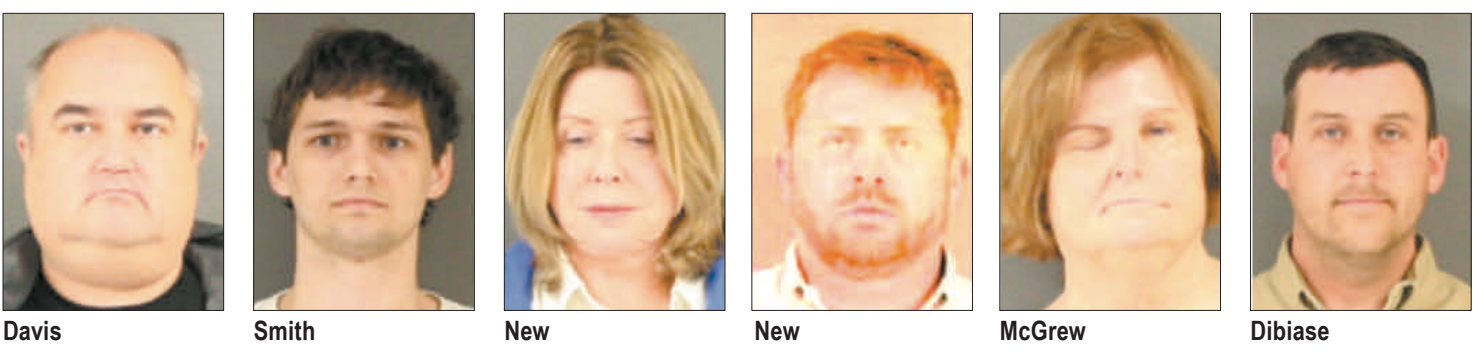




Connecting the dots: Players in massive welfare embezzlement case got millions from taxpayers, but helped few



By Anna Wolfe
Mississippi Today

A downtown Jackson resource center funded by millions of state welfare dollars was quiet Wednesday morning. Blue bins labeled “fresh produce” in a mock farmers market sat empty. Monitors in the computer lab were black and toys in the children’s playroom sat neatly on their shelves.

Families First for Mississippi’s recently-opened State Street center, run by the nonprofit Mississippi Community Education Center, promises to lift families out of poverty. Human Services has granted the nonprofit approximately \$53 million since the beginning of fiscal year 2018 reportedly to do just that, state

expenditures show.

“Our main goal is getting them off TANF,” Will Lamkin, operation coordinator for the center, said Wednesday morning, referring to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash-assistance program.

Hours later, law enforcement agents would arrest the nonprofit’s owner, Nancy New, and former Human Services director John Davis, in the largest public embezzlement scheme in state history, according to the office of the State Auditor.

New and Davis allegedly stole millions from the federal TANF program intended to provide basic assistance and work supports to the nation’s poorest residents. The federal government gives

states broad discretion to spend the money – about \$130 million a year in Mississippi.

In 2018, the state used just 5.4 percent of the money on cash assistance – historically known as welfare – for poor families.

In recent years, Human Services funneled large amounts of its TANF funding to New’s organization to run a statewide program called Families First for Mississippi. The program faced criticism over the last year from advocates and lawmakers who questioned the large contracts and unclear objectives of the operation.

“They were fudging the numbers by saying they were helping so many people and you had an office that was barely open,

that barely acknowledged people walking by asking for help,” said state Rep. Chris Bell, D-Jackson.

By the end of fiscal year 2018, Human Services had paid Mississippi Community Education Center roughly \$30 million. In the same time frame, the nonprofit had helped 94 people complete a resume and 72 people fill out job applications in addition to the educational classes it conducted, according to outcome reports it sent the state agency.

The reporting contains many errors, such as year-to-date figures declining in certain months. “There weren’t proper controls and monitoring in place to

Embezzlement
Continued on page 10

IHL Board of Trustees names Thomas Hudson as JSU’s acting president

Jackson State University

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning named Thomas Hudson as Acting President of Jackson State University at its meeting held Monday in Jackson, effective immediately. Hudson currently serves as special assistant to the president and chief diversity officer at Jackson State.

As special assistant to the president and chief diversity officer, Hudson has served on the executive cabinet and provided guidance to senior leadership on all topics related to the university’s future.

“We are extremely pleased that Thomas Hudson has agreed to serve as acting president,” said Hal Parker, president of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. “As both an alumnus and a current staff member, he has a deep love for and understanding of the campus and all it means to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and the state.”

Hudson served on the executive cabinet and provided guidance to senior leadership on all topics related to the university’s future course and trajectory. With the Division of Human Resources and Office of General Counsel under his purview, Hudson oversaw institutional EEO and Title IX implementation and collaborated with other executive administrators on matters of curriculum, guidelines and practices.

He also established collaborative partnerships with the University Veterans Center and Office of Disability Services to address the underrepresentation of employees from these groups. He also served as the president’s liaison for the Division of Athletics.

Hudson conducted university-wide labor utilization analysis to determine areas of improvement as it relates to the university affirmative action plan and reorganized the Staff Development Center and assisted in developing courses in employee relations, development and compliance.

“As a Jackson State alumnus and senior-level cabinet member, Thomas Hudson is committed to the success of the university and extremely knowledgeable about all facets of the campus,” said Alfred Rankins Jr., commissioner of Higher Education.

A member of the Jackson State staff since 2012, Hudson has also served as chief operating officer/chief diversity officer, chief diversity and EEO officer/Title IX coordinator.



Hudson

As chief operating officer, Hudson implemented cost-saving measures that resulted in a 10 percent decrease in the university’s operational budget, coordinated academic and administrative restructuring efforts resulting in an annual savings of \$4 million and led institutional efforts that changes a projected year-end deficit to an approximate \$3 million cash balance.

Appointed as the inaugural chief diversity and Equal Opportunity officer at Jackson State, Hudson received the Presidential Creative Award Grant for efforts to design a program to bring awareness of interpersonal violence prevention to the student body and designed and implemented the first university-wide training designed to eliminate implicit bias for search committees.

In addition, he developed strategies for increasing the number of female faculty members in STEM disciplines, resulting in a 30 percent increase in hiring of women in these disciplines over a three-year period.

Hudson holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Jackson State University and a law degree from the University of Mississippi.

Before joining the staff at Jackson State, Hudson founded his own law practice and served as an EEO specialist for the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA in Clinton.

Hudson serves as co-chairperson on the JSU Strategic Planning Committee and vice chairperson of the university system’s Chief Diversity Officers’ Council. He is a member of the Margaret Walker Alexander Center Board of Directors and the JSU Athletics Hall of Fame Foundation Board of Directors. He served as the Bias and Policy Lead for the National Science Foundation Advance Grant at Jackson State from 2013 to 2017 and served as chairperson of the Director of Disability Services Search Committee in 2016.

Hudson and his wife, Phyllandria, have two daughters.

Just like he arrived; he leaves under a cloud of suspicion

Bynum out at Jackson State University after arrest

By Othor Cain
Editor

Amid widespread criticism, William Bynum Jr., 57, was named the 11th president of Jackson State University in 2017 by the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning.

This appointment was met with harsh criticism and much disappointment. Among those expressing grave concerns at the time of the preferred candidate announcement was the former president of the national alumni association for JSU, Yolanda Owens. She wrote at the time,

“With the announcement of the preferred candidate for president of Jackson State University, the Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees elected to depart from the established 20 step process outlined on its website. The decision on the preferred candidate was made without input from the Interview Search



Bynum

Advisory Committee (who was dismissed May 8) and the board’s application of the policy is a dishonor to the spirit of the process and ultimately the entire Jackson State University community. In my opinion, the board policy as it relates to the search process is significantly flawed and should be thoroughly revised before the next IEO search in the State of Mississippi.

