

MISSISSIPPI LINK PROFILE

Local promoter breaks barriers in the industry

By Othor Cain
Editor

A native son or, in this case a native daughter, is knocking down doors and making Mississippi a must stop for national artists and entertainment.

For 30 years, Yolanda Singleton, owner of Xperience Jxn, has been carving out her niche in a male-dominated entertainment industry and this year she experienced one of her biggest shows ever.

The annual Soulabration which this year featured Calvin Richardson, Tucka, TK Soul, Big Pokey and Yayo, drew nearly six thousand people. “This was our largest ever, I feel as if we are making strides,” Singleton said. “I think we are finally telling the world that a woman can do this.”

Singleton, 50, is a Callaway High School graduate who attended Tougaloo College and finished at Hinds Community College, where she received her associate’s degree in nursing in 1989. Singleton has done additional course work in the area of business and real estate at Jackson State University. “I’m a nurse by trade and did that full time for a number of years, but this is all that I’m doing now,” she shared. “In order to do this right, you have to be dedicated, focused and committed.”

When she returned to Jackson after living in Georgia, she quickly realized there was a void of events and family outings. “I knew that I could bridge this gap,” she said. “I was determined to do it based on my previous work.”

The road to a sold-out show has not always been easy



Singleton

“At first I wasn’t taken seriously by the men in this business,” Singleton shared. “I had to prove that I had negotiating skills and that I could solve problems.” Not only did she

prove she had the “juice” to get it done, she’s breaking barriers while doing it.

Often times, people overlook Mississippi while touring. “Jackson is unique in the sense

that we are perfectly positioned between three major highways and while these artists are going to other “major” cities, my goal is to get them to stop in Jackson. To accomplish this goal, Singleton has partnered with other promoters within a 3-6 hour radius of Jackson, including Birmingham and Mobile, Ala., and Macon, Ga. “I think this is an opportunity to open doors to larger venues and attract more quality entertainment,” Singleton shared.

Helping others grow is a goal

Singleton says that her desire to bring quality entertainment to the city, serve and invest in the African-American culture, and have a lasting economic impact in Jackson is fueled by her father and her core team of 12. “My goal has always been to do shows that my father would feel comfortable attending... this thing is bigger than me,” she said. “I think I have the best team in the world, we jell like glue.”

By bringing in larger events, she hopes to draw people to hotels, restaurants, stores and other businesses in the area. “It’s about growth and reinvestment,” she added. “On the day of the show, we employ nearly 200 people, that speaks to a community coming together.”

The name of her business derives from a three-fold perspective; her love for the capital city, the experience she’s gained in the industry and the excitement of all facets of entertainment.

Singleton wants to be a driving force that inspires other

Singleton
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Noted attorney, Constance Slaughter-Harvey, to serve as keynote at MLK convocation

Jackson State University

Friday, Jan. 17, Jackson State University will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., inside the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium starting at 10 a.m. Constance Slaughter-Harvey, former assistant secretary of state and general counsel, will serve as the keynote speaker. Immediately following convocation, The For My People Awards will take place in Student Center Ballroom A at 11:30 a.m.

Slaughter-Harvey is the founder and president of Legacy Education and Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc. She is also the first African-American woman to receive a law degree from the University of Mississippi (1970) and first female African American to serve as a judge in Mississippi (1975).

The Black Law Student Association

(BLSA) at the University of Mississippi School of Law was named in her honor (she was not only one of the founders but the only woman founder of the National BLSA in 1968). She also received the law school’s public service award, thus becoming the first woman and first African American to be so honored.

For more than 36 years, Slaughter-Harvey was an adjunct professor at Tougaloo College (where she was the first female student government president in 1966). She is president of the Scott County Bar Association (10 years) and prosecutor for the Scott County Youth Court (8 years). She is the past president of the Magnolia Bar Association, Catholic Charities Board, Central Mississippi Legal Service-

MLK

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Slaughter-Harvey

The case for excellence for all JPS scholars: Why we must consolidate



Greene

Special to The Mississippi Link

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, I introduced a plan to redesign our current school structure to the JPS Board of Trustees. This plan proposes fewer schools, allowing financial resources to be focused where they belong – on our scholars. The future of our city and its workforce is at stake, and our school district is at a turning point.

The school redesign plan, entitled Optimizing for Equity, builds upon the district’s five-year strategic plan released early in 2019, which outlines five key commitments the district has made to scholars and families. These commitments are guiding all of our decisions and actions, including the decision to redesign our schools.

JPS
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“Living Legend” Tom Joyner’s career has transformed black media

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire

“I learned so much about building a community around content from Tom Joyner. That show was so good at finding commonality within a diverse audience – yes, there is diversity within blackness – and serving many wants and needs simultaneously. It’s hard to be entertaining, informative and educational without ever talking down to your audience. Tom did that day after day for decades. I wish him and everyone who’s worked on that show the best. They’ve done a lot for a lot of people.” – Sports journalist Bomani Jones.

Even as we enter 2020 with optimism and a sense of renewed purpose, there will be a huge void in our cultural life without the daily voice of radio legend Tom Joyner, who retired last month after nearly 50 years on the air, the last 25 as the host of the iconic Tom Joyner Morning Show.

It’s hard for me to imagine the last 16 years of my life as president and CEO of the National Urban League without



Joyner

Joyner’s enthusiastic support and clear-sighted analysis. Reach Media, the company he founded in 2001, has long been one of the National Urban League’s most valued media partners.

Whenever the National Urban League has launched a new initiative or announced a campaign, the Tom Joyner Morning Show was always one of our first stops. There was no better forum for reaching Joyner’s devoted and sizeable audience, or for thought-

Joyner
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Claiborne County 2020 Revitalization and Renewal

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Guest Writer

Though Claiborne County came into being in 1802 and War General Ulysses Grant rejected demolishing the city of Port Gibson on the grounds that, “it was too beautiful to burn,” in 1865; it still waxes strong. Today, despite political, economic, social and cultural challenges, it surges ahead like indomitable tigers.

Renewal and revival
This new year, Claiborne County embarks on renewal and revival. A new slate of executives, were elected to office from both the city of Port Gibson and Claiborne County. Their emergence bears manifest testimony that Claiborne County is ready for positive and dynamic change. Did the great British poet and bard, Lord Tennyson not declare that, “the old order “changenth” yielding place to new and God fulfills himself least one old custom should corrupt the world?” Meanwhile, special appreciation is offered to former executives, who preceded the current batch. Some did their utmost to steer the leadership boat with efficacy. Others made mistakes which those coming behind should learn from. Their success and failures abound with great lessons for the community.

Hurrah and salute
Glowing salute and hurrah to the new aldermen and women, county supervisors, judges, sher-



Community leaders PHOTOS BY JERRY K. DOMATOB



Swearing-in ceremony



Government officials and judges



iff, circuit clerk, as well as other recently elected executives. They shine as new leaders with mission and vision. The public has reposed trust and confidence in these officials. Hopefully, they will not only infuse new dynamism into governance but also do their utmost to provide much needed leadership in every societal strata. This will positively enable the region to forge ahead.

As the bible rightly asserts, “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

Challenges
Leadership at all levels engenders sacrifice, commitment, diligence and dedication. Leadership summons team work, cooperation and collaboration even among arch enemies. As President Kennedy said, United there is little we cannot do in a cooperative venture. Most of all, leadership demands that public interest be addressed. Indeed, matters and issues related to the public trust must be tackled bravely forth-

with. Additionally, some measure of probity, integrity and dignity must be instilled in all pursuits. That calls for unity and collaboration. As the saying goes, “united we stand and divided we fall.”
Once again, congratulations and welcome elected officials, representatives and managers. May the best and resounding wishes grace all your endeavors.
Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob is a full professor of Mass Communication at Alcorn State Uni-



versity, Lorman Ms. He is also an author, editor, journalist, poet and researcher. He takes photos and publishes books and articles. Contact him at: domatobj@gmail.com.



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JPS

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Our leadership team relied heavily on information gathered through our ongoing community engagement activities and data from a recent enrollment study conducted by Education Resource Strategies to develop the school redesign plan, which calls for the following:

- Repurposing of Van Winkle Elementary School into a school exclusively for pre-kindergarten scholars;
- Closure of Barr Elementary School;
- Consolidation of Hardy Middle School with a newer and updated Blackburn Middle School; repurpose Hardy Middle School into a sports athletic complex;
- Consolidation of Siwell Middle School with a newer and updated Cardozo Middle School;
- Repurposing of Rowan as a District Teaching and Learning Center; and

MLK

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es, Forest Rotary Club and National Association of State Election Directors, where she was the first woman and first African American.

Slaughter-Harvey is the recipient of the American Bar Association’s Margaret Brent Award and Mississippi Bar’s Susie Buchanan Award, which are the highest honors bestowed on female attorneys.

She has received more than 600 awards for her outstanding contributions and is a life member of Girl Scouts of America, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Magnolia Bar Association/Foundation, National Bar Association, American Bar Foundation, Mississippi Bar Foundation, NAACP, MAP Alumni, National Federated Women, and Rotary International (Paul Harris Fellow).

In 2000, she was inducted into Tougaloo Col-

lege’s Hall of Fame, National Bar Association (2010), University of MS School of Law (2013), and the University of Mississippi (2016). She is featured in the documentary “Standing on My Sisters’ Shoulders,” which received honors and recognition at the Kennedy Center in New York in 2004.

Some of the proposed changes are based on a hard truth: we need fewer schools because we have fewer scholars. Jackson Public Schools has experienced a 20 percent enrollment decline over the past 10 years. By consolidating to match our current enrollment, every remaining school building will be better equipped to provide a high-quality education for all students, while operating in a much more fiscally responsible and efficient manner. Fewer schools will mean fewer dollars spent on maintaining buildings and more dollars spent on learning.

The decision to close any school is difficult.

We are sensitive to the fact that schools anchor communities in many ways, providing sanctuaries for our scholars and families and supporting our neighborhoods. Our plan calls for some closed buildings to be repurposed and remain as assets in their neighborhoods. We have engaged parents and stakeholders every step of the way and will continue to do so, because all of us – together – must contribute to and stand as one in support of this plan.

When the redesign process is complete, many of our scholars will move to schools in much better physical condition than the buildings they are in now. Our schools will have more stable staffing and the support necessary for great teaching and learning, including standards-aligned, culturally responsive instruction. Scholars will have safe and equitable access to great schools with increased

program offerings regardless of their zip code, and schools will benefit from partnerships that will leverage community resources to drive student success.

Great success is impossible without change. We ask for the support of parents and guardians, community leaders, faith leaders, elected officials, corporate and other partners as we champion educational excellence. Our district exists to serve Jackson scholars and families, and our commitment is stronger than ever.

Sincerely,
Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Editor’s Note

The redesign plan passed at the board meeting, Jan. 7.

