mississippi Senate presents Hinds Community College President Dr. Clyde Muse with proclamation



The surprise presentation was made in Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann's office by him, Senator Hillman T. Frazier and Senate President Pro Tempore Dean Kirby.

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2020, presented Hinds Community College President Dr. Clyde Muse with a proclamation honoring his success and longevity. Muse, who plans to retire June 30, 2020, has led the college for 42 years, making him the state's longest serving school president. Muse has been an educator for 68 years, taking over as president of then Hinds Junior College on July 1, 1978.



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# Trump Impeachment: Is John Bolton the president's 'worst nightmare?'

By Dr. Barbara Reynolds  
TriceEdneyWire.com

Even if watching Perry Mason or Law and Order have been your only contact with the criminal justice system you would know real trials have witnesses and documents which the fraudulent Republican-controlled impeachment shenanigans are determined not to allow. But now there is a political hand grenade that could blow the lid off the GOP's schemes to block important witnesses to provide testimony or documents that could shed negative light on the president.

This new bombshell is the release of allegations in former national security adviser John Bolton's book manuscript that President Trump had illegally tied military aid to Ukraine contingent on probes into vice president Joe Biden, Trump's most feared political rival. In Bolton's not yet published book, this account is not hearsay but allegedly first hand conversations that Bolton had with Trump and key advisers, such as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Bolton's lawyers have said their client is ready to testify in the Senate impeachment trial.



Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell heads to impeachment hearing.

And if he does, Bolton, who has a 40 year-career in foreign service, just might be that white knight in shining armor the Democrats are hoping for.

In fact, the GOP Senators' refusal to hear Bolton and other key White House officials will only add more credibility that the trial was a sham to hide a corrupt president and will not fare well with voters, which polls said 70 percent wanted the trial to include witnesses and documents.

The mustachioed Bolton has

been described potentially as the president's worst nightmare. Trump has directed all executive-branch officials not to comply with congressional subpoenas. Most senior White House officials have complied with Trump's gag order, but since Bolton has resigned his position, he could testify, but it is a safe bet the Senate won't allow it.

Here are some of the comments Bolton has already made that could boil up Trump's already hot water; Bolton reportedly told



House impeachment managers head toward the Trump impeachment trial. PHOTOS: PAULETTE SHIPMAN-SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE

some "all in the loop" Trump aides that he did not want to be part of "whatever drug deal" certain other officials were "cooking up" in Ukraine.

Bolton has also described Rudy Giuliani as Trump's personal bagman who spearheaded what witnesses have described as operating a backdoor channel in Ukraine, as a problem. Bolton was also reportedly opposed to the smear and intimidation campaign Giuliani and Trump carried out against Marie Yovanovitch,

the US's ambassador to Ukraine, who was trying to block some of the irregularities.

Former senior administration officials have told news sources that people in Trump's orbit were frightened over what Bolton might divulge, but others feel Bolton might pull back because he has much to lose depending on how he plays his cards. First of all, billionaires and organized crime elements that reportedly are part of Trumps' inner circle have the resources to buy loyalty,

handsomely award their friends, and gravely punish their enemies.

Bolton has a Political Action Committee that wealthy donors use to support Republicans who support Bolton's hawkish foreign policy experts, according to the *Washington Examiner*. If Bolton turns on Trump, all that cash will dry up and since Trump is certain not to be convicted by the GOP controlled Senate, why should Bolton damage his future by issuing a potentially damaging blow?

We should have learned by all the hopes that were dashed by Robert Mueller's probe which although important was undercut by Atty. Gen. Barr which Mueller didn't fight. The GOP top echelon are part of the same eco-system, sharing friends, funds and futures. Could Bolton really exist outside the GOP bubble?

Furthermore, if the Senators refuse to allow Bolton to testify within the trial, Bolton's book will be even more of a money-making best seller. And after the trial, Trump will have free reign to continue his criminal activities to help him remain in office.

So the only loser here is truth which in the GOP climate really doesn't matter.

# NNPA leadership launches new community-focused initiative at mid-winter conference in Fort Lauderdale

## The Red School House chosen as inaugural recipient

By Jeffrey L. Boney  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

As part of the first phase of an established marketing plan for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the leadership of the storied organization announced the launch of their inaugural "NNPA Community Impact" initiative to kick-off the 80th anniversary of the NNPA.

This initiative was championed by NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, who believes the NNPA should regularly highlight organizations that are making an impact, or people who are making a difference, in their respective communities, but rarely get the recognition they truly deserve.

"We must leave a footprint in all of the communities where we have a presence and where we are making an impact," stated Carter Richards. "As we visit different cities, we must connect with the communities we serve and leave a lasting impression. In doing this initiative, we must also highlight the newspaper(s) in those respective cities to make sure they're included in the effort. We must work collaboratively together and make every community remember that the NNPA was on the scene and should never be forgotten."

Just this past week, at the start of the 2020 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference that was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the NNPA put this initiative into action as they worked alongside local publisher Bobby Henry of *The Westside Gazette* to honor The Red School House as the "NNPA Community Impact" inaugural recipient.

"The Red School House has served the Fort Lauderdale community for more than 52 years and has taught and developed many upstanding African Americans who have moved on to make their own impact in various communities around the nation," said Bobby Henry, publisher of the *Westside Gazette*. "I was honored to work with the NNPA to select The Red School House as the 'NNPA



Community Impact' inaugural recipient in my city."

The NNPA and The Westside Gazette saluted The Red School House by presenting them with a check for \$500, as well as hosted a pizza party for the kids.

From vision to planning to becoming a reality in 1968, The Red School House has provided a safe, caring and learning environment for children whose parents were working, and has become a staple in the community for over 50 years.

Mrs. Julia was employed as a bus driver for the School Board of Broward County and was married to her husband, Harvey Shaw, who was employed as a longshoreman for Port Everglades. The couple had 5 children and because everyone in her family found themselves working, Mrs. Julia recognized that there was no one at home to raise the children in the family.

After recognizing this dilemma, and to ensure the family's children were properly cared for, Mrs. Julia declared "someone has to stay here and keep these kids."

That is when and how The Red School House was birthed. It was

the old-fashioned tradition of including the home, church and community that became the catalyst behind Mrs. Julia using her home as a primary place to start caring for her family's children.

In addition to caring for her own family's children, Mrs. Julia also wanted to give back to the community in which she lived for so long. As a result, the doors of The Red School House were officially opened in September of 1968 with only 25 students. The early years of The Red School House were built on the shoulders of her family. Although the whole family worked at the school at one time or another, The Red School House was mainly run by the women of the family.

After the untimely death of an aunt who worked at the school, in 1983, Mrs. Julia asked her daughter, Gwendolyn Shaw, to come home in 1984 to take over operations.