As an alumni family, we are enormously disappointed that

the board chose not to honor the recommendation made by the representatives of the administration, faculty, staff, students, foundation, community and alumni. However, our love and dedication for Jackson State University is not diminished. Remember that leaders will come and go, but we will forever be the alumni of Mississippi’s urban university. We will always be committed to our alma mater and will do all that we can to ensure that our dear old college home emerges from this transition even stronger than before – standing as a leader in higher education throughout the state and the nation. After all, We Are Jackson State University.”

Others also expressed concerns during a campus-wide listening session.

DeAndrae Powell addressed Bynum: “I’ve spoken with students and alumni at the Valley and I have received a low ap-

proval rate (of your presidency).” To which Bynum responded: “Let’s cut to the chase. I may not be your choice and you have every right to an opinion of who you want. But the board made the choice and I’ve made the decision to accept. Watch me. You don’t have to depend on the opinion of others,” Bynum said.

Jauan Knight, a senior (then) at JSU, challenged Bynum: “If the IHL asks you to do something counterproductive to the university, such as merge the state HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), how would you respond?”

“I have no interest in that,” declared Bynum. “I will do things in the best interest of the university.”

Knight continued his questioning: “When you were selected, it was almost without hesitation

Bynum
Continued on page 3

Inside

With no clear front runner, Bloomberg spends \$3.5 million with the Black Press

Page 10



Driving While Black

Page 17



Share this issue with a friend

Hudson

Continued on page 3

by mailing it to:

Hinds CC to name hoops court after longtime coach, mentor

Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College on Feb. 17 will name the basketball court inside J.D. Boyd Gymnasium on the Utica Campus after former basketball coach Earl Joe Nelson.

A brief dedication ceremony will be held between the Hinds Bulldogs women's and men's games that evening against East

Central Community College. The women tip off at 5:30 p.m. Men tip off at 7:30 p.m. The program will be at approximately 7 p.m.

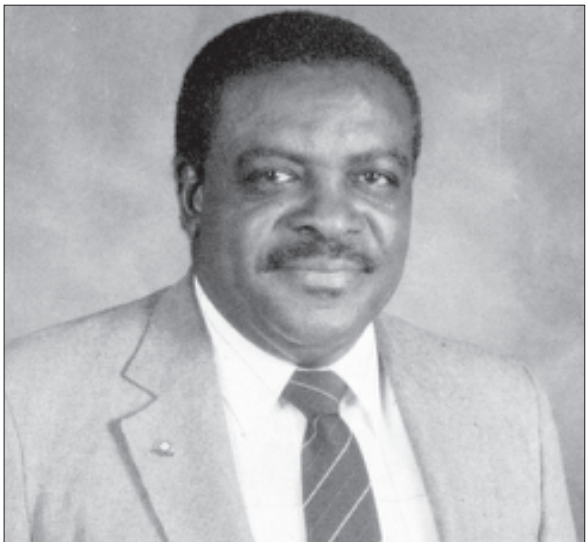
Nelson coached the men's basketball team at Hinds for 17 years, starting in 1977 when the campus was Utica Junior College. His time as coach included state championships in 1978-1979 and 1989-1990, the latter of which was

the program's first season playing home games on the Utica Campus.

The Mississippi Junior College Athletics Association named him Coach of the Year for the 1989-1990 season.

His coaching career spanned 29 seasons in all, including his years at Hinds County Agricultural High School. He produced six junior college All-Americans, five of

whom played professional basketball. In 1975, he was named national Alumni of the Year in sports by Jackson State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. He later earned a master's degree in Administration of Athletic Recreation from the University of Southern Mississippi. He died in June 2012.



Nelson



Senators Sollie B. Norwood, Hillman T. Frazier and David Blount visited Wednesday, February 12, with District 4 Hinds County Election Commissioner Yvonne Horton at the Capitol.



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By Dr. Kelton Edmonds
The Mississippi Link Newswire

Continued from last week
The Legacies And Larger Significance of The 1960 Sit-in Movement, Sparked In Greensboro

Similar to the successful 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, the students' triumphant coordinated protests in 1960 further demonstrated how mass economic boycotts could lead to desegregationist social victories, particularly when targeting businesses that relied heavily on black patronage.

The Greensboro Four only set out to challenge and change the discriminatory practices of the local Woolworth's, yet their movement expanded exponentially to ultimately bring about the desegregation of all Wool-



worth's lunch counters in the country.

The students of the Civil Rights era suddenly possessed a new weapon, the mass sit-in, which would continue to be used in Greensboro and around the country in various forms. The sit-ins combined with the freedom rides led to black students establishing their unique value and niche to the larger Civil

Rights Movement. Black students understood their unique, collective power and desired to harness their efforts under a national apparatus. Consequently, another major legacy of the student movement that emerged in Greensboro was it also directly led to the birth of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in April of 1960 in nearby Raleigh, NC on

the campus of Shaw University.

SNCC would soon emerge as one of the most formidable organizations of the decade, elevating students to the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement.

After marveling at the magnitude and effectiveness of the student protesters during the sit-ins, major Civil Rights organizations such as the NAACP, SCLC and CORE pressured the students to collapse their meteoric movement into the youth wing of one of their institutions under their supervision.

The students however, decided to remain autonomous and formulate their own student-led organization, while still adhering to non-violent principles. The students' decision to remain student-led received noteworthy support from several key adult Civil Rights leaders in Greensboro in addition to

Ella Baker from SCLC.

SNCC would prove to be an indispensable organization that not only championed directly confronting Jim Crow racism on numerous levels through organized protests and massive voter registration drives, but SNCC also further popularized the concept of participatory democracy and was the first major Civil Rights organization to evolve toward seriously embracing principles of black power ideology under Stokely Carmichael's (Kwame Ture) leadership in 1966.

Another legacy of the 1960 sit-in movement was that it offered the inspiration and blueprint for the second and more colossal wave of mass student protest in Greensboro in 1963. The 1963 student demonstrations in Greensboro would be even more locally successful.

ful than their predecessor as they desegregated all remaining businesses in downtown Greensboro and the student leader of the second wave of sit-ins, Jesse Jackson, would parlay his leadership in the student protests onto the national Civil Rights stage throughout the 20th century.

Similar to Greensboro, other cities throughout the South would experience a second and even third wave of similar protests to successfully desegregate other remaining businesses throughout the decade.

Ultimately, all mass student protests of the 1960s and thereafter owe their viability to the student-led Greensboro protests of 1960, including student black power activists and anti-war activists of the late 60s and 70s

See Part 3 next week

Continued from page 1

that you accepted the position with only being at Mississippi Valley for four years. How can we trust that you will stick with JSU?"

"I can assure you the Valley family is okay with my being here," Bynum responded before being interrupted by a loud crowd of "Oh no's" from the audience.

Fast forward nearly three years later, Bynum resigned from his presidency after being arrested in a prostitution sting at a Clinton hotel this week. Bynum was charged with procuring services of a prostitute, false statement of identity and simple possession of marijuana.

Bynum allegedly gave officers a fake name when he and 16 other people were busted in the sting operation.

Bynum's resignation was effective immediately Monday after his arrest early Sunday morning.

It is with the same cloud of suspicion that he was hired; he leaves with. Bynum's legacy at JSU will forever be tarnished. The university will survive.



Dear Jackson State University Campus Community:

Good afternoon. As you may know, President Bynum tendered his resignation to the Board of Trustees this morning, effective immediately. I understand that a sudden resignation brings uncertainty to the campus community, so I wanted to let you know that the Board has named an Acting President.