Joyner

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provoking analysis of the issues of the day.

In 2015, the National Urban League honored Joyner with our “Living Legend” at our Conference in Fort Lauderdale. His live broadcast from the conference was a highlight of the week.

Our most important partnerships with Joyner have been around our education initiatives. A third-generation alumnus of a HBCU, Joyner has been a passionate advocate, with his Tom Joyner Foundation raising more than \$65 million since 1998 to support more than 29,000 students attending HBCUs.

Joyner’s deep respect for education, and for HBCUs in particular, stemmed from the experience of his grandfather, Oscar “Doc” Joyner, a Pullman porter who attended Meharry Medical College and became one of only 3,000 black doctors in the United States in 1909.

Joyner and his father, Hercules Joyner, were featured in the documentary, “Rising from the Rails: The Story of the Pullman Porter.” Hercules Joyner, who served as one of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, earned a degree in chemistry from Florida A&M College and spent most of his career as an accountant. The Tom Joyner Foundation’s “Hercules Scholarship” is named in his honor.

“The Fly Jock” – a nickname he earned during the eight years he commuted between a morning show in Chicago and an afternoon show in Dallas – told CBS News he got his big break after a protest march in his hometown of Tuskegee, Alabama.

“I’m out there protesting the fact that our radio station in this all black town didn’t play any black music. And this guy who owned a radio station, which was inside a Ford dealership, came out and

ful deaths of students James Green and Phillip Gibbs at Jackson State in 1970.

She is one of the original attorneys in the Ayers lawsuit and filed many voting rights and redistricting cases. She also has extensive experience in nursing home and personal injury lawsuits.

She has received over 2,000 awards for her work.

She is the mother of Constance Olivia Slaughter Harvey-Burwell (James) and the “Nonnie” to grandson, James Arthur Emmanuel Burwell III (Tre’). She is a member of the St. Michael Catholic Church. For the past 23 years, she has served as a weekly columnist for the Scott County Times and the Spirit of Morton.

The MLK Convocation is part of a series of curated events paying tribute to the lives of Phil-

said I don’t need this, I’m trying to really sell some cars,” Joyner said. “Tell you what, it’s a sun-up sun-down station. Every Saturday, I’ll let one of you play all the Aretha and Temptations that you want.”

In a career spanning nearly five decades, Joyner has never altered his focus on serving black listeners.

“Don’t worry about crossover. Just super serve, super serve, super serve,” he told CBS News. “Anything that affects African Americans, that’s what you do,” he said. “Just worry about connecting to people and their needs.”

We offer Joyner our gratitude for his many years of entertainment and commentary, wish him well in retirement and look forward to lending our support to his efforts to uplift the community through education.

Singleton

Continued from page 1

women in Mississippi to enter the promotional and technical sides of the live-entertainment industry, working not only as ushers but as audio engineers, lighting technicians and all other facets of the field. “Like you Othor, I love mentoring and in this field we need female mentors,” she said. “I’m like a mother-hen...but I’m here.”

You can stay connected to all of Xperience Jxn events via Facebook and Instagram.

Suleimani Assassination: President Trump is leading America toward war without end in the Middle East

By Ronald E. Carrington
TriceEdneyWire.com

It has come to this. An impeached president – still pending trial in the Senate – orders the assassination of a leading Iranian general as he is meeting with the leader of Iraq, a supposed ally. He does so without consultation, much less approval, of Congress. Besieged at home, he lashes out abroad.

This president ran on the promise to end the “endless wars” in the Middle East. Earlier, he ordered and then wisely called off bombing strikes on Iran, saying that he did not want a war. Now he claims that he has acted to stop a war, not start one.

He is either deliberately misleading the American people or deluding himself. Assassination of a foreign official is not the road to peace; violence almost inevitably begets violence.

He has acted on what his own officials call “razor-thin” evidence, shocking his own military advisers. U.S. presidents now claim the right – and have the capability – to target and assassinate anyone in any place, foreigner or citizen, if they decide – on the basis of secret and often scanty intelligence – that the person may be considering



General Suleimani

an attack on U.S. allies or soldiers or representatives in the future. They call this potential threat evidence of an “imminent attack,” to pay mock respect to the international law that they

are trampling.

General Qassim Suleimani is portrayed as a terrorist with American blood on his hands. But he was not a stateless terrorist. He was a high official in a

foreign government with which we are not at war. Assassinating him is an act of war. Ironically, Iran and the Shiite militias in Iraq that Suleimani guided were leading, if unacknowledged, allies in the fight against ISIS, who are largely Sunnis.

Similarly, those who attacked the U.S. on 9/11 were Sunnis, almost all from Saudi Arabia, funded largely by Saudi money. Taliban in Afghanistan are Sunni. The attack on Yemen was led by Saudi Arabia, which is Sunni. Iran fought against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Yet, somehow, it has become Trump’s leading target.

The road to this escalating conflict can be traced back to Trump’s perverse hatred of all things achieved by former President Barack Obama. One of Trump’s first acts was to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear pact, over the objections of our allies and his own military advisers.

He ramped up sanctions on Iran, seeking to force them to surrender to a “better deal.” The result has been escalating tension and violence, as Iran has demonstrated – in attacks on Saudi oil facilities and on tankers in the Persian Gulf – that it has the capacity to strike back. Now, after the assassination, the

entire region girds itself for the retaliation that has already been promised. This is utter folly.

Under George Bush, the U.S. destabilized this region by invading Iraq. That calamity has fostered escalating violence. Obama added to the mess seeking regime change in Syria and in Libya, spreading the chaos. Trump was right when he said it was time for the U.S. to get out of the Middle East.

We have no stake in spreading conflict between Sunnis and Shiites. We have no desire to send the hundreds of thousands of troops needed to win a war or enforce a peace. All we are doing is squandering American lives and resources in an armed presence that simply adds to the violence without leading to a resolution.

Why has Trump abandoned his campaign promise? Why did he abandon his wise decision not to strike Iran earlier? The only thing that has changed is that he has been impeached. Is he ramping up violence abroad to distract from the overwhelming evidence of his offenses? Is he using the U.S. military as a political campaign prop?

The next move is in Iran’s hands. If the regime reacts predictably by striking back, the

assassination will lead to escalating violence. Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, and soon all are left without sight and without teeth. Iran could – if its leaders can rise above their grief and their anger – use this moment to take an initiative for peace, calling on our allies to join in convening a negotiation, opening a path to less violence and greater exchange.

Trump may not wish to respond, but surely our allies in Europe would jump at the chance. Clearly Congress must assert its constitutional war powers and limit the license of this or any president to wage war or assassinate foreign leaders on a whim. It must insist on public hearings to review the basis for the assassination. We need hearings on what we are doing in the Middle East and how we begin to bring the troops home.

Congress needs to pass a renewed war powers resolution instructing the president to bring the troops home, not send more of them to the region.

If Congress cannot curb a rogue president, then this republic is in deep trouble. And the American people and its soldiers are headed deeper into wars without victory and without end.

City of Jackson to launch Workforce Leadership Academy in collaboration with the Aspen Institute

Mississippi Link Newswire

Monday, The City of Jackson announced that it will sponsor a Workforce Leadership Academy, a program designed to develop a local network of workforce development leaders to collaborate on solutions to common challenges.

The academy will be run in partnership with the Aspen Institute and is sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation.

The Jackson Workforce Leadership Academy is the latest in a series of academies in the United States and Canada and is the first to be facilitated by the City of Jackson.

Fellows will be selected in a competitive application process. The City of Jackson and its partners encourage senior-level managers from non-profit organizations, business associations, union-based training efforts, public agencies and community colleges who have the authority to implement changes to apply.

Applications are available online. The deadline for submissions is February, 7, 2020.

Interested applicants can learn more about the academy during an informational webinar to be held January 16, 2020. Registration can be found on the City of Jackson website.

“The City of Jackson is pleased to collaborate with the Aspen Institute through the support of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to create the Jackson Workforce Leadership Academy. The academy is a foundational element of our inclusive plan for economic development. As we are experiencing growth in the City of Jackson, we must ensure that this growth benefits all citizens through jobs that garner a living wage, create a higher standard of living and increase the ability of all citizens to thrive in an environment of human dignity,” said Dr. Robert Blaine, city administrator.

The academy will create and support a peer-learning community of workforce leaders with a one-year educational and networking experience to help

them manage the challenges they face in addressing changes in technology, business norms and policy. These senior-level workforce fellows will work with leading practitioners from around the U.S., learn about practical planning tools and collaborate to reflect on and develop effective strategies to strengthen the local workforce system. Alumni of the academies will become part of the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Fellows Network.

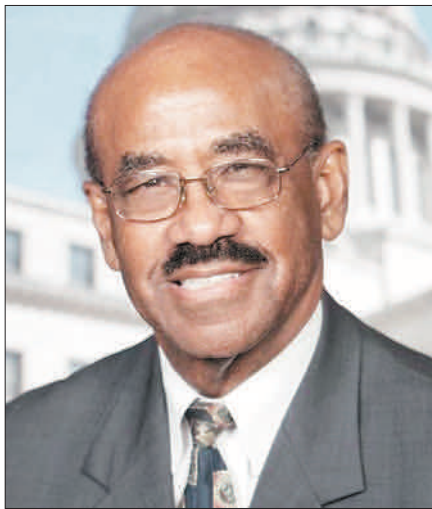
The Jackson Academy will be led by Robert Blaine and a Local advisory council that includes: Robert Leard, Paula Sammons, Dr. Ira Murray, Linda Mamon, David Bickham, Richard Sun, Ivey Allen, Gloria Mwase, Chad Stocks, Gen. Leon Collins, Mary Powers, Nafeesa Edges, Jessica Nelson, Mya Lee and John Cooper.

For more information contact the Jackson Facilitation Team at jessica.nelson@city.jackson.ms.us or nafeesa.edges@city.jackson.ms.us.

Hinds County Board of Supervisors’ first meeting with new board



Archie



Calhoun

Mississippi Link Newswire

On Monday, January 6, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors held the first meeting beginning the 2020-2024 term. The meeting was convened by senior board member, Supervisor Robert Graham, with Supervisor Bobby “Bobcat” McGowan returning for a second term and three newly elected board members, Supervisors David L. Archie, Credell Calhoun and Vern O. Gavin, in attendance.

The first action taken by the new boe board seated Graham as president and Calhoun as vice-president, both to serve a term of 12 months.

Each supervisor took the opportunity to introduce themselves and express their commitment to the citizens of Hinds County by outlining

their priorities.

District 2 Supervisor Archie, stated his number 1 priority is to assist the City of Jackson with:

- Paving streets,
- Repairing potholes
- Repairing bridges.

District 3 Supervisor Calhoun, expressed his interest in:

- Roads and bridges
- Economic development
- Collaborating with the City of Jackson

• Moving Hinds County in a more progressive direction.