At the time of her mother's request, Gwendolyn was living in Chicago and was working at *Jet Magazine* and at Motorola Corporation. Because her mother wanted her to become the director of The Red School House, Gwendolyn

made the decision to move back home and honor her mother's request. In 1986, they were able to renovate the school, which had previously operated out of two buildings. They consolidated the school into one building without ever closing their doors. In 1993, the playgrounds at the school were reconstructed to make them safer for the children and all of the teachers became CDA certified.

Mrs. Julia passed away in 1998, leaving Gwendolyn with the sole responsibility of running the business. As part of their regular school routine, every morning they start the day with devotion, with all children and staff front and center. Gwendolyn comes forth and sets the atmosphere for the day and afterwards, the students return to their classroom setting.

They are taught the basics of reading, writing and math skills; Black history; World History; geography; science; life skills; participation in events such as field trips to the laundromat to wash their clothes, to the grocery store to expose them to grocery shopping, to Wal-Mart for back-to-school shopping; community

clean-up; cooking; sewing; hygiene classes; Bible class; social skills and development; sign language; three foreign languages (German, Japanese and Spanish); performing arts; manipulative skills; and homework is sent home twice a week.

Outdoor play is part of their daily schedule (twice a day) and gymnastics (physical education) is every Friday at the community L.A. Lee YMCA.

The students also attend field trips to all Disney on Ice productions, circus performances, Sesame Street performances and any cultural and fine arts performances that will enhance their exposure to appreciate the world of fine arts, entertainment and community activities. Twice a year, the performing arts skills of the students (ages 2 thru 5) are displayed at their annual Christmas program in December and at the graduation performance held in May.

In the month of April, they host a Kiddie Prom that is held at the Elegant Signature Grand in Davie, FL. In November, they have an etiquette class for all the 4- and 5-year-old students, where they dress up (the boys in their dressy attire with a \$2 tip in their wallet, and the girls in their dressy attire with a purse on their arms).

The Red School House students are picked up by limousine service and taken to the Cheesecake Factory in downtown Fort Lauderdale where they dine for lunch and are taught how to model good behavior and manners.

Since inception, The Red School House has grown from 25 students to over 160 students. Even more impressive are the number of former students who are now staff members and some staff members who have worked for The Red School House for up to 40 years.

The Red School House has been in business for 52 years and has never received any federal funding, primarily because they didn't want to change their cur-

riculum.

"We are still as strong today as we were on that September day in 1968," Gwendolyn states. "Our purpose has become our passion, to make a difference in our community, to care for children in providing a safe and nurturing environment, to provide educational excellence for each child. We are a traditional school with traditional values and a whole lot of love."

This is a monumental initiative for the NNPA and is consistent with its overall mission and vision. Since its founding exactly 80 years ago, the NNPA has consistently been the voice of the black community and an incubator for the news that makes history and impacts the country today and tomorrow.

From delivering news, information and commentary to being the largest and most influential black-owned media resource in America to reach local markets with African-American consumers. From helping to shape ideas and opinion to shaping thinking. From thought leadership to leading change. Each week 20 million Americans from all backgrounds seeking news from the Black perspective turn to NNPA newspapers.

This initiative will expand the impact and reach of the Black Press across America and in local markets to ensure the mission and vision of the NNPA remains relevant.

To learn more about The Red School House or to make a donation, call 954 249-2901 or by mail to 1205 N.W. 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312.

*Jeffrey Boney is a political analyst and frequent contributor for the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com and the associate editor for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. He is an award-winning journalist, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur and business development strategist. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies. mmunity.*



# Think soberly

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



Romans 12:3 says, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (KJV).

You can only work in the measure of faith that God has given you. You cannot step out of it. Romans 12:3 in another translation says “As God’s messenger I give each of you God’s warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how

much faith God has given you” (TLB).

Complaining and murmuring can spread through an entire family, and it can pass down from generation to generation: the parents complain and the children complain. Some become jealous of others and try to outdo them in worldly possessions. They get jealous of others’ successes. Just as with the mixed multitude in Moses’ day, God has not changed His mind about it, and that is the reason He inspired the Apostle Paul to write about it.

Some complain about the Bible standard. They say the standard is too high. However, it is not the standard that is too high; it is their skirts that are too high. The mixed multitude

on the outskirts of congregations grumbles and complains, and they never do anything for God. They cannot get into the work of God and go forward for God and become spiritual because they are always complaining, grumbling and murmuring.

Some young people complain because their parents are too strict. Young person, God gave you parents for a reason. A parent has jurisdiction over a child while he or she lives in the home. The world’s idea is that when a child becomes eighteen years of age, he can do as he pleases, but that is not in the Word of God. God did not say in His Word that it is up to the child to choose. No, parents ought to step up to their

children. Parent, you should not be afraid to tell your child “no.”

When a child tells off his mother or father, that is a shame. The mother or father should not sit there spinelessly, embarrassed that the child got out of sorts. The child got out of sorts because he is used to mom and dad allowing him to have his own way.

Complaining and murmuring starts when children are little; then when they grow up, they become big complainers.

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

P R E S E R V E D

# Purpose of the Process

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“The purpose of the process is greater than its pain.” This phrase came to my mind in the midst of one of the worship services during my former church home’s annual fall revival a number of years ago. I wrote this phrase down planning to write more about it later when I had more quiet time to think. I also really wanted to focus on what the speaker, Dr. Brenda Kearney of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sharing through the preached word and awesome prophetic songs. She then made one of the most profound statements I’d heard in a long time: “We have to have a present friend for our prophetic reality.”

She further explained that this “present” friend was one that God ordained to speak into our lives, encourage us and help propel us into our destinies. Because of past hurts and the very real fear of being vulnerable with others, many of us miss out on enjoying those “present” friend relationships.

Kearney used the example of the very familiar story of the friendship of David and Jonathan found in the Old Testament to illustrate her point about the importance of having a “present” friend.

Kearney also pointed out that they shared a powerful covenant friendship where David, the God-anointed King of Israel, was mentored by Jonathan, who was the natural successor to King Saul. Without envy and with selfless love, Jonathan mentored David. Basically, Jonathan was training the guy who was going to take the


job that he was supposed to have when his father King Saul died.

As I listened to her explain the lesson, my mind thought about a project that I’d been working on for a few months. I believed in faith that the project would be successful and was working with someone who was committed to making that happen. They also offered valuable strategic advice. However, I still had those moments of frustration because I was ready for the project to be done. However, my “present” friend was patiently working with me through my anxieties because they saw the God-ordained purpose.

Isaiah 48:10 reminds us about the process of testing that often occurs as we strive to achieve our purpose: “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”

After the service, I thought more about the idea of the “present” friend” and how they are important when purpose is being pursued. Because the pursuit of purpose can be confusing, awkward and sometimes painful, that “present” friend walks with you as you endure the process because they can see, based on their previous experience or spiritual insight, the bigger picture. They know the importance of learning how to reach beyond the pain, endure the process and complete the journey to purpose.