I am pleased to announce that the Board has appointed Thomas Hudson as Acting President. He currently serves as Special Assistant to the President and Chief Diversity Officer. A staff member since 2012 and a Jackson State alum, he is well known to all of you and is well-qualified for this role. I am certain his leadership will keep Jackson State moving forward without any loss of momentum. I am extremely pleased that he has accepted this important assignment.

As Special Assistant to the President and Chief Diversity Officer, Hudson served on the executive cabinet and provided guidance to senior leadership on all topics related to the university's future.

course and trajectory. With the Division of Human Resources and Office of General Counsel under his purview, Hudson oversaw institutional EEO and Title IX implementation and collaborated with other executive administrators on matters of curriculum, guidelines and practices.

A member of the Jackson State staff since 2012, Hudson has also served as Chief Operating Officer/Chief Diversity Officer, Chief Diversity and EEO Officer/Title IX Coordinator. As Chief Operating Officer, Hudson implemented cost-saving measures that resulted in a 10 percent decrease in the university's operational budget, coordinated academic and administrative restructuring efforts, resulting in an annual savings of \$4 million, and led institutional efforts that changes a projected year-end deficit to an approximate \$3 million cash balance.

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Hudson holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Jackson State University and a law degree from the University of Mississippi. Before joining the staff at Jackson State, Hudson founded his own law practice and served as an EEO specialist for the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA in Clinton.

Hudson serves as Co-Chairperson on the JSU Strategic Planning Committee and Vice Chairperson of the university system's Chief Diversity Officers' Council. He is a member of the Margaret Walker Alexander Center Board of Directors and the JSU Athletics Hall of Fame Foundation Board of Directors.

Jackson State University is a strong institution with a rich history and an important mission as the state's only urban university. Mr. Hudson understands its history, traditions, mission and all facets of the campus. As co-chair of the university's Strategic Planning Committee, he has also been focused on the university's future and is well-prepared to step into this role without a learning curve.

The Board of Trustees will discuss the future leadership of Jackson State at its regular Board Meeting next week.

Dr. Alfred Rankins Sr.
Commissioner of Higher Education



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JSU Retiree's Luncheon



Scholarship honors the memory Holmes County educator

Mississippi Link Newswire

The 10th Anniversary of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) Annual Scholarship Banquet recently announced its 2020 winners under a new name – The CSLC Merdis A. Anderson Scholarship Awards Banquet, Jan. 25, in the Lexington Multipurpose Complex, Lexington, Miss.

The scholarship winners were Charity Smith, 1st Place; Christian Davis, 2nd Place; and De'Arica Price, 3rd Place, all students of Holmes County Central High School.

Recipients competed among others in the CSLC Annual Essay Writing Contest which also now carries Anderson's name. Her pastor Rev. Walter Eskeridge Jr. encouraged the students and a packed audience with an outstanding inspirational message on the importance of education.

A 1970 MVSU Social Science graduate, Anderson devoted 38.5 years to teaching in Holmes and Amite counties, "not for the money but for the rewards that teaching brings."

She was an Amite County native who made Holmes County her home with her husband, the late Samuel Anderson and their two sons: Shawn and Kevin. Her education legacy was recognized in the U.S. Congressional Records by Congressman Bennie Thompson in



Anderson

2011.

Approximately, 10 years ago, in her retirement, she gracefully volunteered to serve and assist the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) in its various educational programs and services as a tutor and instructor. Establishing the scholarship essay writing contest was one of many educational activities she spearheaded.

"We are extremely grateful for the assistance Mrs. Anderson gave our organization in helping children over the years," said CSLC Board President Leslie Greer. "We want all of the students to know that they all are winners because they had the courage to participate."

See photos page 16.

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Special Programs Application



Mississippi Link Newswire

The JPS Special Programs Application is a common online application and may be used for these JPS special programs:

- Arts Access (Grades K-5)
- Academic and Performing Arts Complex (APAC)
- Elementary Academics (Grades 4-5)
- Elementary Arts (Grades 4-5)
- Secondary Academics (Grades 6-12)
- Secondary Arts (Grades 6-12)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Primary Years Programme (Grades K-5)
- Middle Years Programme (Grades 6-10)
- Diploma Programme (Grades 11-12)
- JPS Registration Requirements

All students accepted into a JPS special program will be required to complete the Jackson Public School District Registration Requirements in order to be officially enrolled. All requirements for enrollment can be found on the Registration Requirements Page. Please note there are annual transfer and enrollment requirements for all transfer students including both in-district and out-of-district transfers.

Students enrolling from a non-accredited private school or from a home school may be required to complete a district assessment.

Apply Now

The application window for the JPS special programs listed under Special Programs Application re-opens Wednesday, January 15, 2020. All applications must now be completed online and submitted by Saturday, February 15. In order for an application to be submitted successfully, the “Submit” button must be clicked before 11:59 p.m. February 15, 2020.

Michelle Obama Scholar accepted to Disney Dreamers Academy



Woods

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mauricsa Woods, a sophomore at the Michelle Obama Early College High School, will be spending four days this summer at the Disney Dreamers Academy. At 16 years old, she is already a small business owner and considers herself a young entrepreneur. The founder of Tootie’s Trendy Treats, Woods dreams of becoming one of the world’s best pastry chefs.

“I am determined to improve my skills and continue to pursue my educational endeavors,” Woods wrote in her applicant bio. “My deepest desire is to make the world a sweeter place, one ‘Trendy Treat’ at a time.”

Her application was accepted from thousands submitted by high school students between the ages of 13 and 19. Only 100 will attend the Disney Dreamers Academy each session. At the end of the four-day intensive, they will be equipped with the motivation, guidance and skills to make their dreams come true.

Dreamers distinguish themselves by demonstrating the qualities of intellectual curiosity, compassion, courage, generosity and optimism. The academy was founded in 2008 to give students with a dream the tools it takes to realize their potential. The Walt Disney Company, entertainer Steve Harvey and ESSENCE magazine host the event at Walt Disney World Resort. The academy’s dreamers will interact with Disney cast members, celebrities, industry experts and community leaders. They will also get a chance to enjoy the fun of the resort’s theme parks.

JPS partnerships selected for 2020 Governor’s and Partnership Excellence Awards

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is celebrating news that five school-community partnerships have been selected for 2020 Mississippi Association of Partners in Education Awards. The Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) presents these awards to recognize outstanding partnerships between schools and their communities.

The JPS honorees are as follows:

2020 Governor’s Award of Distinction

- Spann Elementary School and Multiple Community Partners
- 2020 Governor’s Award
- Lanier High School and Lanier High School National Alumni Association
- Jackson Public Schools, Arise2Read, and Multiple Community Partners
- Obama Magnet School and Multiple Community Partners

2020 Partnership Excellence Award

Chastain Middle School and Eaton Aerospace

A Governor’s Award luncheon will be held March 5 as a part of the 2020 Vision for Education Partnership Conference hosted by MAPE and Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools. The conference will be held March 4-6 at Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

JPS seeking parent and community feedback assessing district needs

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS is seeking the input of school parents and community members on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey. The purpose of this survey is to examine multiple sources of data to identify the prioritized needs of the district as well as of individual schools. The data will assist schools in monitoring and assessing the impact of programs and instruction on student achievement. In addition, the analysis of the data can help guide the refinement of current instructional practices within schools.

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment is required as part of the Consolidated Federal Program Application (CFPA) process and focuses on gathering data in five dimensions: student achievement, curriculum and instruction, professional development, family and community involvement and school context and organization.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We value your feedback.