Finally, newly elected president, Supervisor Graham of District 1, stated that he wants to ensure that the Hinds County Board of Supervisors is a good steward over taxpayer dollars by eliminating unnecessary contractual obligations

by getting rid of some and/or re-advertising for a better rate.

All five supervisors reaffirmed Hinds County’s commitment to providing a workplace free of sexual harassment. They emphasized that there is no place for sexual harassment at Hinds County, it will not be tolerated, and anyone engaging in such behavior will be dealt with accordingly.

The interim county administrator was directed to reissue the policy to all county employees.

Citizens will notice updates being made to the Hinds County website to reflect the information of each of the newly elected supervisors and other Hinds County officials.

National Pay It Forward Challenge for Education to launch January 20

Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Pay It Forward Challenge for Education is set to launch January 20 to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through a national challenge that provides hope, inspiration and support to our students.

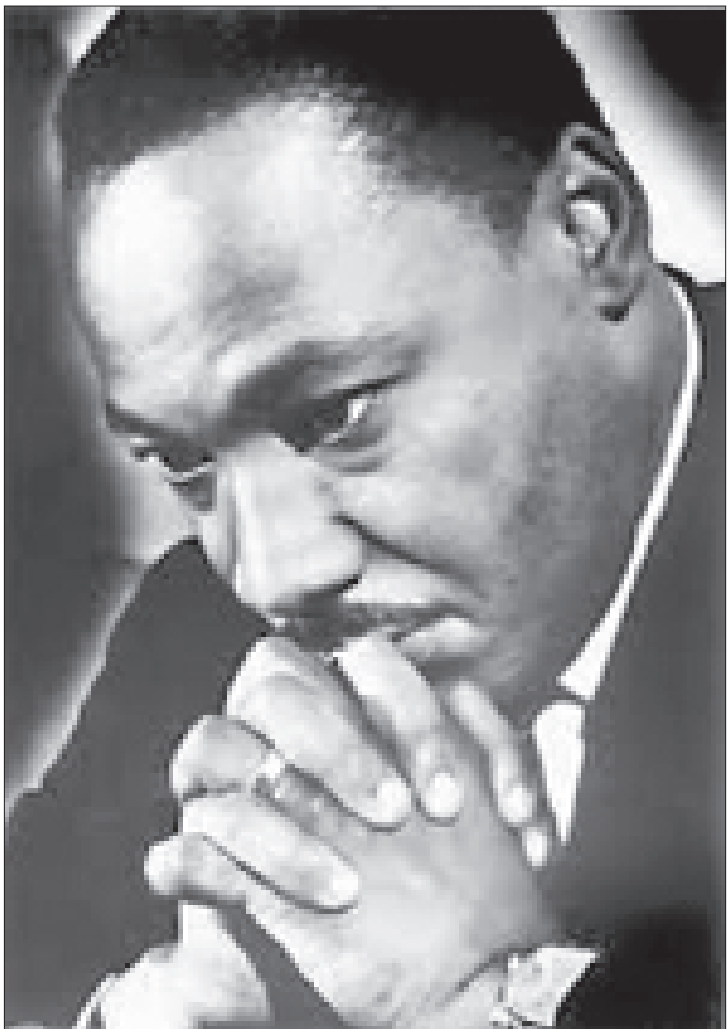
To kick off the year, Natalia Peart, Ph.D., founder of the Pay It Forward Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is challenging everyone January 20, Dr. King’s National Day of Service, to create a short video or post on social media, share their favorite Dr. King quote, and then Pay it Forward by offering a piece of advice that can help students succeed.

Participants are encouraged to use #PayItForwardChallenge to post on their favorite social media platform – Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Peart is encouraging everyone to tag their friends and share the posts, too. She’s hoping this is the beginning of a national call to action on behalf of our students that lasts throughout the rest of the school year.

“All kids need a good education to succeed in our world today,” says Peart, a nationally acclaimed author and psychologist “But our system, from elementary school all the way to college is in crisis. So, they need us now more than ever. The purpose of the Pay it Forward Challenge is to pay tribute to Dr. King, as well as bring awareness to the continued challenges our students face, and how critical it is that we support them.”

Dr. King’s holiday, a Day of Service, Dr. Peart says, “provides us all with an opportunity to honor his legacy and to make a real difference by letting stu-



dents know their future matters and that we stand with them.”

As Peart loves to say, “No one can do everything but everyone can do something.”

The challenge gives everyone a way to be a part of a campaign that will hopefully spark a groundswell by seeing the power we all have to change a student’s life through one small act.

Peart is a psychologist, business and educational consultant who has spent more than 25 years helping students, people and organizations achieve success. She has served on the Federal Reserve Board, 10th District., is a Forbes Contributor, and has been featured in

various media outlets including *Harvard Business Review*, *Wall St. Journal*, *Oprah Magazine*, and *Black Enterprise*. She is the founder of Pay it Forward Education, a 501(c)3 societal benefit organization that brings together students, families, educators, interested adults and organizations to support student preparedness for the 21st century and to expand opportunity for all students.

For media interviews, contact, Neil Foote, Foote Communication, 214 448-3765, neil@neilfoote.com.

For more information about the campaign, contact Dr. Peart at info@payitforwardeducation.org



ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Website: www.hindscountymiss.com

Kwanzaa reflects and teaches African-American history

friends and families celebrate

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Guest Writer

Port Gibson’s renovated Plaza on Highway 61 was transformed into a reflection ground and educational arena for African-American history, culture and trends Dec. 29, 2019.

Despite fierce rains, which might have deterred attendees, Kwanzaa enthusiasts, clad in elegant African outfits, converged at the Plaza for the event. People came from far and near for Kwanzaa which was memorable for the dazzling outfits, delicious food, historical discourse and vibrant community spirit.

Pastor Cornelius Felton launched the occasion with prayer. He called on The Deity to bless the occasion, leaders and guests. Food, Kwanzaa’s history and philosophy, reflections, poetic readings, conversations, photographs and awards marked the momentous occasion.

Awards and plaques were presented to New Afrikan Investment Association leaders for their contributions, sacrifices, services and commitment to the association.

New Afrikan Investment Association community leaders traced Kwanzaa’s history from its inception in 1966, by Pro-



Kwanzaa leaders in Claiborne and Jefferson Counties



Community leaders in New African Investment Association PHOTOS BY JERRY K. DOMATOB



Rev. and Mrs. Cornelius Felton



fessor Maulena Karenga to the present.

Dr. Marsha, one of the founding fathers, and a popular retired physician in Port Gibson, in a masterful lecture, disclosed that they conceptualized the cooperative’s birth around 2004. At that era some of them celebrated their Kwanzaa elsewhere.

Concomitantly, they reflected

upon the plight of dispossessed African Americans they worked with daily, especially those afflicted by poverty, disease and ignorance, and wondered how they could assist such persons.

One of their answers was launching an investment group which could teach people the basics of savings, investments and wealth building.

Thus health workers, Margie Davis, Ms. Felton and Dr. Marsha, then employees at the Claiborne County Health Center, conceptualized and birthed it in the 2000s. Their vision, then as now, was to establish the cooperative, accumulate wealth, teach youth about money management and fiscal economics.

Founded in Claiborne County,

the cooperative has expanded with the creation of branches in: Hinds, Warren, Jefferson and Adams counties. Yazoo is the next spot where plans are afoot for launching another satellite.

Current leaders of the cooperative include: Dr. Marsha, Ms. Lane, Ms. Felton, Rev. Felton, Ms. Spurlock and others. A unique feature of the coopera-

tive is that each board member has a voice irrespective of their contribution.

Kwanzaa’s seven canons (Nguza Saba) are: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination; Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba, (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).





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Hinds CC awards emeritus status to four retirees

Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College awarded emeritus status to four retirees at spring Convocation Jan. 7, bringing the total number of those selected by the college to 40.

Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, Angela Griffin and Dr. Libby Mahaffey were awarded Dean Emeritus status. Dr. Mae Cathryne Jackson was awarded Professor Emeritus of Mathematics.

Davis, of Clinton, retired in 2014 after 43 years in education, with 32 of those at the Utica Campus. She began as a developmental English instructor and retired as dean of Instruction/Academic, Career and Technical Education. While in her administrative position, she was responsible for securing more than \$38 million in Title III funds for the campus, which is designated a Historically Black College or University



From left, Hinds Board of Trustees president Paul Breazeale, Angela Griffin, Dr. Libby Mahaffey, Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, Dr. Mae Cathryn Jackson, Hinds President Dr. Clyde Muse, Hinds Foundation executive director Jackie Granberry (Photo: Hinds Community College/April Garon)

(HBCU). In addition, she was named a Life Star Award Recipient, received the Distinguished Non-Teaching Administrative

Professional Award and was honored by the Utica Campus at its 2019 Vice President’s Gala in the Distinguished Administra-

tor category.

Griffin, of Jackson, a 43-year educator, began at Hinds in 1983 serving as a business tech-

nology instructor at the Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center. She retired in 2017 as dean of Career and Technical Education. During her time at Hinds, she was named HEAD-WAE faculty honoree, selected to be a Lamplighter, a Hinds Hero, Outstanding Instructor and Distinguished Vocational Technical Instructor and, in 2017, served as a commencement speaker.

Mahaffey, of Florence, retired in 2018 after 37 years as dean of Nursing and Allied Health and director of Health Sciences. Prior to her 2019 retirement, she was named a Hinds Hero, presented with the 3E Award, inducted into the inaugural class and named a fellow of Academy of Associate Degree Nursing by the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, was given the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award by the Accreditation Commission for Education

in Nursing and was named to the Mississippi Nurses’ Association Hall of Fame.

Jackson, of Newton, worked 42 years on the Utica Campus prior to her 2015 retirement. In addition to teaching mathematics, she served as curriculum chairperson, chair of the Natural Science Division, and director of the National Science Foundation HBCU Grant, which implemented the STEM undergraduate program initiative. She was named the HEADWAE faculty honoree, a Lamplighter on three different occasions and was honored at the 2019 Vice President’s Gala in the Distinguished STEM Category.

Selected by a Hinds committee, emeritus status is conferred on retirees who have dedicated their lives to the college. A photo recognizing their status is showcased in the Emeritus Room at Fountain Hall on the Raymond Campus.

Separate, unequal and dismal: Urban League rekindles leaders’ commitments to improve public schools

By Jozef Syndicate
The Drum Newspaper

The Urban League of Louisiana released an equity report examining the quality of Baton Rouge public schools and identifying gaps in outcomes, access and excellence.

Calling the findings “dismal” and “concerning,” several education stakeholders were present at the McKinley Alumni Center for a press conference and panel discussion to present data from the Advancing Educational Equity for Public Schools in Baton Rouge report.

The findings are not new neither are the gaps. However, organizers said the report analyzes the data in a way that would rekindle conversations and actions around creating equity for students attending public schools within Baton Rouge.