*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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## A call to action

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



The life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is universally recognized as having been remarkably inspirational. The world recognizes that the beacon of his life expands beyond geographic boundaries. Our community has come to honor the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as a day to celebrate his message of peace and human dignity – an immortal message that is proving itself to be transgenerational. In that spirit, this year, as in years past, many of us found a variety of activities designed to honor and commemorate his life and works.

This MLK birthday, I celebrated with hundreds of others. We reveled in song and a sincere spirit of unity. We listened to eloquent speakers who spoke to the virtues and accomplishments of Dr. King. The joy and enthusiasm of the assemblage was clearly apparent, but I felt something was missing.

We had clearly celebrated Dr. King as a “Drum Major for Justice,” but we had failed to elevate him to the position he most often occupied, leading the vanguard against the evils of racism, discrimination and exploitation. While I know that this was not the case in all observances, one instance of this omission is one too many. I find no fault in the feel-good spirit of our observances, but we must never forget or omit the fact that, although peaceful, Dr. King was a relentless warrior against injustice.

In our current national emergency of corruption and divisiveness, I can only believe that Dr. King would be in the forefront of sounding the alarm for action. I believe that he would be proactive in the fight against the current occupant of The White House and his wild-west administration. Even in his most generous disposition, I cannot see Dr. King tolerating the volume of lies that impact negatively on the lives of millions of Americans. Chief among them is 45’s ego-based opposition to everything Obama, especially the ACA (Obamacare) which, most notably, provides health insurance for millions and protects insurance eligibility for pre-existing medical conditions.

Many of us forget or ignore that before his assassination in Memphis, Dr. King was in the midst of an economic campaign for fair wages for city garbage collectors. I cannot be convinced that today he would not be leading a campaign against income inequity and for a living-wage for minimum wage workers. He understood that the consequences of low wages and poverty led to self-perpetuating social disparities.

I am sure that Dr. King would place great emphasis on issues of voting rights. He, like most who pay attention, would know that the current trend of voter suppression is the only option for a political party that cannot achieve policy objectives by allowing free, fair and open elections. He would be vigorous in his vocal protest of gerrymandering, closing polling places, purging voter lists and other pernicious methods of suppression.

I can see him benignly unforgiving of those who would relinquish their right to vote with the excuse, “My vote won’t count anyway.”

To the satisfaction of a majority of Americans, I can see Dr. King promoting a thorough and complete impeachment trial of 45. He would recognize the threat of the current administration to our Constitutional way-of-life and guarantees. He would perceive the run-amok, “do the bidding of Trump” Republican Senate led by “Moscow Mitch McConnell” as a clear and present danger to our democracy.

If he could speak to us from his rest, I believe Dr. King would admonish us as he did in life. “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”

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

## Detractor-in-Chief overstates economic progress

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Donald John Trump has been impeached, and to let him tell it, that isn’t bothering him, and we’d believe him if he hadn’t posted hundreds tweets in just one day.

But his persistent overuse of the word “hoax,” both to refer to impeachment and to anything else he doesn’t like (see: climate change), proves otherwise.

45 delivered remarks during a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland but then declined to participate in the scheduled question and answer session afterwards. During his speech, Trump behaved in character, providing his audience with “the big brag.” As usual, he had some trouble with the truth, complaining about the economy he inherited.

“America’s economy was in a rather dismal state,” he said. These comments clearly ignore the work that President Barack Obama did to pull us out of the Great Recession. Of course, to let 45 tell it, Obama did nothing right. But as the unemployment rate fell during Obama’s tenure, 45 dismissed the progress, arguing that the statistics were wrong. Now that the unemployment rate is at a 50-year low, he is happy to

quote the Bureau of Labor Statistics same data to tout the improvement he has supposedly made in the economy.

Atypically, 45 seemed to stick to his script during his speech, avoiding the adlibs and ad hominem attacks he often makes headlines for. Since he was booed after his post-speech Q&A at Davos in 2018, I suppose he was not eager to repeat the experience. Still, he was unable to stick to basic facts, exaggerating his successes and minimizing his failures.

Take the growth rate, for example. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, when Obama left office in the last quarter of 2016, the US had a growth rate of 3.5 percent. During the third quarter of 2019 (the latest data available), growth was not much higher at 3.8 percent.

Growth rates, however, fluctuate. While during some quarters 45 has presided over an economy growing at nearly six percent, he had also seen growth rates as low as 3.8 percent, and economists project the growth rate is slowing. In contrast, Obama experienced growth rates, after the great recession ended, ranging from as low as three percent to higher than five percent. He also did so without the stimulus of a tax cut that favored the wealthy.

The Trump growth rates are both a result of ill- advised, deficit-expanding

tax cuts, and an inherited record-breaking Obama-era expansion.

45 said he would expand manufacturing jobs. Really? In 2019 fewer than 46,000 manufacturing jobs were created, compared to 264,000 the previous year. The decrease in manufacturing jobs is likely due to his recently imposed tariffs.

So why was 45 boasting in Switzerland? Mostly because his impeachment trial started at the same time as the World Economic Forum. Too bad that strategy didn’t work. The news was focused on impeachment, all the time, while the World Economic Forum is getting far less attention. His upbeat and exaggerated claim of economic success was designed to deflect both from impeachment, and from his party’s shenanigans.

When 45 talks about the US economy, he never talks about poverty or people at the bottom, largely because he does not much care about them. His administration frequently shows this disdain for the poor by implementing new rules targeting the disadvantaged. Thanks to a policy change on SNAP eligibility, 700,000 people will no longer be able to receive food stamps. Is this a necessary byproduct of economic growth?

Further, the Department of Agriculture has taken us all the way to the Reagan days when ketchup was declared a

vegetable. Now, many of the changes that First Lady Michelle Obama advocated for have been rolled back under this administration. Schools will be able to cut the amount of fruits and vegetables that students are served, increase allowable sodium content in foods and get away with offering burgers and pizza as full meals. This is a leap backward, especially when you consider that most of the children who consume school lunches are low and moderate income.

While world poverty is a challenge, 45 is hardly likely to even mention our domestic poverty to an audience full of world leaders. Thus, he was complimented for his “optimism” which is a far off idea and outright joke to many Americans who are hurting under this administration.

Deflection, deflection, deflection. 45 may have run away from impeachment in Davos, but he can’t hide from it. And while the Senate is likely to acquit 45 on the charges against him, the majority of the House of Representatives voted for impeachment. It is part of his legacy.

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](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com)

## New Jersey does the right thing for diverse communities

By Marc H. Morial  
Trice Edney Newswire



*“When districts with prisons receive enhanced representation, every other district in the state without a prison sees its votes diluted. And this vote dilution is even larger in the districts with the highest incarceration rates. Thus, the communities that bear the most direct costs of crime are therefore the communities that are the biggest victims of prison-based gerrymandering. The Census Bureau’s decision to count incarcerated people in the wrong place interferes with equal representation in virtually every state.” – Prison Policy Initiative, The Prison Gerrymandering Project*

The Census is one of the most powerful tools the African-American community has to claim our rightful voice in the political, legislative and social institutions of our nation.