The deadline to complete this survey is February 26.

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East Central Middle School in Moss Point wins 2020 Mississippi Regional Middle School Science Bowl

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Students from East Central Middle School in Moss Point won the recent 2020 Mississippi Regional Science Bowl and advanced to the National Science Bowl, which will be held April 30 – May 4 in Washington, D.C.

The Science Bowl was sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority’s Energy and Natural Resources Division and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. Teams from 11 middle schools around the state participated.

The Science Bowl is a fast-paced verbal forum in which students solve technical problems and answer questions related to all areas of science and math.

“The Mississippi Regional Science

Bowl encourages our state’s younger generations to excel in STEM-related curriculums so they are armed with the knowledge they will need for in-demand careers,” said Sumesh Arora, director of MDA’s Energy Division. “MDA congratulates East Central Middle School on its exciting win and is proud of all the schools and their teams for participating in this year’s event.”

Students from the East Central Middle School team will compete against other regional middle school winners from around the country at the national competition.

Ocean Springs Middle School was the runner-up at this year’s event.

Additional schools participating in

the 2020 Mississippi Regional Middle School Science Bowl were:

Amory Middle School, Amory
Cleveland Central Middle School, Cleveland
Columbus Middle School, Columbus
Enterprise Middle School, Enterprise
Germantown Middle School, Madison
Oxford Middle School, Oxford
Senatobia Middle School, Senatobia
Starkville Academy, Starkville
Tupelo Middle School, Tupelo

For more information regarding the Mississippi Regional Middle School Science Bowl, contact event coordinator Lisa Campbell at 601.359.6600 or lcampbell@mississippi.org.

Archie Taylor named Diverse: Issues in Higher Education 2020 Emerging Scholar

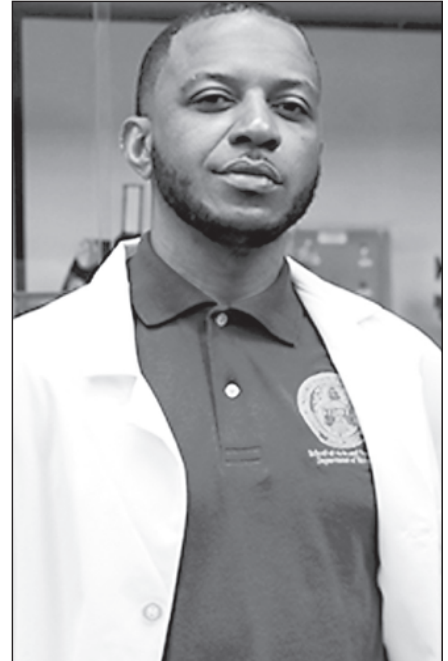
The Mississippi Link Newswire

One of Alcorn State University’s biology assistant professors is being recognized for his commitment to leading and equipping science students for a promising future.

Archie Taylor, who earned a bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-medicine from Alcorn in 2008, is one of 15 distinguished educators from across the country to be named as a Diverse: Issues in Higher Education 2020 Emerging Scholar. The scholars are selected based on several factors, including teaching, community service, scholarly awards, honors and academic accomplishments.

Because of the push for more diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers, Taylor appreciates his acknowledgment as an emerging scholar because it allows him to be an example to young minorities aspiring to pursue STEM careers.

“It is truly an honor and blessing,” said Taylor. “Most importantly, this honor allows me to expose underrepresented populations to other exciting STEM-related areas. I hope to show the students that their dreams and aspirations are valid. In many of the STEM-related fields, minorities are highly underrepresented. Despite this fact, I hope to show students that becoming a doctor, scientist, engineer, chemist, biologist, pharmacist, etc.



Taylor

is possible if they believe. To be recognized as an emerging scholar highlights how important diversity is in science. I hope to continue to use this platform to serve as a beacon of light for other students.”

Teaching at Alcorn has helped Taylor rise to a level worthy of such an award. He credits his alma mater for giving him the chance to teach and his daily interactions with his students as the driving

forces behind his success.

“Alcorn has played an important role in my growth. The students have truly reminded me of why I chose to go into science. The experience working and learning with them challenges me to climb higher and reach further to bring those along with me. At Alcorn, I can meet the needs of the students where they are. I am always up for the challenge to be the best advocate for students. I could not imagine doing science at no place other than Alcorn.”

Taylor hopes to establish laboratories across the state of Mississippi that caters to bringing awareness to citizens about various diseases and their treatments.

“My short-term goal is to establish a research center at Alcorn that takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding diseases and preventive measures. I started a laboratory with my colleague, Dr. Debarshi Roy, where we plan to address health disparity related biomedical research in cancer genomics. In this capacity, I hope to establish research centers throughout Mississippi to pay homage to Henrietta Lacks, whom we owe most of our advances in medicine, drugs, diseases and biomedical research.”

To read more about Taylor and see his feature, visit Diverse: Issues in Higher Education website.

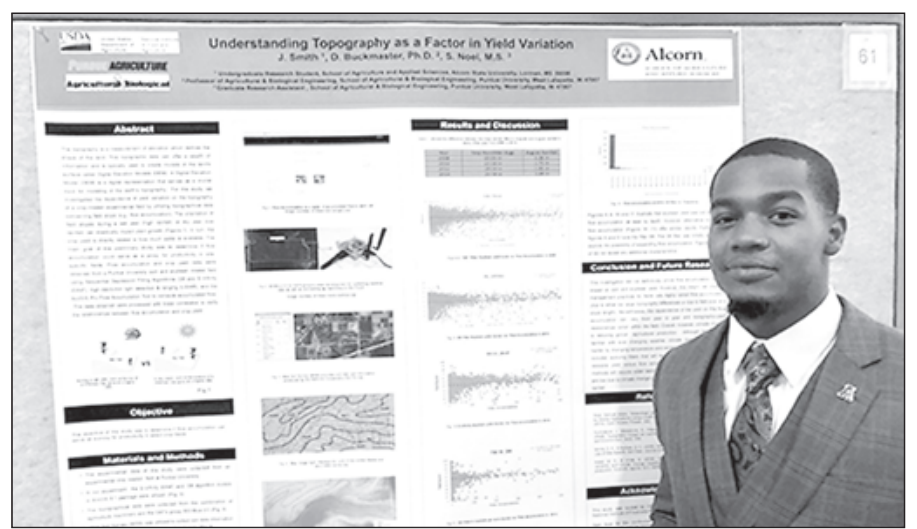
Jatavian Smith gains valuable experience, presents poster at Science and Engineering Conference

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jatavian Smith, a senior environmental science major at Alcorn, recently participated in the inaugural Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program’s (MSEIP) Capacity Competitiveness Enhancement Model (CCEM) Conference, held in Washington, D.C.

MSEIP CCEM focuses on leveraging federal investments through interagency and private-sector collaborations that allow students and faculty members to engage in cutting-edge science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research and other experiences at leading governmental and non-governmental STEM sites nationwide. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, this program mainly assists minority institutions in achieving long-term improvement in science and engineering education programs.

During the conference, Smith gave a poster presentation on “Understanding Topography as a Factor in Yield Variation.”



During his stay, he made sure to take advantage of the various learning and networking opportunities available to him.

According to Jacqueline McComb, assistant professor of environmental science, “The best way to get students involved in science and incorporate it in

their lives is to expose them to the various jobs in STEM.”

McComb hopes that students set academic goals that are distinct, achievable and will increase their overall well-being.

For more information, visit www.ed.gov. You may also contact McComb at 601.877.3368 or jmccomb@alcorn.edu.