“This report is a great rallying call for us. It’s important that we continue as an education community to come together and have honest conversations and dialogue,” said Dana Peterson, deputy superintendent of external affairs for the Recovery School District.

The report documents inequalities and an academic “opportunity gap” for historically disadvantaged students in the areas of student outcomes, school climate, school access, teacher quality, and discipline. It found great disparities in performance on state assessments

by race and ethnicity. Also, less than 50% of Hispanic students earn any form of diploma or credential while 36.7% of white students earned a diploma with an Advanced credential, compared to 6.1% for black students. (These findings were compiled from publicly available information at www.LouisianaBelieves.com)

According to Adam Smith, East Baton Rouge Schools’ associate superintendent of schools, the district has made “significant gains.” These gains include a 5% increase in student performance and an increase in the number of black students taking Advanced Placement tests.

The report did not identify institutional or systemic barriers that have kept these results pervasive in the city and throughout Louisiana. However, the Louisiana Budget Project released a report in May identifying the impact of “highly segregated” schools.

“Louisiana and local school districts are putting themselves at a disadvantage by failing to properly address segregation in public schools,” wrote LBP.

Like LBP, the Urban League found that public schools with a majority white student population have much higher teacher retention rates, higher percentages of certified teachers and are far more likely to be rated “A” or “B” than schools with



high minority populations.

Data shows that in Baton Rouge, more than half (52%) of black students enrolled in public schools attend “D” or “F” rated schools.

“We will also be the first to admit that we are not where we want to be, but we are committed to the ongoing communication and collaboration with key partners that will be essential in moving our schools forward,” Smith said.

“The inequities that economically disadvantaged students and students of color are facing is concerning but we now have information analyzed in a way that allows us to begin addressing it,” said Judy Reese Morse, president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana. She encouraged Baton Rouge leaders to “use the findings to work

toward building an education system that serves all students equitably.”

In a school district that is under a federal desegregation order, commitment and action towards academic equity are critical, especially as Baton Rouge faces more segregation. This report comes a week after secessionists voted to incorporate the city of St. George in an effort motivated mainly by the desire to form a separate, majority white school district.

“Louisiana and local school districts are putting themselves at a disadvantage by failing to properly address segregation in public schools,” wrote LBP. “It is time we have a genuine discussion about what it takes to ensure every child has access to quality education.”

Education reform leader Lisa

Delpit, Ph.D., said inequality has also been the result of unequal funding, the lack of black teachers, and ever-changing national policies that benefit white students and affluent students while harming others. As part of a panel that followed the news conference, Delpit challenged leaders to look closely at the findings at what has worked for Black students and replicate it.

“We must create new school models, programs, and an environment to foster innovation. I’m proud to know that we have plans in place to address these issues,” said Peterson.

These plans include having parents, educators and school administrators assist in establishing strategies and solutions to ensure equality, said Dana Henry, vice president of education and youth development at the Urban League of Louisiana.

Although the report did not offer specific strategies or solutions, panelists did. Delpit admonished the community at large to get involved. “Pay attention to education policies. Stand strong about redistributing funding...and those of us who can, need to support (the schools) as often as we can.”

Baton Rouge councilman LaMont Cole said panelists and organizations involved in the process – Urban League, EBR Schools, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and New Schools –

should pick a school and “get to work” giving it everything it needs to be sustained.

Excellence is never an accident,” he said. “We have to choose excellence and be intentional.”

Cole, who has been a principal at several schools in the city, said equality is when administrators and teachers have what they need to reach individual students where they are, give the students exactly what they need to succeed, and then, sustain it. “Choose excellence and make it happen,” he repeated.

Chris Meyer, CEO, New Schools for Baton Rouge, agreed. “We should expand schools that are working and intervene in schools that need it.”

“We must be strategically intentional. We must be deliberate in the breaking down of silos. As the city of Baton Rouge becomes more intentionally grounded in educational equity, we will reach our goals and will tear down silos while helping the students of Baton Rouge excel,” said Pamela Ravare-Jones, Ph.D., chief administrative officer who spoke on behalf of EBR Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Urban League of Louisiana officials said the organization will host followup community meetings. “This report is just a road map and we’re going to build from here,” Henry said. “We are not going anywhere; we’re going to be here.”

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Member:



Malone keynote speaker at Delta State University's MLK Celebration Jan. 15

Deltastate.edu

A prominent author, political columnist, activist and advocate for positive change in the political process will serve as the keynote speaker at Delta State University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Duvalier Malone, the principal and CEO of Duvalier Malone Enterprises, will join the university in celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 15 at 3 p.m. in the Jobe Auditorium. The keynote also will include musical selections from the Coahoma Community College Choir.

The event, sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs, is free and open to the public.

Malone offers regular on-air commentary for HILLTV and BOLD TV. The depth of his dialogue ranges from political engagement to complex legislation with long-term national and international implications.

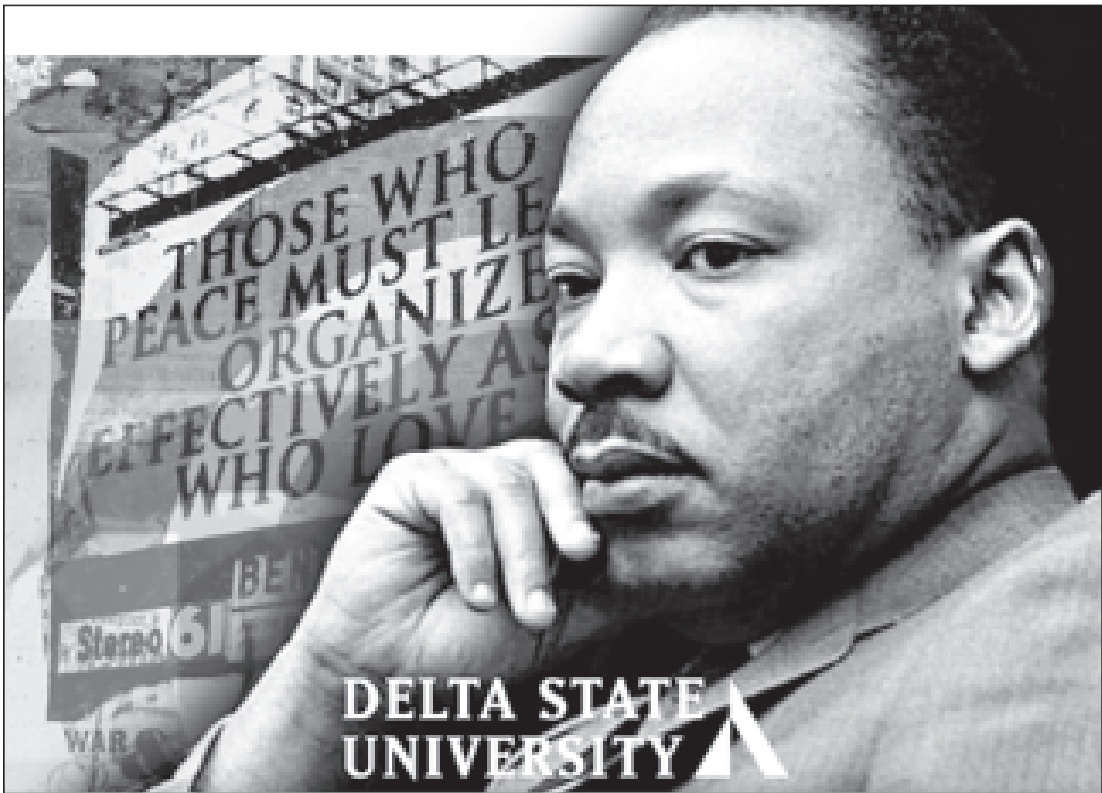
In Washington, D.C., Malone's foundation Dream 2 Succeed seeks to encourage youth through outreach as well as to improve the welfare of the community via innovative charitable experiences. The foundation seeks to inspire, empower, and influence people to give back to others.

Born and raised in Fayette, Miss., Malone learned the importance of advocacy through his grandmother's teaching and mentorship.

A graduate of Alcorn State University and Jackson State University, he serves as a mentor for the Young Government Leaders of Washington, D.C. and as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the NAACP, the American Political Science Association and the American Association of Public Administrators.



Malone



“The Simon & Garfunkel Story” Delta State University

Deltastate.edu

The internationally acclaimed hit theater show The Simon & Garfunkel Story will stop by the Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) Jan. 15, 2020 during the coast to coast U.S. tour. The performance is locally sponsored by Quality Steel.

The immersive concert-style theater show chronicles the amazing journey shared by the folk-rock duo, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. It tells the story from their humble beginnings as Tom & Jerry to their incredible success as one of the best-selling music groups of the '60s to their dramatic split in 1970.

It culminates with the fa-

mous “The Concert in Central Park” reunion in 1981 with more than half a million fans in attendance.

Using state-of-the-art video projection, photos and original film footage, the show also features a full live band performing all of their hits, including “Mrs. Robinson” (featured in the 1967 film The Graduate), “Cecilia,” “Bridge over Troubled Water,” “Homeward Bound” and many more.

With more than 100 million album sales since 1965, Simon & Garfunkel's perfect harmonies and songs that poignantly captured the times made them one of the most successful folk-rock duos of all time. Over the years, they won 10 Grammy

Awards and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

In 1977, their Bridge over Troubled Water album was nominated at the 1977 Brit Awards for Best International Album. In 2003, Simon and Garfunkel were awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and the following year saw their “The Sound of Silence” awarded a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.

Go to www.thesimonandgarfunkelstory.com for on sale dates and ticket information.

Tickets to see The Simon & Garfunkel Story are now on sale at www.bolognapac.com or at the BPAC Ticket Office at 662 846-4626.

“Walk On: The Story of Rosa Parks” at Delta State University

Deltastate.edu

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, MadRiver Theatre's production of Walk On: The Story of Rosa Parks will hit the Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) stage at Delta State University for two performances as part of the School-Time Matinee Series.

The production dispels myths about Parks and her protest as it paints a portrait of a complex woman who had to find reconciliation with herself in order to become an effective civil rights leader.

The performance is recommended for students in third grade and up, and is being locally sponsored by Entergy.

Tickets are still available for

both the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. show times. In addition to tickets for the day's performances, BPAC is also selling Rosa Parks autobiographies to classes who attend the performance for only \$1 per copy. The Scholastic title, Rosa Parks: My Story, is a chapter book recommended for students in 4th-7th grades. With more than 450 titles already sold, the reduced-priced book distribution program is just one component of BPAC's annual Read It, See It, Hear It, Be It program.

Working with community partners at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi and the Delta Arts Alliance, Read It, See It, Hear It, Be It aims to provide free arts work-

shops for students attending BPAC School-Time Matinee Series performances.