Unfortunately, it also is one of the most abused.

One of the ways the Census is abused is prison gerrymandering. Our mass incarceration crisis has thrust 2.3 million Americans into correctional facilities – nearly one in 100. Black people are incarcerated at five times the rate of whites, so more than half of the incarcerated are black, most from urban communities. Most of these prisons are located in overwhelmingly white, rural communities. And when it comes to the Census, black, urban Americans who are incarcerated – and who can’t vote – are counted as residents of those white rural communities rather than the diverse urban communities where they live.

Hundreds of prison communities around the country counties have a 10-to-1 ratio of racial over-representation – in other words, the portion of the prison that is black – and can’t vote – is at least 10 times larger than the black portion of the surrounding county.

This siphoning of black urban political power into white, rural communities is the modern-day version

of the Three-Fifths Compromise, and violates the principle of One Person, One Vote.

Some states are rejecting this relic of the racist past, and I’m pleased to congratulate New Jersey for becoming the latest to reject prison gerrymandering. Governor Phil Murphy this week signed a bill requiring incarcerated persons to be counted in their home districts when legislative boundaries are redrawn. Congratulations also to the bill’s co-sponsors, Senators Sandra Cunningham and Nilsa Cruz-Perez and Assembly members Shavonda Sumter, Raj Mukherji and Annette Quijano.

According to the *Newark Star-Ledger*, more New Jersey inmates come from Essex than any other county, but most of the state’s correctional facilities are located in counties to the south. That meant more than 1,600 Camden residents were counted as residents of other counties.

The problem is even worse in other states. According to the Prison Gerrymandering Project, 60 percent of Illi-

nois’ prisoners are from Cook County (Chicago), yet 99 percent of them are counted outside the county. In Texas, one rural district’s population is almost 12 percent prisoners. Eighty-eight residents from that district, then, are represented in the State House as if they were 100 residents from urban Houston or Dallas.

New Jersey is the 7th state to end prison gerrymandering – the other states are New York, California, Maryland, Delaware, Nevada, and Washington. More than one in four Americans now live in a jurisdiction that has ended prison gerrymandering.

State action, while vitally important, won’t solve the problem at the federal level, or affect the unfair allocation of federal resources that results from unfair Census practices, but it is a step closer to the ideal of One Person, One Vote.

Every state should follow the New Jersey’s lead and end prison gerrymandering to ensure equal representation for every American.

## We need political courage on homelessness and recidivism

By Jack Brown  
Trice Edney Newswire



With the Democratic primary kicking into gear and the general election right around the corner, the stage is set for an impassioned battle of ideas and policy initiatives that could shape our country for the next decade.

Fortunately, sitting lawmakers and candidates from both sides of the aisle have shown a willingness to take on some of the greatest challenges of our time – from health care and the economy to education and foreign policy.

But too often missing from this menu of priorities have been the issues at the margins that make for uncomfortable conversations, such as rising rates of adult and youth homelessness and the persistent obstacles faced by individuals transitioning back into society after periods of incarceration. It goes without saying that these problems intersect with those that receive the most attention, but a failure to address them head on is a deficit of courage that we can ill afford. Now, more than ever, we need our po-

litical leaders to be unafraid in naming these challenges, bold in forging solutions, and committed to making lasting progress. And every one of us has a moral responsibility to do our part.

As the CEO of CORE Services, a nonprofit human services and community development organization operating programs in New York and Washington DC, I know firsthand that extending unconditional compassion and providing support for those who need it can transform lives.

Every day, at emergency housing shelters we operate in both cities, people with nowhere else to turn show up at our doors: it’s the single mother who has fled an abusive situation with her young daughter; the young man struggling with the onset of a disorienting and destabilizing mental health condition; the LGBTQ teenager who was tormented with relentless bullying and threats of violence.

These are some of the most courageous and resilient people you’ll ever meet. And when they are given the gift of a safe and stable support system – a hand to help them get back on their feet – they can become thriving members of

the local workforce and community. The financial investment in helping someone find the right path, compared to the costs of other public-private programs, is minimal: with support of government agencies, we provide these individuals a comfortable bed to sleep in, nutritional meals to eat, access to health services, and a pathway to employment. The benefits are enormous.

Both New York City and Washington DC have taken significant steps to curb rates of homelessness. Other cities should follow suit.

Another key initiative at CORE is providing reentry services for individuals returning home from being incarcerated, disproportionately black and Hispanic men. It’s hard enough that these men – our sons, brothers and fathers – have had to spend long periods of time away from their families and communities. But making matters worse is the fact that these individuals are too often forced to make the transition back into society without any support at all. Too often that approach leads to isolation and failure.

At our reentry centers, former inmates have access to skills training,

job-placement services, and transportation, among other critical resources. We put together workshops on everything from résumé-writing and interviewing to how to knot a tie and use the Internet. Our work amounts to a rejection of the insidious belief that a person can be a lost cause. We believe in a bold model of human services founded on compassion and honesty.

These are some of the challenges that we don’t hear about enough on the debate stage or on the campaign trail. And they are the challenges that too often get short shrift by Congress and state lawmakers – because they don’t lend themselves to easy solutions. They require difficult conversations, showing up and staying the course.

At the dawn of this decade, we need lawmakers to devote more attention to solving problems like rising rates of homelessness and persistently high rates of recidivism. At CORE, we are committed to playing our part. We need more courageous partners in government.

Jack Brown is the chairman and chief executive of CORE DC, as well as the founder and chief executive of CORE Services Group.





# Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi to host its Annual Night of HOPE of Epilepsy Gala to END EPILEPSY®

*Proceeds will fund Epilepsy research awareness and advocacy efforts in Mississippi*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi is hosting its second Annual Night of HOPE for Epilepsy Gala at 6 p.m. Sat., Feb. 8, at the Westin-Jackson at 407 S. Congress Street.

This year’s event will honor “Heroes Among Us” including Dr. Colette Parker, Dr. Tiffany Scarff, Dr. James M. Shiflett, Mayor George Flaggs Jr. and Mike Flannes. Dr. Brad Ingram will serve as the Master of Ceremony and Sally Schaeffer, director of the SUDEP Institute, will be the keynote speaker. Phillip Cothorn will be providing the entertainment.

Money raised will fund research, awareness and advocacy efforts in the

state of Mississippi, as well as funding for the epilepsy-focused camp, the Alvin P. Flannes Summer Camp. Flannes founded the summer camp 30 years ago, and his son, Mike Flannes, will be another honoree at the gala on behalf of his father.