Itunuoluwa Williams represents Alcorn as a contestant on the Black College Quiz Show

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A junior political science major from Alcorn State University tested her knowledge against students from across the country in a televised game show catered to HBCU students.

Itunuoluwa Williams of Lagos, Nigeria, was one of 24 contestants to participate in the Black College Quiz game show Jan. 10. The show airs nationally every Saturday at 6 a.m. CST on BounceTV and Sundays at 7 a.m. CST on ABC WAPT-16 in the Jackson, Mississippi market, and 5 a.m. Saturdays on FOX WLOV-27 in the Columbus-Tupelo market. Viewers can also watch old episodes on the show’s YouTube channel.

Sponsored by StateFarm and hosted by national radio personality, actor and comedian Nephew Tommy, the Black College Quiz game show series is to encourage an appreciation of African-American heritage by all people in the entertaining quiz show format.

Now in its seventh season, Black College Quiz shows the nation that African Americans have made significant contributions to the world.

Participants on the show earn scholarship money to help offset the costs associated with college.

Because of her experience at the university and the preparation she receives daily, Williams felt privileged to participate on behalf of Alcorn. She said that meeting college students from other schools was one of the highlights of the event.

“I was honored to represent Alcorn State University,” said Williams. “The atmosphere was lively. Everyone from the coaches from other schools to the studio



Williams

staff was concerned with our self-development and career goals. It was an enlightening experience meeting young, goal-oriented students who looked like me and have similar experiences on their college journey.”

While preparing for the competition, Williams took the time to dive deeper into her history and the challenges black people had to endure. The information she learned empowers her to avoid similar pitfalls to gain success in the future.

“I realized the importance of knowing my history and how my generation can learn from the mistakes of the past to have a better future. Studying for the program taught me so much about African and African-American progress in the world. I feel like I’ve been passed the baton to take my generation to greater heights.”

Spending time with hardworking and goal-oriented college students added more drive to Williams’ work ethic.

“Being amongst young African-American people who are determined to succeed was encouraging. It motivated me to continue the pursuit of my dream career, which is becoming an attorney.”

MVSU names Rueber Humanities Teacher of the Year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Division of Academic Affairs at Mississippi Valley State University is pleased to announce Dr. Micah A. Rueber as its 2019 Humanities Teacher of the Year recipient.

Each year, the Mississippi Humanities Council recognizes October’s designation of Arts and Humanities Month by bestowing Humanities Teacher Awards to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields at colleges and universities across the state.

Rueber, who serves as an associate professor of history in MVSU’s Department of Social Science, will receive his award from the Mississippi Humanities Council at an annual ceremony in Jackson March 27.

Approximately 30 awards will be given to individuals throughout Mississippi whose work is recognized for bringing insights of the humanities to public audiences.

“It is an honor to be chosen for this award, and I’m excited to have the opportunity to present my research,” said Rueber.

A program will be held in Rueber’s honor at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Carver Randle Auditorium, located on MVSU’s main campus in the W. A. Butts Social Sciences Building.

During the event, Rueber will give a special presentation entitled, “Time Bomb in a River: Ross Barnett, JFK and Two-Million Pounds of Missing Chlorine.”

The program will also include special remarks from Molly McMillian from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Rueber joined the MVSU faculty in 2012. His primary focus is



Rueber

on the history of the United States from 1887 1997 to 1945. In addition to serving as a professor, Rueber is also the coordinator of the General Studies and University Program.

Rueber is currently working on a manuscript based on the subject of his presentation. The manuscript, which has already attracted the interested interests of several academic presses, is expected to be completed in 2021.

Rueber’s other research includes the history of hunting, especially in the American South and government efforts in the first half of the 20th century to prevent the spread of syphilis.

Rueber holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Carleton College, a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Oregon, a Master of Arts degree in the history of science and technology from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in history from Mississippi State University.

To learn more about the Mississippi Humanities Council, visit www.mshumanities.org.



JSU alum Latasha Houston shares life journey in new book

By Deja Davis
theflash

“The most exciting thing about coming to Jackson State to do this forum is having this chance to come back to my university to be an example of ‘you can do it too’. It allows the opportunity for students and organizations to come together and exhibit the THEEILOVE mantra,” said Latasha Houston. Writer, businesswoman, influential speaker and author of “The Seven Year Promise,” Houston is a native of Jackson, Miss., where she attended Jackson State University, studying public relations and minoring in English. Post-graduation Houston moved to Washington, D.C. to take on a job working for the Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) for seven years. Writing has always been her first love since she was a child, but it was not until she came to college that made her really have to decide what was more important. “When I first came to Jackson State, I was a biology major because I thought I wanted to be a doctor. I have always loved writing since, but I thought that you could not make that much money as a writer, so I wanted to go with what was going to



make me some money at the time,” she said. Like most college students, choosing a major can definitely become a headache and what one may originally think is their calling may suddenly change. Houston shared one of her experiences that played a huge factor to help her along the way to where she currently is now. “I hated biology, so one day I went to Honors College to change my major to business administration and another student beside me asked why I am changing my major to business,” she said. Houston continued, “That student’s exact words to me were: ‘you know depending on what you want to do, you don’t need a business degree to own a business.’ That is what gave me the courage to change my major.” Seven years ago, she received a prophecy from God and for seven years she had been waiting on that prophecy to be fulfilled. This would be the fuel behind the creation of her first book entitled, “The Seven Year Promise.” The book is about Houston’s life, trials, vulnerable moments

and unexpected plans that she has overcome. “My book is a book of faith. It is about my faith journey and it is about me dealing with life ups and downs, daily disappointments and life altering events,” Houston said. “Each chapter of my book has a devotional to go with it and each devotional is broken down to a different rule.” Even though her life is being talked about, she wants men and women to feel strengthened and encouraged while reading about her overcoming adversities. Houston shared some advice to assist students at Jackson State to secure a job while in school and after graduating. “Make sure you write it all down, no matter how big or how small you think it is, write down your thoughts.” “Take advantage of any type of writing classes that you can as well as speaking classes because they’re both almost synonymous.” “Invest in professional photos, head shots and personality shots.” “Network because the person that you might meet today may be the person that you need tomorrow.”

2020 Presidential Bus Tour will kick-off in North Mississippi

Jackson State University

The traditional President Bus Tour will begin this week at West Point High School for the 2020 recruiting season. The purpose of the Bus Tour is to provide information about admissions, financial aid, scholarships and other programs and activities that Jackson State has to offer. “This initiative is vital because it puts JSU in front of prospective students across the high school spectrum, freshmen through seniors,” says Cheryl Pollard, associate vice president for enrollment management. “The ability to engage students early in their high school career is critical to building a pipeline of potential students which in turn ultimately impacts our student enrollment.” The dates and locations for the upcoming Presidential Bus Tour are: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, West Point High School in West Point, MS from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday, February 26, 2020, Horn Lake High School in Horn Lake, MS from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Pollard. PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH/JSU

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, Holly Springs High School in Holly Springs, MS from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Shannon High School in Shannon, MS from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. “Campus partners from across the enterprise will be attending this program to engage students, faculty and staff,” says Pollard. The initiative will also highlight JSU’s five academic colleges and other campus departments. For more information regarding the tour, contact 601 979-2913.