The goal of the program is to offer more resources for teachers, so that they can take the material students see onstage back to the classroom. Free study guides for the performance are available for download on BPAC's education website and can be combined with the reduced-priced Rosa Parks autobiography for a lesson prior to students attending the performance.

Tickets are on sale for \$6 each. Contact the arts education office at 662 846-4844 for further information on ticketing, performances, book distributions and workshops.



With much appreciation,
Gwendolyn Spencer Prater
Ph.D. chair, Women's Council for
Philanthropy

If you desire more information, please contact Constance Lawson, JSU Chief Development Officer, at constance.v.lawson@jsu.edu or 601-979-2357.

MSU Vet Camp applications available starting Jan. 28



Applications for Mississippi State's 10th annual Veterinary Camp will be available starting Jan. 28. The hands-on experience is designed for students ages 10-17 who have aspirations of working as a veterinarian, becoming a scientist or working in an animal-focused career.

PHOTO BY BETH WYNN

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine will accept applications beginning Jan. 28 for its 10th annual Veterinary Camp.

Applications will be available via the "Application" tab at www.cvm.msstate.edu/outreach/veterinary-camp.

The submission deadline is noon, Feb. 28.

Modeled after the first- and

second-year MSU CVM student experience, the camp gives students ages 10-17 an opportunity to explore the world of veterinary medicine under the guidance of faculty and current Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students.

Through interactive labs and other hands-on activities, campers gain insight into a variety of career options, from small to large animal, public health to

pathology and research to pet health.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu.

For more information, contact Karrie Files at 662-325-4401 or khd20@msstate.edu, or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

Learn more about MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine at www.cvm.msstate.edu.

SBA offers disaster assistance to businesses and residents of Mississippi affected by tropical storm Olga

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi businesses and residents affected by Tropical Storm Olga Oct. 26, 2019 can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Acting Administrator Christopher Pilkerton announced recently.

Pilkerton made the loans available in response to a letter from Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant received Dec. 13, 2019 requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Alcorn County and the adjacent counties of Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo in Mississippi and the contiguous counties of Hardeman, Hardin and McNairy in Tennessee.

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

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

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

Alcorn County
Crossroads Arena
2800 S. Harper Road

Corinth, MS 38834

Opening: Friday, Jan. 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours: Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays from 10 am to 2 p.m. Closed: Sundays

Last day: Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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

SBA for mitigation purposes.

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

Interest rates are as low as 3.875 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 1.5 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Feb. 28, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Sept. 30, 2020.

Completed applications should be returned to the center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

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

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1 800 659-2955 (1 800 877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov.

MDHS executive director to step down

The Mississippi Link Newswire

MDHS Executive Director Christopher Freeze announced his resignation effective January 14, 2020.

Freeze, who was appointed head of the agency by Governor Phil Bryant August 1, 2019, had worked toward the mission of helping Mississippians move from a state of crisis to a state of self-sufficiency utilizing a trauma-informed approach.

Prior to assuming the position of executive director at MDHS, Freeze had served as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Mississippi.

"I am grateful to Gov. Phil Bryant for appointing me to this position, and for the opportunity to serve the many great men and women at MDHS and the citizens of Mississippi," Freeze said. "Over the past five months, working together, we have helped set the department on strong footing."

Under Freeze's leadership, the agency has improved efficiency and effectiveness through several initiatives:

- Increased transparency in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process
- Created an internal commit-

tee to evaluate proposals

- Revised the subgrantee manual to provide more controls and oversight over how taxpayer dollars are spent
- Restructured compensation to increase parity

"I have been blessed with a long and fruitful career in public service, and this appointment has been a bright spot in that career," he said. "My goal is to speak, write, and advocate for our state to become a nationwide example of how being a trauma-informed state can help everyone pursue a healthy, happy and purposeful life."

NFIB introduces Dawn Starns as state director for Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, recently introduced Dawn Starns as its state director for Mississippi. She will replace Ron Aldridge, who is leaving after 25 years with the organization.

"We appreciate everything that Ron has done to help create a strong environment for small businesses throughout the state, and we're confident that Dawn will continue to promote and protect the right of our members here to own, operate and grow their businesses," said Gary Selvy, NFIB's executive director of state government relations.

Starns has served as NFIB's state director of Louisiana since

2014 and will divide her time between Baton Rouge and Jackson.

She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Louisiana State University. "She will bring a wealth of knowledge from the perspectives of a political appointee, an association manager, a campaign consultant, and a lobbyist to her additional role in Jackson," Selvy said.

"Having the opportunity as state director to serve and voice the needs and concerns of our Mississippi small businesses and members and promote our entrepreneurs has been my heart-filled passion," Aldridge said. "I appreciate so much the many legislators and state of-

ficials who over the years have helped us make tremendous improvements in our laws and regulations that help small businesses grow and create jobs.

"I know Dawn will do a great job, and as a fellow small business owner, I will continue to be a voice in helping make Mississippi the most small-business-friendly state," Aldridge said.

Starns said, "Ron is a good friend, and I appreciate his counsel on the issues that matter to job creators here in Mississippi such as workforce training, local-option gasoline tax increases and regulatory reform."

To learn more about NFIB in Mississippi, visit www.NFIB.com/MS and follow @NFIB_MS on Twitter.

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New decade begins with clear black agenda

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

A clear black agenda is laid out for the future as civil rights leaders, elected officials, political observers and activists celebrated the close of yet another decade of struggle and victories.

Voting rights, black political participation, disparate killing and abuse of black people by police, increasing white supremacy and disparities in economic and educational systems will remain among the leading issues faced by African Americans this decade. This is according to a compilation of the highest profiled stories and reports between 2010 and 2020.

Black political participation

As the New Year of 2010 was celebrated, the euphoria hung heavily in the atmosphere as America had recently elected its first African-American president. A decade later, in 2020, the only three African-American Democratic presidential candidates – Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick – did not even qualify for the last major debate Dec. 18 due to lack of financial support. Actually, by that time, Harris had already dropped out of the race. This leaves a field of white candidates in the forefront.

According to the latest CNN poll, former Vice President Joseph Biden continues to lead the race for the Democratic nomination. Among potential Democratic voters, Biden leads nationwide with 26 percent; Sen. Bernie Sanders is in a close second with 20 percent; and Sen. Elizabeth Warren is at 16 percent.

Nevertheless, Melanie Campbell, chair of the Black Women’s Roundtable and president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, among the most prominent national non-partisan black voting advocates, is optimistic about the future of black and women candidates.

“Until people vote, polls are just polls. They’re a snapshot in time. President Obama, when he was a candidate, wasn’t doing great. But you see that he made it across the finish line,” Campbell said. “I’m of the mindset that hopefully by January we’ll see.”

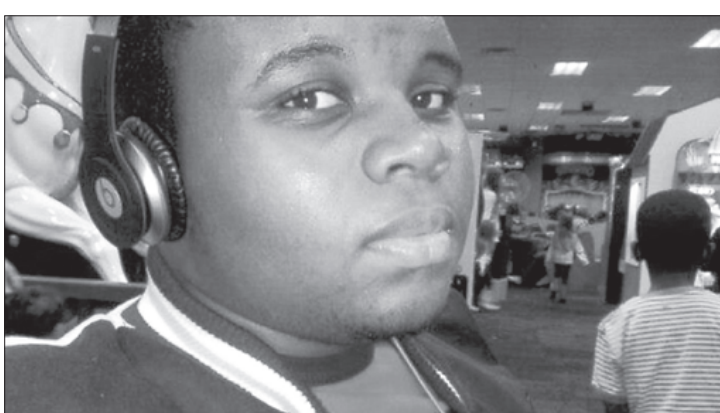
Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, a black woman, is among those being considered viable vice presidential candidates. Abrams rose to fame across the nation in 2018 as she fought against voter suppression in her campaign against Secretary of State Brian Kemp. He prevailed by only about 55,000 votes.

Voting rights still under attack

Voting rights and voter suppression have remained front burner issues for the past two decades since President George W. Bush, amidst much fanfare in 2006, signed the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. But that hope quickly plummeted in 2013 as the U. S. Supreme Court gutted the Section 5 preclearance clause of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibited certain states and territories from changing voting laws without the oversight of and permission from the U. S. Department of Justice.



Trump impeachment highly supported by black people, likely because of his fueling of racism and white supremacy.



Mike Brown is just one of the household names now iconic for the continuing issue of police killings of black people.



Protests raged due to police killings of black people.

The Democrat-dominated U. S. House of Representatives, December 6, 2019, passed legislation to restore the protections against changes in voting laws that could result in voter suppression. But the bill is not likely to become law under the predominately Republican Senate. And President Donald Trump has threatened to veto it.

While attacks from conservatives on voting rights are seen as the bottom line of voter disenfranchisement across the nation, leading voting advocates also say apathy within the black community has prevented some gains. Donna Brazile, former chair of the Democratic National Committee, documented that more than 7 million prospective black voters (7,135,303) were not registered in the spring of 2018.

Growth of white supremacy at the crux of 85 percent black support of Trump impeachment

Meanwhile the impeachment of President Trump by the U. S. House of Representatives for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress has won wide applause from black voters. The charges against Trump are based on his attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate his political rival, Joseph Biden, by withholding nearly \$400 million of military aid from the country.

“Eighty-five percent of African Americans said President

Trump should be impeached, the highest of any ethnic group, according to the latest NBC News-*Wall Street Journal* poll. However, only 41 percent of whites do, according to the survey,” reported Richard Prince of Journal-isms.

Trump has become known for blatant insults against black people. Those insults include his equating the rabid white supremacists who marched in Charlottesville, Va., resulting in the death of protestor Heather Heyer, with protestors who opposed the white supremacists. Trump shocked millions when he said, there were “very fine people on both sides.”

It is this kind of verbiage that has earned Trump a reputation as a racist, an extremist, and as one who has incited the growth and incubation of racism and white supremacy around the nation.

“The number of hate groups operating across America rose to a record high – 1,020 – in 2018 as President Trump continued to fan the flames of white resentment over immigration and the country’s changing demographics. It was the fourth straight year of hate group growth – a 30 percent increase roughly coinciding with Trump’s campaign and presidency,” wrote the Southern Poverty Law Center, America’s foremost tracker of racism and hate groups.