“The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi’s Annual Night of HOPE for Epilepsy Gala has become a favorite fundraising event for all who attend,” said Tres Townsend, executive director, Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi. “Epilepsy advocates from across the state will come together to honor individuals dedicated to furthering awareness and recognizing achievements within the Mississippi epilepsy

community.”

The evening will begin with food, cocktails, a Whiskey & Wine Pull and more. Tickets are \$125.

“The Gala will be a truly unforgettable night to celebrate a great cause and recognize accomplishments in patient care and beyond; as well as recognize that there is so much more research, awareness and funding needed to end epilepsy and eliminate the stigma surrounding the disease,” said Townsend.

Over the past two years, the Night of HOPE for Epilepsy Gala has raised more than \$60,000 to support the efforts of the Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi.

**About Epilepsy**

According to the World Health Organization, epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide with no age, racial, social class, national or geographic boundaries. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) estimates that 3.4 million people in the United States are affected by epilepsy. It is the underlying tendency of the brain to produce seizures which are sudden abnormal bursts of electrical energy that disrupt brain functions.

**About the Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi**

The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and

to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives. The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi is the only statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and cure of seizure disorders, the alleviation of their effects and the promotion of independence and optimal quality of life for people with epilepsy. The foundation seeks to accomplish this mission through education, research, advocacy and direct client services.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi is the only organization in the state dedicated to helping people affected with seizure disorders and still provides all programs and services free of charge.

# Super Bowl party hosts can prevent DUI crashes: AMR and Restaurant Association advise

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Drunk driving crashes skyrocket after Super Bowl games, so AMR paramedics and the Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association (MHRA) are urging party hosts to prevent DUI.

In a joint statement, AMR spokesman Jim Pollard and MHRA executive director Pat Fontaine said, “Super Bowl Sunday is one of the biggest days for drinking beer and liquor. Parties can start long before kickoff and last beyond the game’s end. Those facts can be a recipe for tragedy.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has found that men ages 21 to 34 are most likely to be involved in DUI crashes, less likely to use seat belts and very likely to speed. Young men are also the core audience for major sporting events. NHTSA’s Fatal Accident Reporting System has shown Sunday Bowl Sundays are among the worst days of the year for DUI crashes.

BACtrack, a maker of personal breathalyzers, has studied the level of alcohol in the blood measured by law enforcement testing for each day of the year. BACtrack found, in some years, DUI offenders on Super Bowl Sunday had on average the second- or third-highest blood alcohol content of all days of the year. New Year’s Eve is perennially the worst. In short, DUI offenders on Super Bowl Sunday are among the most intoxicated on the road any day of the year.

AMR and MHRA urges party hosts to make certain guests don’t get drunk and drive. Fontaine and Pollard said, “Party hosts, bartenders and servers have a legal and moral duty to keep drunk drivers off the road. If a guest has a DUI crash, the host may face an expensive lawsuit, not to mention lifelong emotional pain. Helping reduce DUI may well save the guest’s life and others.”

Fontaine said the restaurant association has trained hundreds of bartenders and wait staff statewide on serving alcohol responsibly. “Hospitality professionals who have taken our course are well-schooled on helping prevent DUI,” he said.

MHRA and AMR advised the hosts of private parties:



Never invite guests by saying your group plans to drink a great deal.

Limit your own alcohol intake so you can determine whether guests are fit to drive and take steps to stop impaired guests from driving.

Identify designated drivers right as couples or groups arrive. Point out: A designated driver isn’t one who drinks the least alcohol, but one who drinks zero alcohol.

Reward designated drivers:

- drivers with a choice seat at the TV or first pass at the buffet. Take the keys from designated
- drivers. When you hand keys back as groups depart, double-check the designated drivers’
- sobriety. Give them a glass with a color different from all other guests. The glass will
- remind designated drivers not to drink and other guests not to give them alcohol.

If a guest has come alone and drinks alcohol, make a firm plan on how he or she gets home.

Do not pressure guests to drink. There’s a big difference between “Would you like something to drink?” compared to “Come on, have a drink!”

Provide a bartender so guests don’t over-serve themselves. Limit servings of alcohol by keeping glasses filled with ice. Don’t rush to refill guests’ glasses with alcohol.

Put non-alcoholic drinks in the same place as the alcohol, displayed just as prominently.

Serve lots of food. Provide water and juice plus “mocktails.” Mocktails are mixed drinks without alcohol in them. A “virgin” Bloody Mary looks and tastes much like the real thing. Visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.allrecipes.com”](http://www.allrecipes.com) [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com) has dozens for mocktail recipes.

Except for the designated drivers, serve all beverages in the same size and shape glass. That way, those who aren’t drinking alcohol won’t feel or look different.

Do not allow drinking contests. Ask your guests who are drinking to pace themselves, eat plenty of food and alternate alcohol with non-alcoholic drinks.

Never serve alcohol to anyone less than 21 years of age. It’s illegal and has big penalties.

If someone shows up drunk or gets drunk, tell the guest he or she has drunk too much and alcohol is off limits. Take the guest aside and offer a place to sleep it off. If another guest is a close friend of the intoxicated person, ask that other guest to help.

Prevent falls by clearing walkways, stairs and porches and by providing adequate lighting.

“WUI” (walking under the influence) can lead to serious injuries.

Follow the example of numerous NFL stadiums and stop serving alcohol when the sec-

ond half starts. Begin serving coffee and dessert. Remember, coffee does not restore sobriety.

Never let anyone drive who has drunk any alcohol at all, no matter how little. Take the keys. Call a cab. Encourage the guest to stay overnight. Don’t let drunk guests out of your sight.

As guests leave, help the designated drivers buckle up every passenger. Buckling up protects occupants from other drivers who may be intoxicated.

The Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association ([www.msra.org](http://www.msra.org)) fosters success in the state’s hospitality and restaurant industry. Services include networking, training, advocacy, discount programs and other support. To learn more, visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.msra.org”](http://www.msra.org) [www.msra.org](http://www.msra.org).

**About American Medical Response:** Serving 19 counties in Mississippi, AMR companies are the state’s busiest ambulance services. American Medical Response, Inc., America’s leading provider of medical transportation, provides services in 40 states and the District of Columbia. More than 28,000 AMR paramedics, EMTs, RNs and other professionals work together to transport more than 4.8 million patients nationwide each year in critical, emergency and non-emergency situations. AMR also provides fire services through Rural Metro Fire Department, [www.ruralmetro-fire.com](http://www.ruralmetro-fire.com).

For more information about AMR, visit [www.amr.net](http://www.amr.net) and follow *American Medical Response on Facebook @ AMR\_Social on Twitter and Instagram*. AMR is part of the Global Medical Response family of companies.

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For more information, visit [www.globalmedicalresponse.com](http://www.globalmedicalresponse.com).