JSU networks during Day at the Capitol event

By Jordon Canada
theflash

Jackson State University students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at Mississippi’s State Capitol in downtown Jackson on Jan. 29 to network with state legislatures and advocate funding for the 2020 fiscal year. This annual event has proven fruitful for Jackson State over the past few years. JSU Day at the Capitol not only helps to build and maintain relationships between university leaders and Mississippi’s elected officials, but it also gives JSU the opportunity to advocate for financial assistance from the state. During last year’s Day at the Capitol event, JSU requested a total of \$6.5 million to revitalize three academic programs: School of Public Health, the Institute of Government and the College of Education. Autumn Moore, a sophomore biology/pre-med major from Alton, Ill., explained some of the changes she has witnessed since last year. “In the John A. Peoples building, I noticed that the lecture rooms have been renovated and has all new seats. I also noticed that the labs in that building are also being renovated,” said Moore. This year the university leaders wanted to take a different approach from the previous year. “What we’re trying to do is take a day during the legislative session in order to thank the legislature for all they’ve done for Jackson State. We want to also let them know that we’re an outstanding investment,”



Jackson State University students, staff, faculty and administrators during JSU Day at the Capitol event PHOTO BY JORDON CANADA

said JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. Bynum continued, “We’re also highlighting our School of Education. We want to let them know that we are being good stewards with the tax dollars, so we are highlighting our College of Health Sciences, School of Social Work, School of Public Health and also our School of Education.” In the marble decorated foyer of the capital building, several

booths were setup; two of those booths were organized to highlight the excellence of JSU’s College of Education and the College of Health Sciences. The College of Education booth informed legislators and city leaders that the department has one of the highest enrollments at JSU. The booth also highlighted the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education explaining the ways in which the program

prepares educators to teach in a very diverse field of learners. The College of Health Sciences booth highlighted the School of Social Work and the School of Public Health. At the booth, students were informed of what they would receive from being enrolled in the school. The School of Social Work not only prepares students to be a social work generalist, but also focuses on the students’ identity as an ethi-

cal professional in the field of social work. Keiterious Powell, a senior recreation administration major from Clarksdale, Miss., said attendance was necessary so legislatures can know how passionate and hard-working students really are. “It is important for students to show up at this event, so they can be aware of the great deal of networking that goes into getting funding for the school.”

Powell continued, “Students are giving the time to come to the event, so students should be given an incentive for giving their support to the school.” Adrienne Jackson, a senior marketing major from Grambling, La., said JSU Day at the Capitol was very beneficial. “The event was critical to have so that state leaders can realize the importance of funding JSU,” said Jackson.

Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy hosts public launch event featuring nation’s leading nonprofit and philanthropic voices

More than 200 nonprofit and philanthropic leaders gather to celebrate the organization’s success and hear from national leaders

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy (The Alliance), the state’s nonprofit and philanthropic membership association, hosted its official public launch during a luncheon at the Two Mississippi Museums featuring some of the nation’s foremost experts in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, including Phil Buchanan, executive director of the Center for Effective Philanthropy; Jeffrey Moore, chief strategy officer at Independent Sector; Donna Murray-Brown, board president for the National Council of Nonprofits and president and CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association; and Janine Lee, president and CEO of the Southeastern Council of Foundations.

“Bringing nonprofits and philanthropy together is central to our mission, and this event is a clear example of the tremendous value in creating space for leaders and professionals in these sectors to share ideas and information,” said Sammy Moon, executive director of The Alliance. “The work we’re doing is helping create a national model for what’s possible, and we’re proud to be at the forefront of an effort to enhance quality of life for Mississippi’s children, families and communities.”

The luncheon, which was sponsored in part by Volunteer Mississippi, the Phil Hardin Foundation and United Way of the Capital Area, brought together more than 200 nonprofit and philanthropic professionals from around the state to learn, network and strengthen partnerships that will help improve outcomes for children, families and communities in Mississippi.

More than six percent of the state’s workforce is employed in the nonprofit or philanthropic sector, which has a significant impact on the state economy. For example, the Endow Mississippi state tax credit program, which was passed in the 2019 legislative session, helped generate \$2 million in investments in nonprofit endowment funds in communities throughout Mississippi – funds that will be invested in those communities in the future.

“We are proud and privileged to have the opportunity to host nationally renowned leaders and experts as well as our colleagues from throughout the state as we seek new and innovative ways to grow and strengthen all of our state’s nonprofits and grantmakers,” said Aisha Nyandoro president of The Alliance board of directors and executive director of Springboard to Opportunities. “This launch is the beginning of many exciting opportunities for our state, which is emerging as a leader in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors.”

The Alliance also hosted a legislative breakfast to celebrate the success of the Endow Mississippi program and recognize the legislative champions for the initiative – State Senator Joey Fillingame (R-District 41), State Representative John Thomas “Trey” Lamar (R-District 8), and former State Representative Jeffery C. Smith (Columbus). “We understand our power is in partnerships,” said Moon. “We will continue to build positive relationships with legislators, policymakers, business leaders and others to improve outcomes for Mississippi’s children, families and communities.”

For more information on The Alliance, visit www.alliancems.org or call 601 968-0061.

Governor Reeves announces disaster assistance for DeSoto County and neighboring counties

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Residents and businesses in those counties can apply for low-interest disaster loans from SBA.

“Here in the Hospitality State, we never have to think twice about helping our neighbors when times are tough. We step up and hold out a helping hand to our fellow Mississippian. The people and businesses in Northwest Mississippi deserve that helping hand. Working with the U.S. Small Business Administration, I am committed to helping Mississippi families, businesses and communities get back on their feet whenever disaster strikes,” said Reeves.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is April 6, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Nov. 6, 2020.

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.

Statement from Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann on denial of federal government’s motion to dismiss in 16th Section takings lawsuit

The Mississippi Link Newswire

“Yesterday, the United States Court of Federal Claims ruled in favor of the State and denied the federal government’s motion to dismiss Mississippi’s valid claim for relief from the unconstitutional taking of thousands of acres of 16th Section land. When we filed this litigation, I said that when public trust land is destroyed unlawfully, our children are the ones who suffer. The only responsible action is for the federal government to make our school districts whole.”

Background on State of Mississippi v. USA, Consolidated Nos. 19-231L/19-258L (16th Section Takings Case)

In February 2019, then-Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann and the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office filed suit against the federal government on behalf of school children in districts in southwest Mississippi alleging an unconstitutional taking of thousands of acres of 16th Section land.

Hosemann is currently serving as Lieutenant Governor, elected in November 2019.

The allegations in the complaint, filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, stem from artificial flooding caused by the Old River Control Structure, a water control project under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Launched in the early 1950s, the project sought to change the natural course of water flowing from the Mississippi River to the Atchafalaya River by diverting more water down the Mississippi River. The goal was to prevent damage to cities in Louisiana, including Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

The project, however, failed to account for the inevitable destruction of Mississippi land. Over the years, artificial flooding from the structure has caused increased siltation, deterioration of wildlife habitats, tree mortality and other problems on private and public land along almost 100 miles of the Mississippi River.

The lawsuit, which alleges the federal government’s artificial flooding amounts to an unconstitutional taking, seeks at least \$25 million in damages. The U.S. Constitution’s Fifth Amendment Takings Clause requires the government to pay “just” compensation when it takes property for public use.

The school districts represented in the lawsuit include the Claiborne County School District, Jefferson County School District, Natchez-Adams School District and the Wilkinson County School District.

Sixteenth Section land is select property in each county set aside when the state was formed for the benefit of public schools. Across the state, about 640,000 acres of 16th Section land are held in trust for school districts.

For more information about 16th Section land in Mississippi, visit <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Public-Lands/Pages/16th-Section-Lands.aspx>.