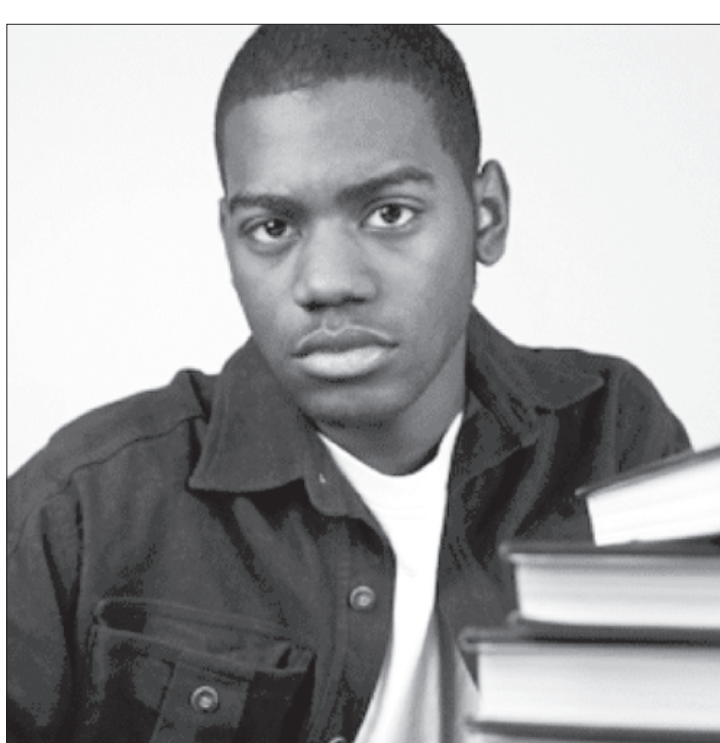
Police killings of black people



2019 Congressional hearing showing black homeownership groups agreeing that there are major issues with racial disparities.



Attacks on voting rights remain major issue decades after the civil rights movement.



Black youth are more often penalized and criminalized in public schools.

ple is now a leading cause of death

Trump was elected to office amidst an already volatile racial atmosphere in which the loose knit organization, Black Lives Matter, and others had emboldened the movement against police brutality and killings of blacks, starting with the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter following the Feb. 26, 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, 17, in Sanford, Fla.

Despite protests, the killings have remained consistent. According to a scientific report contained in the August 20, 2019 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, police violence is now a “leading cause of death among young black men.”

Over the past decade, several high profiled cases of black people killed by police have become household names. They include Philando Castile, 32, shot seven times in Falcon Heights, Minnesota after telling Officer Jeronimo Yanez that he had a legal fire arm and assured him he was not reaching for it; Walter Scott, 50, shot in the back while running away from North Charleston, S. C. police Officer Michael Slager; Mike Brown, 18, shot dead in Ferguson, Mo. after confronted by police Officer Darren Wilson while simply walking down the street in his neighborhood; Eric Garner, 43, choked

to death while pleading, “I can’t breathe” after confronted by Staten Island, N.Y. police officers while standing on the street; Tamir Rice, 12, immediately shot by Cleveland, Ohio Officer Timothy Loehmann as Rice wielded a play gun; and Baltimore’s Freddie Gray, 25, who was arrested as he left a coffee shop and died of a spinal cord injury sustained while in police custody.

These cases, among others, resulted in national protests as well as fiery riots in Ferguson and Baltimore. In Ferguson, the debut of police using military equipment shocked the world.

Yet, the most recent outrageous attacks by police have taken another turn. In recent incidents, police have attacked black people in their own homes. Botham Jean, 26, was killed while sitting in his Dallas apartment as off-duty officer Amber Guyger burst in and shot him, later claiming she thought it was her apartment. Then 28-year-old Atatiana Jefferson, playing video games with her 8-year-old nephew, was shot dead through the window of her Fort Worth home by Officer Aaron Dean who subsequently resigned and is now charged with murder.

Black economic disparities still raging across the U. S.

On this issue, the statistics speak for themselves:

In February, 2019, there were only 2.6 million black-owned

businesses in the United States, whereas the U.S. black population is estimated to be more than 40 million, according to the U. S. Black Chamber Inc.

The median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households.

The rate of black homeownership in America was at 41.1 percent, according to 2019 census numbers – even lower than it was when the Fair Housing Act was signed into law 51 years ago, April 11, 1968. The white homeownership rate hovered at approximately 73 percent, according to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. This issue prompted the founding of Black Wealth 2020 five years ago, a coalition of organizations established as a catalyst for black economic justice.

Regardless of how high or low the national employment rate fluctuated over the past two decades, without fail, black employment remained only half that of whites.

Gentrification, called the new “negro removal” program, by Ron Daniels of the Institute of the Black World – 21st Century, continues to displace black people and culture in record numbers in cities across the nation. The gentrification issue prompted an “emergency summit” by IBW last spring and promises to remain the focus of civil rights leaders.

Racial disparities in education and discipline continue as major issue in public schools

According to the U. S. Department of Education, black children comprise 15 percent of students in public schools across the U. S. Yet, they accounted for 31 percent of the students either referred to law enforcement or arrested, according to the most recent US Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection published bi-report annually.

Likewise, standardized test scores at majority black public schools remain low, compared to majority white schools. But that has little to do with academic ability and much to do with wealth gaps reports

The racial “achievement gap” in standardized-test scores shouldn’t be considered a racial gap at all, according to a study by the Center for Education Policy Analysis, which argues that the achievement gap should be called a “poverty gap.”

“U.S. public schools are highly segregated by both race and class,” says the report, released in the fall of 2019. “We use 8 years of data from all public school districts in the U.S. We find that racial school segregation is strongly associated with the magnitude of achievement gaps in 3rd grade, and with the rate at which gaps grow from third to eighth grade. The association of racial segregation with achievement gaps is completely accounted for by racial differences in school poverty: racial segregation appears to be harmful because it concentrates minority students in high-poverty schools, which are, on average, less effective than lower-poverty schools.”

Given the weight of these issues and others that have lingered from one decade to another, there is no doubt they will continue to fuel the civil rights agenda for years to come.

Avoiding distractions

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



We live in a busy world that supplies us with endless distractions from our faith. When we become distracted from our faith, we become separated from God. One evangelists said, “It takes five percent effort to win a person to Christ and ninety-five percent to keep him in Christ and growing to maturity.”

There are two closely related reasons for this cause. First, the convert fails initially to count the cost so that he truly understands commitment to Christ (read Luke 14:26:33). Second, once committed, he

fails to think about events and attitudes in his life in relation to the Kingdom of God. Without this, a Christian never gets past the surface of the teachings.

This results in a person with so many interests in life that the most important one is crowded out. Or, conversely, he is consumed with a single interest other than seeking the Kingdom of God, and it is crowded out. If a Christian fails to prioritize properly, he neglects the most important one. That is a choice.

Most of us tend to fall into the first category where everything is the same size and importance. We have no single great priority. Remember Lot in Genesis 19:15-16, “As

morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.” But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.”

“Lot lingered.” This statement does not describe his whole life, of course, but it seems to catch the essence of a dominant characteristic. He was not really focused on the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto

you” (Matthew 6:3). Lot was not focused as his uncle, Abraham.

If a person who was truly focused on the Kingdom of God yet who lived in Sodom had two angels come to him saying, “Get out!” Would he flee or would he linger? This tells us something about Lot: He was a man who was distracted by other interests that caught his eye and thus his attention.

Happy New Year and let us learn not to be distracted in 2020.

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

20/20 vision

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“You’ll never have 20/20 vision.” I remember the mixed emotions that I felt when my eye doctor told me this a number of years ago. First, I was thankful that he was honest with me about the health of my eyes but disappointed that I’d never see with the perfection of 20/20 vision.

Being an optimist, I was hopeful that he’d somehow be wrong and that my vision would somehow improve over the year if I took care of my eyes. However, when he told me the exact same thing the following year during my annual eye exam, I finally had to accept the truth.

Perhaps to answer the quiz-zical look on my face, my eye doctor explained that because of issues I have with my eyes like astigmatism even with contact lenses or glasses, I’d probably never see with 100% clarity.

What is so interesting to me every year when I get my eyes examined is how a small adjustment in the contact lens prescription can make such a big difference in how clearly, I can see. I’ve learned that it’s the lens that I’m looking through that makes all the difference. The correct eye prescription can make the fuzzy thing that I’m looking at actually look clearer.

As we transition to another year, so many of us are hoping to leave the lingering impact of negative experiences including failures and disappointments in 2019. However, for some of us, it will be hard because of how we choose to see those situations. This is even when God

has delivered us from jobs that we hated and relationships that were toxic.

A friend of mine recently texted that one reason why it’s hard to move on from negative situations is the fact that we hold onto the hope of what could have been and not accept the reality of what it actually was/is. In other words, we have to make a choice on how we will see things.

One question that I’ll be asking myself this year is whether I’m looking at my circumstances through the lens of faith or fear?

Ephesians 1:18 offers insight on how we choose to see things. “I ask – ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory – to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do.”


I like this version from the Message Bible because it emphasizes how having clear vision makes it easier to see and ultimately be obedient to the calling of God. For some, it seems pretty obvious that we have to see clearly to obey. However, for some who have looked at the world through the lenses of fear and doubt, it’s actually very hard.

And much like our natural vision requires corrective lenses, we also may have to use corrective lenses of renewed faith to clear up fuzzy spiritual vision.

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

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mark Church, 1638 Clinton Raymond Rd., Clinton, will have its 3rd Annual Bible Conference on Friday, January 24, 2020 (6:30 p.m.–8 p.m.) and continuing on Saturday, January 25, 2020 (8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.) The presenter will be Pastor Stacy Brown of Philadelphia Ministries, Clinton, MS. Theme: “The Bible”. Refreshments to be served Friday; breakfast and lunch to be served on Saturday. For more information and/or to RSVP by Monday, January 20, 2020, please call (601) 813-8704 or email stmarkchurch.clintonms@gmail.com.



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Following morning
worship service 12
Sundays

Wednesday
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Study 7 p.m.

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20/20 leaders

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



For some reason whenever I go to the eye doctor, I expect to get a good report on my vision. Sometimes I get one. Sometimes I don't, but I am always hopeful. This year, I am truly hopeful that our leaders will have 20/20 vision so they can stop the warring attitudes and practices and the punishing behaviors toward the most vulnerable they have been chosen to lead.

My prayer is for them to not just pray for, but work for a better and just world for all no matter where people live, the color of their skin or the culture from which they come.

My dream is for world leaders to care about everybody's children, that no child would be left behind, that every child would have access to a useable education.

Years ago when young people graduated from high school, it was understood that all of them would not be going to college, so they were taught useable skills so that they could go to work to make a living right out of high school. Whatever some may think of those days, I want to see that part of our past come back.

Is it possible for all of us to give meaning to this year being 20/20? Let it be the cue for all of us to think about what we can do to show that we have clearer vision. With wars, poor education systems, injustices especially for women and non-white people, the unemployment rate with a lack of livable wages for so many, the lack of hope for too many people, and the desire for instant gratification – these things lead to desperation and other negative outcomes.

Too many leaders have lost that 20/20 vision of where we should be going such that nobody wants to, or sees the wisdom of following them. We've lost confidence in them because few of them seem to care about nothing more than their own well-being.

General Colin Powell said, "Leadership is a position of problem solving which is conflict resolution. The day people stop bringing you (meaning leaders) their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They've either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case this is a failure of leadership."