# It’s not too late to take precautions against the flu

*The threat of infection can last several additional months*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The flu can be uncomfortable, at best, but it can also be deadly. According to the Centers for Disease Control [CDC] so far this season there more than 13 million people have been sick with flu, at least 5,900,000 people have been to the doctor because of flu, more than 120 million people have been hospitalized because of flu and more than 6,600 have died.”

Dan Weber, president of the senior advocacy organization, the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], is advising its membership and older Americans, at large, to get a flu shot if you haven’t already done so.

“It’s not too late. The flu season is not over yet and the CDC says it can last for several more months,” Weber warns. He points out that 53% of flu victims are 65 years old or older, noting that Medicare covers 100% of the cost..

“Even if your physician does not take Medicare, there are alternatives. Most drug stores, particularly the major pharmacy chains, including

CVS, Walgreens and Rite Aid, offer Medicare-covered flu shots. And, free or low-cost shots are available at local clinics and public health facilities.”

Weber adds, if you or someone in your family does come down with the flu, take precautions by following guidelines recommended by the CDC:

In addition to vaccination and appropriate use of antiviral drugs, CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs.

- If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and wash your hands often with soap and water.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread this way.

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like flu.

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Crossword Puzzle

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

- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Parent teacher groups

5. Ovate

9. Transparent gem

11. Second letter of the greek alphabet

12. Take illegally

13. Evils

14. Cell stuff

15. Bachelor of Music

17. Dit’s partner

18. Explodes

20. Root vegetable

22. Big Apple (abbr.)

23. Book of Samuel abbr.

24. Traveler’s aid

27. Singing voice

29. Minuscule remains

31. One who gets things done

32. Octet

33. Wager

34. Expires
1. Posttraumatic stress disorder

2. Small city

3. Capital of Western Samoa

4. Exhaust

5. Kimono sash

6. World (German)

7. Book of maps

8. Thong

10. Striped animals

16. Alter genetically

18. Movie alien

19. Mail box

20. Tower

21. Group of eight

22. Nix

24. Nativity scene piece

25. Pine

26. House animals

28. Lode yield

30. Free of
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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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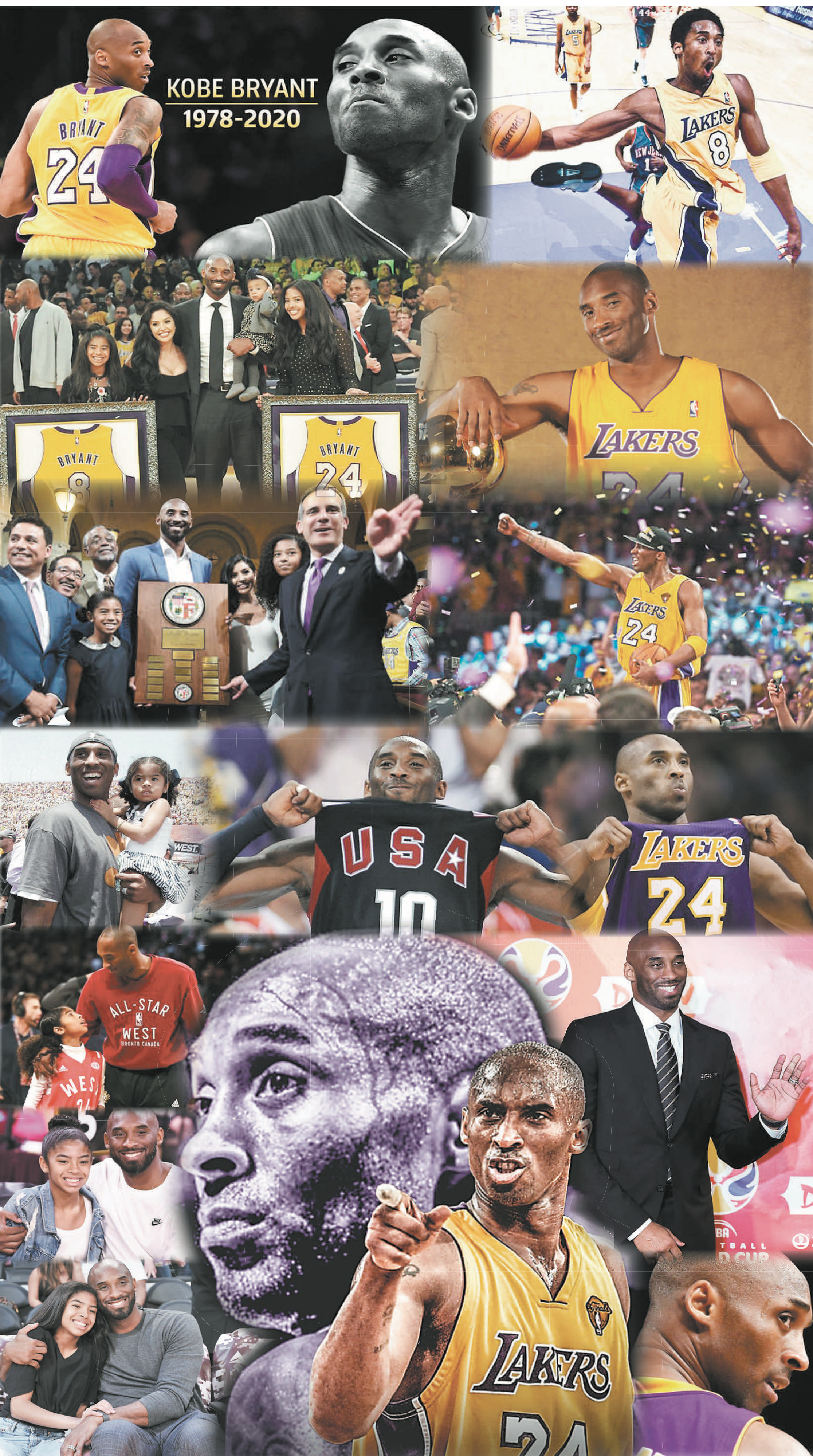
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## Grace Helen Adams

*September 9, 1943 - December 22, 2019*

Grace was born September 9, 1943 and departed this life December 22, 2019. She was the only daughter of the late Willie Lee Adams and Alene Lewis Adams of Decatur, MS. The years between her entry into this world and the day she spoke her last words were lived on her terms.

Grace was a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University and like most of her family set out for a life in education. She began her career as an elementary school teacher where she quickly realized this was really not her calling. She did find her niche at the collegiate level working in university housing at Ole Miss, MVSU, Jackson State University, and Tougaloo College. She loved the excitement and movement of the college campus and made lifelong friends through colleagues and students.

She later transitioned into what many have called her true calling. She worked at McRae's and Dillard's Department stores outfitting many with fashionable attire for all occasions. She was a personal shopper to many of her family and friends. She had everyone's credit card number because she understood their style, size and spending patterns and there was never a sale that she didn't let you know about.

Not only did she shop for her family and friends, Grace was a very enthusiastic shopper for herself. There wasn't anything she thought she needed that she didn't have. You could bypass the mall and shop at Grace's



house.