Senator John Horhn honored the recipients of the Governor’s Arts Awards, February 6, with Senate Resolutions for their contributions to the arts in Mississippi and the world



Standing left to right are: Richard Kelso of Cleveland, recipient of Senate Resolution 531 and was awarded the 2020 Governor’s Arts Award for Excellence in Visual Arts; Dr. Carmen J. Walters received Senate Concurrent Resolution 534 and was awarded the 2020 Governor’s Arts Award for Preservation of the Arts because of the school’s extensive art collection; Steve Forbert, a folk rock singer from Meridian, received Senate Concurrent Resolution 532 for being awarded the 2020 Governor’s Arts Award for Excellence in Music; Henry Danton of Petal, received Senate Concurrent Resolution 533 for being awarded the Governor’s Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in Dance; The Jackson Southernaires of Jackson, members Huey Williams, James Burks and Maurice Surrrell, received Senate Concurrent Resolution 535 for being awarded the Governor’s Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in Music. Williams’ granddaughter Braydi Carter, is pictured behind him.

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

With no clear front runner, Bloomberg spends \$3.5 million with the Black Press

By Hazel Trice Edney
and Hamil Harris
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg has just made Black History. The presidential candidate who has been running his campaign through television ads and private meetings this week spent a historic amount of money with black newspapers – \$3.5 million.

“Of all the presidential candidates in the 2020 election, Bloomberg just made the largest single political ad buy in the history of the NNPA,” said Ben Chavis, president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. “The money has already been distributed and it’s running in our newspapers right now.”

Chavis says the money will be broken down among NNPA member newspapers in states that hold primaries on Super Tuesday and beyond. Super Tuesday states include Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. “It’s a national ad buy and over 129 of our newspapers will benefit from that,” Chavis said. “What it shows is that the Bloomberg campaign is taking the black vote seriously and it’s taking the Black Press seriously.”

NNPA, which turns 80 in March, has a membership of more than 200 black-owned newspapers around the country. A longstanding grievance aired by the organization is that Democratic candidates and the Democratic National Convention has tended to take black newspapers and the black voters who read them, for granted. This is despite the fact that African Americans vote for Democratic presidential candidates 95 percent of the time.



Then New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg with then President Barack Obama. Bloomberg, who has yet to directly compete in a Democratic primary or caucus, is courting black voters through advertisements and private meetings – including a \$3.5 million ad buy in the Black Press.

While Chavis was clear that that NNPA does not endorse candidates, dollars spent in black newspapers and with black media are often seen as the sign of a candidate who is serious about black issues.

“NNPA is a 501-C6; so we don’t endorse,” said Chavis. “But our member newspapers have the freedom to endorse whatever candidate they feel will best serve black America. But I’d just like to note for Black History month, that Bloomberg just made Black history.”

Biden has long been thought to be the front runner in the black community, especially because of his faithful service as vice president to President Barack Obama. But it is clear that Bloomberg’s strategy is to meet him head on. While Biden has yet to lay out a black agenda, Bloomberg, Jan. 19, held a meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma to lay out his black economic agenda.

Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chambers Inc., confirmed that he attended that meeting at the invitation of the Bloomberg campaign.

“It did include an economic

agenda for African Americans. And it was very close to the U. S. Black Chambers’ economic agenda from increasing the number of black-owned businesses to increasing the number of deposits into black banks, increase the number of African American homeowners, increase the number of contracts awarded to black businesses by the federal government – all issues pertaining to improving the economic agenda for black people,” Busby recalled. “I think at the end of the day he is very open to improving conditions for black people.”

Stressing that the USBC is a non-profit and cannot endorse candidates, Busby says he has had no such meeting with Biden. “Our plan is to meet with all of the candidates to discuss what they plan to do with black folks.”

According to the Associated Press, at the Tulsa meeting, Bloomberg “spoke out against an American history of race-based economic inequality from slavery to segregation to redlining, and outlined a proposal aimed at increasing the number of black-owned homes and businesses. The plan includes a \$70 billion investment in the nation’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods.”

With Iowa and New Hampshire, largely white states that are now all but in rear view, the political armies of the Democratic Party are racing from New Hampshire to Nevada and South Carolina and while Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg are claiming front runner status, Bloomberg will not be on any ballot until Super Tuesday, March 3, when voters go to the polls in 12 states where nearly a quarter of the Democratic delegates will be selected.

But that didn’t stop Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser from endorsing the former New York City mayor who has been depositing some of his billions in states across the country and showing up at African-American events that is eroding former Vice President Joe Bidens’ firewall of success. “We can resolve our most pressing problems if we have the right leader to turn innovative ideas into reality,” Bowser said in a Jan 30 tweet. “Mike Bloomberg is a problem-solver with a proven track record of getting things done. He’s a mentor and friend and I’m proud to endorse him for president.”

The Democratic primary is an



Chavis

11 candidate race with five other major contenders: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Vice President Joe Biden. Right now, there is no clear front runner.

Initially Biden was counting on South Carolina, North Carolina and other southern states with a large number of African-American voters to give him a much needed boost. But according to one key political observer that remains to be seen.

“Black voters are still shopping. I don’t go by the polls and when it comes to black women we are very strategic,” said Melanie Campbell, president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. “The country is in a challenging place. The whole idea of representative Democracy is under threat.”

African Americans continue to give Biden his advantage in North Carolina, where he is polling at 39 percent to 12 percent for Bloomberg and 10 percent for Sanders. But given Bloomberg’s aggressive strategy, this might not be enough.

During his speech in Tulsa, Bloomberg apologized for the controversial “stop and frisk” used by the NYPD while he was the mayor of New York City. Bloomberg went to Tulsa to com-

memorate the 1921 race riots in Tulsa where African-American business owners were killed and their shops burned in one of the worse race riots in US history.

“For hundreds of years, America systematically stole black lives, black freedom and black labor,” Bloomberg told the audience. “A theft of labor and a transfer of wealth – enshrined in law and enforced by violence.”

Bloomberg also unveiled his “Greenwood Initiative” that calls for: The creation of 1 million new black homeowners in the next decade; the creation of 100,000 new black-owned businesses in ten years; the investment of \$70 billion in 100 of America’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods.

While Obama has not endorsed any candidate, Bloomberg has launched an ad campaign promoting his connection with Obama that starts with a news clip featuring his words from 2013.

“At a time when Washington is divided in old ideological battles, he shows us what can be achieved when we bring people together to seek pragmatic solutions,” Obama says about Bloomberg in the 30-second political ad.

One of the challenges that each of the candidates have is generating excitement, according to E. Faye Williams, president of National Congress of Black Women.

“There is no excitement in the race and my concern is that people will stay home instead of going to the polls,” Williams said. “We had Senators Cory Booker and Kamala Harris but they are gone and right now we in the black community feel left out.”

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

Embezzlement

Continued from page 1

properly gauge outcomes of the TANF dollars that were being spent,” Human Services spokesperson Danny Blanton said Thursday.

“Things may not have been done the right way in the past but we’re putting the measures in place to make sure they’re done the right way in the future,” Blanton said, including revising the agency’s subgrantee manual and conducting subgrantee training. None of the millions of dollars the Mississippi Community Education Center receives from the state pays for the food, books or used clothing it gives to needy citizens; Lamkin said the center gathers all those materials through donations.

Mississippi Today obtained copies of the center’s state contracts, which include objectives such as “‘Connect the Dots’ between state agencies, nonprofits and other organizations in the State to provide a greater network of support and increase access for families.” Notably, the first objective in the contract is “increase employability” within the TANF population, such as through soft skills training and resume writing. It is also required to provide high school diploma and credit recovery courses, parenting classes, teen pregnancy education, including abstinence education.

In other words, the tens of millions of dollars taxpayers gave to Mississippi Community Education Center was not to provide direct assistance to poor families. Rather, it was to refer them to partner agencies that could meet their needs.