He also said, "Leadership is all about people. It is not about organizations. It is not about plans. It is not about strategies. It is all about people motivating people to get the job done. You have to be people centered."

Further, he said, "None of us can change our yesterdays but all of us can change our tomorrows."

There was a time that leaders convened with positive motives – really willing to compromise in order to accomplish great things for all the people. We, the people have a responsibility in electing and choosing leaders who make good on their promises once elected or chosen and not ones who just begin to flip flop on their promises depending on the way the wind blows or the money finds its way into their pockets. On that note, we the people must insist upon overturning the destructive Citizens United.

We, the people, must be determined that our leaders are qualified to lead. Just look at what the man people elected to our White House has done to undermine certain members of his team. He is the total opposite of what a leader should be. He not only does not offer leadership for all the people, he does not offer leadership for vision to his team whose members might want to do the right thing. We, the people, must demand 20/20 visionary leaders.

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

Will money rule in this presidential race?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Democrats started this Presidential campaign season with more than 20 candidates. Eventually, it dropped to about a dozen, with, so far, only five of those "qualified" to appear on the next debate stage. But debate performance doesn't seem to matter much. Both Senator Kamala Harris and former Obama cabinet member Julian Castro having had excellent debate performances, and yet they have still dropped out of the race.

It's a money thing.

With just \$9 million in the bank, Harris said she couldn't see her way clear to the nomination given her extremely limited resources. Castro, matching Harris in grace and reflectiveness, said: "It just wasn't our time." He, too, felt he did not have enough money in the bank to compete.

It almost certainly would have helped these candidates qualify if they had the resources, say, of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who pumped \$100 million into his campaign in just one month.

In fairness, though, it is essential to note that Senator Bernie Sanders raised a whopping \$34.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2019 alone. Mayor Pete But-

tigieg and former VP Joe Biden raised more than \$20 million in that quarter, and Senator Elizabeth Warren came close. The deadline for filing finance reports is later this month, so I'm cautious in concluding based on news articles and partial reports. Still, generally, those who have something to crow about put their numbers out there early.

And for some, money isn't the only issue. Did they meet the thresholds the Democratic party set for debate qualification? Do they and their advisors think they can win? What are the polls saying? So even though Kristen Gillibrand had \$14.9 million in the bank when she dropped out of the race last August, she was not polling well and failed to qualify for the September debate. Meanwhile, Senator Corey Booker did not qualify for the last debate, but he is hanging in there.

Although Booker and entrepreneur Andrew Yang are still in the race, the Democratic field is mostly white, and the January debate stage January 14, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa is likely to be all-white. The white folks on the stage may be "qualified," but I find them no more qualified than, say, Castro and Harris. Their greatest flaw was the inability to compete in this multi-million dollar cacophony of voices.

Neither Harris nor Castro will suffer much for dropping out of the race.

Some say that Castro will run for governor of Texas. Harris has three years more of a Senate term, and she has an effective presence in Capitol Hill. I didn't like seeing either of them dropping out of the race, but the loss is ours, not theirs.

The way the election cycle works, candidates can get a big boost if they can win either Iowa or New Hampshire. But with the debate qualification set so high, voters in those states will not have the opportunity to see some great possibilities in action because they don't qualify for the debates.

To be sure, it was useful to narrow the field of candidates from an unwieldy number to a more manageable one. And candidates all appreciate the fact that they have more time to go in-depth answering questions. Still, if it's an all-white debate stage, what does that say about progress in this nation? What does it say about the Democratic Party, which presents itself as a big-tent party that has embraced diversity?

For Democrats, there are three keys to winning this election. First, Dems must engage "new voters," including young people and first-time voters. Next, Dems must monitor the rules around elections so that they do not discriminate and scrutinize the ways people are removed from the voting rolls. Finally, and most importantly, Demo-

crats must place significant effort on getting out the vote in November (and during the primaries), and new voters and especially communities of color, must be targeted.

Election protection organizations have the monitoring issue covered, and there are likely to be massive GOTV (get out the vote) efforts led by civil society organizations. But what engages new voters? They must feel that the political process reflects them. Already Latino voters are concerned that Democrats aren't vying for their vote. And African-American voters think that the Democratic Party takes them for granted.

To engage new voters, perhaps Democrats need to examine their rules to embrace more candidates of color. And they need to fight for legislation that makes it easier to vote. Democrats like to call themselves candidates of the "underdog." But when billionaires like Steyer and Bloomberg come sauntering through the door, concern for the underdog seems to go out of the window.

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

The spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation is under attack again today

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



Wednesday, Jan. 1, began the new year. It also marked the anniversary of a new America. On Jan. 1, 1863, as the Civil War, the bloodiest of America's wars, approached the end of its second year, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are and henceforward shall be free." The Proclamation was limited to fit wartime necessities. It applied only to the states that had seceded from and were at war with the United States, leaving slavery untouched in loyal border states. It also exempted the parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. And, of course, the freedom it promised depended on the victory of the North. Yet, the Proclamation's effect was far more expansive than its terms.

It transformed the war into a war of freedom. As the U.S. Archives sum-

marizes, "Every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom." And of course, it dramatically aided the Union cause, with nearly 200,000 black soldiers and sailors fighting for the Union. The Proclamation was the beginning. Upon victory, Congress passed three amendments to the Constitution – the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments – designed to finish the job of transforming the country that was, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "half slave and half free" to one in which all were guaranteed – under the Constitution – the "blessings of liberty."

The 13th Amendment outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude; the 14th began to define the rights of citizens and guaranteed equal protection under the law; the 15th prohibited discrimination in the right to vote on the basis of "race, color or previous condition of servitude." (Ironically, the Constitution still does not guarantee the right to vote to all).

The amendments, forced upon the defeated Southern states as a condition for re-entry into the Union, launched the reconstruction that sought for a few short years to bring

the country together. Newly empowered blacks joined with progressive whites to build coalitions that transformed state constitutions, guaranteeing the right to education, launching programs to provide more equal justice under the law.

Sadly, Reconstruction met with fierce reaction across the South. Segregation masters succeeded the slave masters. The Ku Klux Klan, formed by the elites of Southern communities, terrorized newly freed blacks. The right to vote was sabotaged by various tricks and traps, from the poll tax to unequally administered tests on the Constitution, to simple threat and terror. In 1896, the Supreme Court to its shame ruled that apartheid – the mythic "separate but equal" standard – was legal in the United States.

By the turn of the century, segregation was the law of the land. It took 100 years and the historic civil rights movement to overturn that reaction, and to begin to reclaim the promise of equal justice under the law and the revive the right to vote. The civil rights struggle, which united the movement of courageous citizens on the ground with the force of

Lyndon Johnson in the White House, produced, among other legislation, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act that brought America closer to its promise. Today, we once more see the stirrings of reaction against that reconstruction.

Racial division, stoked cynically from the highest offices in the land, once more is on the rise. African Americans, Latinos, Jews, Muslims, gays, women – all once more feel the rise of resentment and often of hate.

The Supreme Court has gutted a critical part of the Voting Rights Act. States under reactionary governors are inventing new ways to restrict access to the vote. Will this reaction be as successful as that which undermined the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation?

America, I believe, is better than that. Our democracy is stronger than it was then. We can mobilize and vote in large numbers to keep expanding the domain of freedom.

This Jan. 1 and beyond, let us remember the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by the greatest of our presidents, a Republican, and devote ourselves to redeeming its promise.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
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PROJECT NO. 20B4003.201

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of Tougaloo Senior Center, City Project No. 20B4003.201. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (30) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount five hundred (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

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

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

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

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Engineering Division office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. All request and questions regarding plans and specifications can be directed to Tony Howard, Project Construction Manager, (601) 960-1651. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on January 22, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814." Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

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

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

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

Robert K. Miller Director of Public Works Housing & Community Development	Vanessa Henderson Deputy Director
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1-9-2020, 1-16-2020

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CHAMPION SENIOR CENTER
Jackson, Mississippi
PROJECT NO. 20B4005.501

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of Champion Senior Center, City Project No. 20B4005.501. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (30) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount five hundred (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

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Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file

LEGAL

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
SYKES SENIOR CENTER
Jackson, Mississippi
PROJECT NO. 20B4004.601

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of Sykes Senior Center, City Project No. 20B4004.601. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (30) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount five hundred (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

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Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Engineering Division office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. All request and questions regarding plans and specifications can be directed to Tony Howard, Project Construction Manager, (601) 960-1651. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on January 22, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814." Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

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

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

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

Robert K. Miller Director of Public Works Housing & Community Development	Vanessa Henderson Deputy Director
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1-9-2020, 1-16-2020

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Robert K. Miller Director of Public Works Housing & Community Development	Vanessa Henderson Deputy Director
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1-9-2020, 1-16-2020

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH
THE FAA BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(JMAA PROJECT NO. 001-20)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. central time on February 14, 2020 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and related services in connection with the Federal Aviation Administration Building Roof Replacement Project at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will also accept electronic sealed bids as specified in the bid documents. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. central time on February 14, 2020, Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Once registered, Suppliers can download bid specifications and upload bid documents.

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:15 p.m. central time on February 14, 2020 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "Federal Aviation Administration Building Roof Replacement Project at JAN, JMAA Project No. 001-20." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

JMAA will award the Work to the Lowest and Best most responsive and responsible Bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder. Any Addendums issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders, including plans and specifications, is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport Suite 300, Main Terminal Building 100 International Drive Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 662 Facsimile: (601) 939-3713 Attention: Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist

A copy of the plans and specifications for the Work are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders may register and order plans and specifications from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website <http://planroom.jaxblue.com>. There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$75.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until payment is received.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on January 22, 2020 in the Community Room, Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive informalities in the bidding process; and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract to perform the Work.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 17% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DATE: January 8, 2020 /s/ Darrion Warren
Darion Warren, Interim Chief Executive Officer

1-9-2020, 1-16-2020

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Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds, County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time within **15** days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467.