Grace was generous and giving. Many have been the recipients of boxes from Dillard's filled with goodies and it was like Christmas in July. The entire family would receive a box for all birthdays accompanied by a receipt for all but the actual birthday celebrant. Sending her money ensured the continued receipt of wonderful goodies.

Grace was a true "gentle" southern lady. She had convictions on how a lady should appear in public and she lived by these standards until her last day. You never saw her out of sorts or in public without going through her process of preparation. In 2014, she suffered a stroke that forever changed her life. She relocated from Meridian, MS to live with her daughter in North Carolina. This was a big change for Grace as she adjusted to a new life but she enjoyed being with her devoted daughter, loving grandkids, and wonderful son-in-law.

She enjoyed vacations, beach trips where she would often say "I can't go out, there's sand everywhere," but her favorite times were trips back home.

She was a wonderful spirit; full of life, love of family and love of God. She believed in a strong work ethic, values and having pride in everything you do. She often said keep your word and be nice just to be nice.

Grace leaves to cherish her memory, daughter, Regina Adams Cooper (David), Charlotte, NC, brother, Lonnie Adams (Kathy) of Decatur, MS, brother, Alex Adams of Long Beach, CA, sister-in-law Hattie P. Adams of Decatur (brother Jerry Adams preceded her in death), grandchildren, Anthony Carlyle (Kiosha) of Madison, MS, Hamilton Cooper, Charlotte, NC and Kennedy Cooper, Charlotte NC. Great grandson, Jaylan Carlyle of Madison, MS. Nieces, Natasha Adams of Long Beach, CA, Shaunta Adams Alvarez of Burlington, NC, nephews, Darryl Adams of Tampa, Florida, Ardon Adams of Long Beach, CA, Torrey Adams of Newark, DE, Glenn Adams (Susan) of Stockbridge, GA and Corey Adams of Decatur, MS. She leaves a host of cousins, relatives, friends and the members of Eighth Avenue Church of God in Meridian, MS who will all miss her and continue to love her in their hearts.

The celebration of life service was held December 20, 2019 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.

## The Honorable Houston J. Patton

*April 1, 1935 - January 12, 2020*

The Honorable Houston J. Patton was born April 1, 1935 in Pelahatchie, Mississippi to Mr. and Mrs. Houston and Grace (Walker) Patton. "Jack," as all affectionately knew him and the youngest of seven children, was baptized early in life. His connection to his family and faith was solidified from the beginning. Family was the center of his life and family always came first.

Houston's father passed away when he was very young. His mom, older brothers, Luther and Ernest, and his sisters, Olivia, Essie, Vivian, and Ella, molded him into the man you knew today. When the older brothers and sisters went to school, he was too young to enroll and was supposed to be at home with his mother; however, he would sneak out of the house, walk to the school, and sit down in the 1st grade class to assist the other kids with learning how to read. Yes, he could read before he was in the 1st grade.

After the passing of Houston's father, the family moved from Pelahatchie to Canton and then to a little town called Tougaloo. The Tougaloo dirt roads taught him how to cultivate something from nothing, gave him life lessons, and lifelong friendships. The historical grounds of Tougaloo College prepared Houston for achieving academic success starting at The Daniel Hand Preparatory School and finishing third in his class at Tougaloo High School (1955).

In 1957, he joined the Army at the urging of his oldest brother Luther. After serving his country as a medic for two years, he joined his brothers and sisters and moved to Tuskegee, Chicago, and then to California. While in Chicago, he drove the bus for Chicago Transit Authority. After realizing the cold Chicago winds were not friendly, he set his sights on California where he would attend and graduate from Fresno State University



(1962) with a B.A. degree in Radio, Television and Film. At Fresno State, he was also inducted into the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

In December of 1965, Houston drove from California to Mississippi to celebrate the holidays with his mother. While celebrating the new year with good friends, he met the love of his life, Johnnie Pearl Lee. They were married the following June of 1966. To that union, three children became his forever love: April, Harold and Portia. He immersed himself into his family by supporting volleyball games with April, baseball games with Harold, and basketball games with Portia. Being supportive meant giving of his time and it definitely went far beyond anyone's expectations, as Houston was the president of the Lady Mustangs Booster Club well past the time after Portia graduated from Murrah High School.

Being an area administrator with the Child Development Group of Mississippi where he was able to assist communities with receiving federal funding for programs such as Headstart, is just one of his groundbreaking opportunities to help people who need a hand-up, and not a hand-out.

While working at WJTV, he decided that he could better serve more people by pursuing the legal profession. He attended Southern University Law School and graduated in 1972. He returned to Jackson to practice law as a staff attorney and

deputy director with Community Legal Services (1973-1979); he helped form the private practice law group of Page, Patton and Mayo (1979-1983); he opened his own law practice (1983-1989); and was elected to serve as Hinds County Court judge (1989-2015).

One of his greatest achievements while senior court judge was properly managing the Youth Detention Center. The center was a labor of love as he felt it was instrumental to insure the children would learn in an environment that was not conducive for learning. He demonstrated how to till the land to create gardens and brought in reading programs to cultivate their love for the written language. It was imperative that you learn something new under his watch.

Growing up without a father was his driving force as to why he understood the importance of having strong male influences in the lives of young men. Whether he was mentoring in the Youth Detention Center or working with Save Our Sons or simply reading at an elementary school, Houston made sure that all he did was for the love of his people and the community.

He was a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, Magnolia Bar Association, a Mason, an Elk, and a very dedicated former president of the Daniel Hand School Reunion. As a member of Holy Family Church, he was instrumental in revising the by-laws of the Parish Council that was an asset to the operation of the committee.

Houston is survived by his wife, Johnnie Lee Patton; two children, April and Harold Patton (Lori); one grandchild, Hannah Patton; two sisters, Essie Brown and Ella Marcus; one brother, Ernest Patton; and a host of nieces and nephews. His daughter, Portia Patton, preceded him in death.

The celebration of life service was held January 18, 2020 at St. Richard Catholic Church in Jackson, MS.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. BOX 327  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: (601) 968-6628  
Fax: (601) 973-5547

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

**SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. Box 999  
Raymond, MS 39154  
Phone: (601) 857-8038  
Fax: (601) 857-0535

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
(Except on legal holiday)

**Services of the Clerk:**

- Civil/Criminal Range of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage Licenses
- Medical Licenses
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
Verify/Update your Registration Today

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

- Marriage License: \$35.00
- Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
- Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

Website: [www.hindscountymiss.com](http://www.hindscountymiss.com)

*Memorial Service for Rose Elizabeth Howard Robinson  
will be held Saturday, February 1 at 11 a.m.  
Christ the King Catholic Church*



*August 17, 1917 - January 27, 2020*



# Citizens rally against deadly conditions at Parchman Prison



An emotional moment at the rally.