1-9-2020, 1-16-2020

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Linda Ronstadt

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 O T

T U O T T U I Z R L C D U S E O T C J O M F O M S F O A
H C F I X T U S T C T U O F M O C M P O A C Z T
 E E
S P B S L X A F O S G L C D F A F O S G

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

T H E T H I N G Y O U H A V E T O B E P R E P A R E D
T U O T U I Z R L C D U S E O T C J O M F O M S F O A
F O R I S T H A T O T H E R P E O P L E D O N ' T
H C F I X T U S T C T U O F M O C M P O A C Z T
A L W A Y S D R E A M Y O U R D R E A M .
S P B S L X A F O S G L C D F A F O S G

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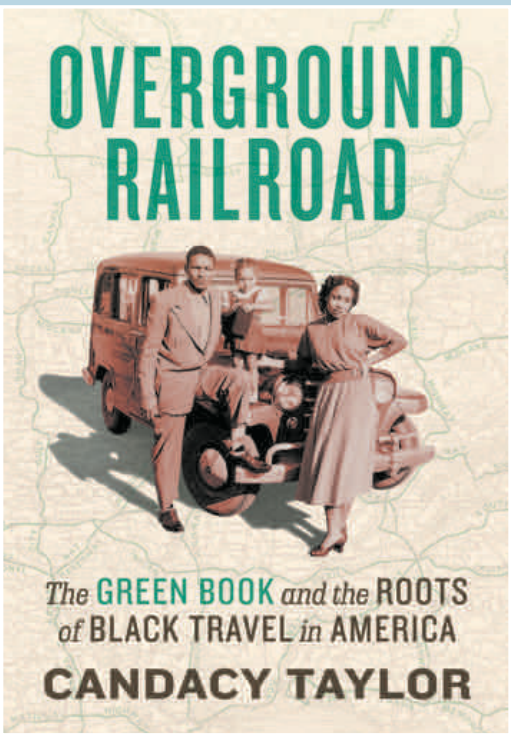
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Hinds County Swearing In Ceremony

Hinds County Courthouse • Jackson, MS • January 3, 2020

PHOTOS BY SHARON SIMS





BOOK REVIEW: OVERGROUND RAILROAD: THE GREEN BOOK AND THE ROOTS OF BLACK TRAVEL IN AMERICA BY CANDACY TAYLOR C.2020, ABRAMS PRESS \$35.00 / \$44.00 CANADA • 360 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your tickets have been purchased.

Reservations were made in your name and all that’s left is packing. Yep, you’re heading out for the weekend, a week, a month, gone on the trip of a lifetime and as you’ll see in “Overground Railroad” by Candacy Taylor, it’s a trip your grandparents might’ve been denied.

Ron was just 7 years old when he was told to sit still and be quiet in the backseat of his parents’ car, where he listened as a police officer questioned his

father by a country road. Even when he was an old man and stepdad to Candacy Taylor, he remembered the tension coming from the front seat of that car.

Her stepfather’s stories helped Taylor understand many things, including why he and black folks his age preferred to travel at night, on side roads. At about this same time, Taylor’s white friends began expressing outrage over white supremacists and she replied with facts about incarceration of black men.

To her, the three histories were one: Black people have always been denied equality.

In the twentieth century, that inequality largely resulted from Jim Crow laws which, among other humiliations, allowed restaurants, hotels and gas stations to refuse service to black travelers. On the road, brave or desperate African Americans risked violence or even death by testing the laws; in years following the Depression, those laws gave Victor Green an idea.

Green lived in Harlem, worked as a mailman, and saw a future where black people owned cars (rare, in the 1930s) they could insure (also rare). With help from other mailmen,

information on black-owned businesses that black travelers could visit was gathered and published in a book that was initially Harlem-centric. Subsequent editions of The Green Book led African-American travelers to safe restaurants, hotels and gas stations across the country.

Says Taylor, Green never made much money from his project, but “his reward was much more valuable... for every business he listed, he may have saved a life.”

As a history of African-American travel in the Twentieth Cen-

tury, “Overground Railroad” is incredible, filled with great continuity and plenty of side-stories to make it come alive.

Author Candacy Taylor makes it exquisitely personal with tales from her stepfather and her deep appreciation for all he’d endured, leading to other stories of DWB: how the travel industry foolishly thwarted African-American travel and its buying power; how things changed; and the constant reassurance of The Green Book.

That history makes this book incredibly fascinating.

It could’ve been even better,

had Taylor stuck with the topic.

Instead, occasionally and from the beginning, mass incarceration and institutional racism are inserted into this narrative on travel. One could perhaps argue that they’re peripherally relevant but, though it’s not overwhelming, that feels like a discussion for a different book.

Still, ignore the distraction. Don’t let it chase you away from this stellar tale, told with detail and an abundance of photos. If you’re looking for a lively, well-rounded history book, “Overground Railroad” is just the ticket.

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Jackson, Mississippi celebrates Kwanzaa

with food, reflections, prayers and fashion



Panel participants



An usher

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Guest Writer

As the old year 2019 rang out, and the new 2020 zoomed in; Jackson, Mississippi's residents marked Kwanzaa with grand enthusiasm and excitement.

From December 26-Janauary 1, Afro-Americans Africans and friends of Africa from Jackson and elsewhere, converged at Medgar Evers Community Center for the grand Kwanzaa celebration. For seven days, participants focused on Kwanzaa, its rationale, history, relevance and motivation.

Diverse activities
Prayers, speeches, discussions, conversations, a fashion show, poetry, music and strategic communication marked the event.

Participants clad in their elegant African and Oriental-type outfits and attires, marked the event with unabated zest and zeal.

Top-notch Panelists
Speakers and attendees stressed the imperative of organization and mobilization in the African-Ameri-

can and other communities.

Panelists and moderators who also served as mentors, included: the brilliant and articulate cleric, Apostle Dr. Bishop Cynthia King Bolden Gardener; Coach Andrew Campbell; Dr. Janice Neal-Vincent; Baba Lucata, Dr. Umar Johnson, Jackson's Sheriff Lee Vance, Fire Chief Eddie James and a host of others.

Princess Maati
Business woman, Africanist and community activist Maati says "the 2019/20 Kwanzaa, as in the previous 30 years, is a time to see people I have not seen. It is a community family union.

"This year it was more vibrant, emotional and passionate. It brought good people with a dynamic spirit together. Next year, there will hopefully be more food, attendees and expressions. Kwanzaa's principles of kindness and thoughtfulness are useful in our daily lives and should be promoted."

Kwanzaa came into being dur-

ing the apogee of the Civil Rights movements in the 1960s. California youth and graduate student Dr. Maulena Karenga championed and promoted Kwanzaa, which is fast gaining global popularity.

The annual feast is anchored on 7 principles Nguza Saba. They are: Umoja (Unity); Kujichagulia (Self-Determination); Ujima (Collective Work and responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics and Familyhood); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity); and Imani (Faith).

Jean C. Collier who manages the Afrikan Art Gallery on Farish Street in Jackson summed up the event noting that, "Kwanzaa is a good time to learn about our culture and history."

Jackson's Jackie Bennett noted that, "the program was interesting with great food, fellowship and music.

Distinguished speakers and panelists included: Dr. Umar Johnson. "I also enjoyed the town hall, panel discussions and the New Black Panther Party."



Domatob, Dr. Mohammed Umar Johnson, Princess Maati and guest



Children captivated by Kwanzaa lesson



Baba Lucata with mic

Wanda Sykes hosts 28th Annual Bounce Trumpet Awards World

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hosted by EMMY® Award-winning comedian, actress and writer Wanda Sykes, the gala black-tie event, taking place for the first time in Hollywood, includes show-stopping musical performances and special moments highlighting the best in entertainment, humanitarianism and activism.

The 28th Annual Bounce Trumpet Award honorees are Martin Lawrence, Cedric the Entertainer, Marsai Martin, Ambassador Andrew Young, Hydeia Broadbent and Phylicia Fant.

Rousing musical highlights include:

GRAMMY® Award-winning R&B artist Faith Evans singing a medley of her hits “Love Like This Before,” “You Gets No Love” and the classic “I’m Every Woman” on which she’s joined by the one and only Sheila E; a “Black Girl Magic” duet between hip hop star Rapsody and R&B chanteuse Elle Varner; an electrifying rendition of his hit “If I Ruled the World” from hip hop legend Nas; a sultry performance from soul singer BJ the Chicago Kid and the evening culminating with a soul-stirring performance by B. Slade, Le’Andria Johnson and Jason McGee & The Choir.

The honorees and their presenters also provide memorable moments during the evening, including:

Actress and comedian Niecy Nash presenting Cedric the Entertainer – whom she calls “her



Sykes

dearest TV husband” – with the Excellence in Entertainment Award for his 30+ year career in film, live performing and television. Cedric also receives special congratulations from fellow comedian Steve Harvey, who credits him with being an “integral fiber of entertainment.”

Funnyman Mike Epps is presenting iconic comedian and actor Martin Lawrence with the Luminary Award. Taking the stage to a standing ovation and loud cheers, Lawrence talks about how his first stage was the classroom and how he entertained teachers and students with jokes

at a young age. He dedicates his award to his late mother, naming her as his inspiration. Lawrence longtime friend and co-star Will Smith joins the celebration.

Black-ish star Marsai Martin, the youngest person to executive produce a major motion picture film, receives the Rising Star Award presented by McDonald’s. Anthony Anderson, who plays Martin’s on-screen father, surprises the young star and presents her with the honor.

Civil Rights icon Ambassador Andrew Young receiving the Xernona Clayton Award of Distinction presented by the 2020 Cen-

sus from Clayton herself. During his powerful speech, Young talks about how he and Clayton were among the first staff members of Dr. Martin Luther King and their lifelong fight for equality for all. Young’s work for civil and human rights, his many years in public office as congressman, United Nations ambassador and mayor of Atlanta, his leadership of the Atlanta Olympic Games and much more were among the examples of his extraordinary life of service.

Music executive Phylicia Fant receiving The Corporate Executive of the Year Award being pre-

sented to her by Chairman and CEO of Epic Records Sylvia Rhone. Recently appointed as Head of Urban Music at Columbia Records, Fant has established herself as a preeminent executive in the entertainment industry. Citing Trumpet Awards founder Xernona Clayton as an inspiration of how black women could be leaders, the industry dynamo calls receiving her honor “a full circle moment.”

Actor Lamman Rucker is presenting the Community Activist Award to HIV/AIDS activist and public speaker Hydeia Broadbent. Broadbent gives a moving

speech about her own personal journey living as a person with HIV and encouraging people to become educated about policies around HIV/AIDS and to get out and vote.

The Bounce Trumpet Awards were conceived to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of African Americans and those who have succeeded against great odds and inspired success in others. Founded in 1992 by American Civil Rights leader Xernona Clayton, The Trumpet Awards were acquired by Bounce in 2016. The list of prestigious honorees includes Muhammad Ali, Beyoncé, Harry Belafonte, Halle Berry, Stevie Wonder, The African-American Women of the United States Congress, Quincy Jones, Maya Angelou, Janelle Monáe and Spike Lee. Bounce exclusively owns, produces and telecasts the star-studded event.

Bounce (@bouncetv) is the first and only multi-platform entertainment network targeting African Americans, with programming seen over-the-air, on cable, on DISH channel 359, over-the-top on Roku®, on mobile devices via the Bounce and Brown Sugar apps and on the web via BounceTV.com. Bounce features a programming mix of original series and movies, off-network series, theatrical motion pictures, specials, live sports and events and more. Bounce is part of The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP).

Visit www.trumpetawards.com for more information.



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD hosts 2019 new employee cohort “Professional Innovators Academy” to kick-off new year