Terun Moore, of People's Advocacy Institute, pictured at the rally.



Rukia Lumumba, of People's Advocacy Institute, pictured at the rally.

By **Levell Williams**  
Student Writer, *Tougaloo College*

“Shut it down! Shut it down!” The chant rang from the stage above to the crowd below, at the intersection of Mississippi St. and N Congress St. in downtown Jackson. On January 24, people from across the state gathered to protest the atrocious conditions of the oldest prison in the state, the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Known to many as Parchman Farm, the prison holds about 3,600 of Mississippi’s 19,000 inmates, according to CNN.

The rally, organized by Jay-Z’s Team Roc and rapper Yo Gotti, follows tightly on the heels of the eighth inmate death at the prison this year. Deaths such as that of Thomas Lee, who was found hanged in an isolated cell just two days ago, are attributed to deplorable conditions and understaffing at Parchman.

Many at the rally ridiculed the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) for being long negligent of the prison’s failing conditions and Governor Tate Reeves for his impotent response.

According to CNN, in her 2021 fiscal budget request, recently resigned Corrections Commissioner Pelicia Hall solicited more than \$20 million to repair Unit 29, the most severe of the Parchman facilities. Governor Reeves told the *Clarion Ledger* on the 23rd that he is “not...asking for additional funding,” noting that the “quality of...construction” at the prison “[varies.]”

According to historian and author David Oshinsky, upon its founding in 1901, Parchman was the next step following the decline of convict leasing. Convict leasing was an economic system based on the trade of black inmates, many of whom were convicted of an array of offenses, from legitimate to absurd. They were made to work un-



Tougaloo students pictured in solidarity at the rally.

der unconstitutional treatment, including whippings. The inmates were unpaid, underfed, and terrorized, while the prison made great profits for the state from their free labor. In 1918, Parchman was gathering a net worth of \$800 per inmate, according to Oshinsky. The prison has long stood, to many, as the last slave institution to survive the Civil War.

Since then, there have been some hard won reforms that removed some of the problems of old. However, new and unsightly issues have set in. Today, Parchman hosts a failing infrastructure that sets inmates in filth, with

many sanitation errors and multiple inoperable items yet in use, according to WLBT News earlier this month.

Furthermore, life-threatening issues persist. Multiple inmates have been found beaten to death. Such deaths have been blamed on gang activity and negligence on the part of understaffed prison authorities. There is also an issue with inmate access to contraband.

The rally gathering was ripe with outrage at terrible revelations. The public was startled to hear of “visual autopsies,” which one speaker claimed have been used to neglect in-depth investigation of inmate deaths for

months. They were astonished by accounts like that of a mother whose son texted her that he would likely be killed, just following an obscured altercation while he was on the phone. He was found dead two days later, according to the speaker. In an ironic twist, one speaker noted that inmates’ illegal acquisition of cell phones was what finally exposed Parchman’s utter inadequacies to the public.

Community members who have served time in prison called upon their peers to bring attention to the mistreatment of those incarcerated. Among those who spoke were sisters Gladys and Ja-

mie Scott, who served more than sixteen years of life sentences, until their release after adamant protest due in no small part to the support of Rukia Lumumba’s People’s Advocacy Institute (PAI).

Terun Moore, also of PAI, emphasized the importance of maintaining humanity and identity in those previously and currently incarcerated. He shared his resentment for alienating titles such as “ex-con” and “returning citizen,” exclaiming instead, “I’m Terran Moore from Jackson Mississippi!”

The audience rallied behind every speaker, showing great

solidarity and enthusiasm. However, after the gathering at the intersection of Mississippi St. and N Congress St. cleared, the afternoon set in. The crowd left, along with the press and the celebrity presence.

Yet, it is after the rally has ended that the real, effectual work of holding accountable such authorities as Governor Reeves and the MDOC begins. One can hope that with increased awareness of inhumane treatment of the incarcerated, a better, more effective form of confinement and rehabilitation can be established, creating a better home for all Mississippians.

## HCCHS College Football National Signing Day Feb. 5

Mississippi Link Newswire

Holmes County Central High School (HCCHS) will mark college football’s National Signing Day by hosting athletes at the Educational Support Center on the first Wednesday in February to sign their letters of intent.

Athletic Director Marcus Rogers will introduce several students as they announce their college choice. Anticipated participants include: Deonta Barnes, Montra Edwards, Kelvin Gipson, Parviz King, John Mitchell, Justin Smith, Raphael Tyes, Earnest Wade,

Reko Walden, Jedrus Watts and Jodie Williams.

A letter of intent indicates a student’s commitment to participating in one of 676 Division I and II participating institutions. The letters of intent are customarily faxed by the district’s athletic director to the university’s athletic department on National Signing Day.

Division I schools include the major collegiate athletic powers, with larger budgets, more elaborate facilities and more athletic scholarships than Divisions II and III.

National Signing Day has traditionally been the first day that a high school senior can sign a binding Letter of Intent for a collegiate sport with a school that is a member of the United States National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Last year, 9 HCCHS students signed a letter on National Signing Day. This year there is much anticipation that even more students will participate in this nationwide event.

The ceremony will begin at 10 in the Board Room at 313 Olive St.





# Medgar Evers Library Essay Contest

Medgar Evers Library • Jackson, MS • January 17, 2020

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON





# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## Hinds County School District recognizes parents from across the district

The Hinds County School District Board recently recognized each school's parents of the year during its regular board meeting. Families, administrators, faculty, staff and friends attended the award ceremony to show their support.



District group pictured: Back Row L-R: Melva Burks, UEMS; Wynter Fairley, RES; Jessica Robinson, CMS/LSA; and Verita Hairston, BMS & GRI. Front Row L-R: LaShaunda Davenport, THS; Fulton Carson, RHS; Martina Brown, GRE; and not pictured Louis Johnson, BEEMS.

## Highlights of the Recognition Program!



## Wynter Fairley named Hinds County School District Parent of the Year!



Fairley

Fairley is the proud parent of four children at RES and currently serves as vice-president of the PTO. She has volunteered and provided support for the RES first Fathers/Daughter dance, Mother/Son dance, school fundraising activities, the snack cart, teacher and student recognition, the book fair, and field day. She is greatly appreciated.



## Hinds County School District to host Annual Job Fair, February 29

Hinds County School District announces the 2020 Job Fair Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.. The event will take place at Byram Middle School, 2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd., Byram, MS 39170. Candidates attending the 2020 Job Fair will be able to speak with district administrators and contracted employers. The goal of the event is to showcase all schools in the district and provide an opportunity for candidates to apply in person.

HCSD will be seeking to hire all positions, including certified teachers, teacher assistants, substitute teachers, bus drivers, custodians and food service workers. To view a list of all open positions at HCSD and to apply online, visit [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us). For questions, contact HCSD Human Resources Department at 601 857-5222.