“We turn around and fund other good services across the state with some of that money,” New told *Mississippi Today* in a 2018 interview.

“All of that money didn’t come to Families First to do Families First activities every day. It was a flow-through.”

New, who could not be reached on her cellphone Wednesday evening, said Families First exists to support “all the good stuff already being done out there.” She added: “Our job is to connect the dots.”

Mississippi’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families attracted national attention in 2017 when Human Services reported rejecting 98.5 percent of welfare applicants the previous year. The agency also reported leaving nearly \$50 million in TANF funds unused. After that, the agency stopped publishing its approval rate in annual reports, which shrunk from 108 pages in 2004 to 20 pages in 2019 – one way the agency managed its programs in secrecy under director Davis. Davis regularly refused

to allow his employees, even taxpayer-funded agency spokespeople, to talk with the press.

Davis used the structure of Families First, which essentially privatized a large portion of the welfare program, to embezzle TANF money, the auditor concluded.

New and her son and employee, Zach New, allegedly transferred millions of welfare dollars to their private businesses and converted the funds to their personal use through “fraudulent documents, at least one forged signature, and deceptive accounting measures,” according to the state auditor’s release.

The News and Davis also allegedly used TANF dollars to pay for professional wrestler Brett DiBiase’s stay at a luxury rehabilitation facility in Malibu – money they claimed they were paying him to teach classes on the dangers of drug abuse. Together they allegedly took welfare money and invested it in medical device companies in Florida, the auditor’s office said.

The auditor has not released the dollar amount of the scheme as the investigation continues. The News, Davis and other state and nonprofit employees indicted in what investigators called a “sprawling conspiracy” face hundreds of years in prison, the release said.

New, founder of the private New Summit School in Jackson, has long had the support of state leadership and often appeared on conservative SuperTalk radio to promote her work.

In his final State of the State address in January 2019, then-Gov. Phil Bryant boosted her organization’s role in “helping to restore and support the entire family.”

“The Families First platform has become a model of success for thousands of Mississippians and one that is being emulated all across America,” Bryant said in the address.

In 2016, Bryant and his wife, Deborah, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Nancy New and Davis, a Bryant appointee, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the original Families First office in Jackson before it moved to the State Street location.

“I grew up in a family with a mother,” said First Lady Bryant. “She believed in doing the right thing. We had that growing up. But some of these children don’t have that opportunity. This (new Families First facility) is for them.”

In previous years, New attempted unsuccessfully

to open a charter school in Leflore County using the Mississippi Community Education Center as the school’s potential operator.

Bryant touted his work with New’s organization as recently as November 2019, when he rolled out the last phase of his anti-obesity initiative that the Mississippi Community Education Center cosponsored.

“Governor Bryant has never tolerated public corruption of any kind,” Joey Songy, Bryant’s chief of staff and current business partner, told *Mississippi Today* in a statement. “On the same afternoon the governor was informed of possible wrongdoing at DHS he called the state auditor and personally reported it to Shad White. He believes anyone found guilty of any wrongdoing should be held accountable.”

Blanton said the agency’s executive management team uncovered the discrepancies after an internal audit. Jacob Black, the agency’s current interim director, reported that information to then-Gov. Phil Bryant. Davis abruptly resigned in July 2019.

“John Davis had 30 years of experience with the agency so it was never questioned when (TANF) was unilaterally distributed to subgrantees without an RFP (Request for Proposals) process,” Blanton said.

Bryant replaced Davis with former FBI agent Christopher Freeze, who announced Human Services would be undergoing more stringent procurement practices before stepping down in January.

“I don’t care how politically connected a person may be,” State Auditor Shad White said in his release. “You do not have the right to treat taxpayer money as your own or to lie to the taxpayers about what you’re doing with that money. Others doing this kind of thing are on notice: this will not be tolerated now.”

New’s organization was not the only to receive a contract from Human Services to run Families First for Mississippi. The operation was split between Mississippi Community Education Center, which managed the services for central and south Mississippi, and Family Resource Center of Northeast Mississippi, which manages the northern offices.

The charges the auditor’s office announced this week did not involve Family Resource Center of Northeast Mississippi.

The 2019 contracts to the two nonprofits were for the same amount, \$10.6 million, but state expen-

diture reporting shows funding to the north office slowed significantly as it made deep cuts to staffing and services in the last year, the *Daily Journal* reported.

During the contract period, the Family Resource Center received less than \$7 million while Mississippi Community Education Center received nearly \$18 million. In the last six months, while the investigation was ongoing, Family Resource Center received just \$1.5 million while Mississippi Community Education Center received \$7 million.

The agency awarded both nonprofits new contracts in December, neither of which appear on the state’s transparency website.

The Families First website is now defunct and Lamkin said that while Mississippi Community Education Center’s operations have not been interrupted, the future of Families First is unclear.

So is the case for thousands of families living in poverty, who may not receive the assistance they need even if the center remains open.

Lamkin explained what happens when a person who may be behind on a utility bill visits the center, which is located inside the former Human Services government building: “Let’s say, for instance, somebody comes in and they say, ‘They’re about to cut my gas off. I need \$40 for my gas bill.’ Well I can’t just give them \$40.”

Lamkin gestured to the shelves in the Families First food pantry, lined almost exclusively with canned corn and green beans. “But I can give them \$40 worth of food.”

Asked why the welfare agency couldn’t provide energy assistance, Lamkin responded, “I don’t have the funding,” then clarified, “Our grant doesn’t allow for that. I can’t just give a client cash.”

In a video announcing the opening of the new center in September, Lamkin encourages people to visit the center to “play with our VR (virtual reality) equipment.” He declined Thursday to comment further.

Meanwhile, the number of families in the state who receive cash assistance through TANF has plummeted from over 12,000 a decade ago to just 3,500 in 2019, serving less than five percent of the children who live in poverty in Mississippi.

Editor’s note: This story has been updated to reflect that an internal audit and the human-services management team revealed discrepancies that prompted the auditor’s investigation.

The victory is in being obedient

PART 2

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



After the death of Moses, Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel, and God encouraged Joshua. In Joshua 1:5, He said, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. I will not fail thee.”

Christian friend, you need to be encouraged. You might have a rough road ahead of you, but it will not be too hard for you if the Lord is with you. Joshua knew that the Lord would be with him and that would take him through.

When the Israelites crossed

the Jordan River into the Canaan Land, they came to the City of Jericho. God said He would give the city to them. The walls of Jericho were no trouble to God. He told Israel to march around the walls of the city once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. When they obeyed Him, He brought down the walls.

Romans 8:37 states, “We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” The walls were a big obstacle for Israel in conquering Jericho. Friends, you will not get victory without a battle. You will have to fight Satan all the way. You may come up against some high walls, but

God will make a way for you.

He gave Israel the order to march around the city and to keep silent. That was a difficult order, but they obeyed it. That might have seemed foolish to them, but God saw that it was necessary for them to obtain victory. The victory is in being obedient to the One who made the plan.

As Israel marched around the walls of Jericho the seventh day, they were commanded to sound the trumpet. The sound of the trumpet was the only thing blasting against the walls.

Many people try to battle the enemy with their own hands, but they need to leave it where God ordained the

church to have victory. If you will be still and hear what the Spirit says, you can go through any problem or trial victoriously.

Friend, if you are going to make it, you must line up with God’s Word. God’s church is marching on with the truth, and I intend to march with it.

God’s people never lose their thrill for the sounding of the trumpet. If you lose your love for the truth, you will lose the victory.

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.

Not just another day

PRESERVED

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Feb. 14th? That’s just another day to me.” “I hate Valentine’s Day at my job. All the women get roses and I get nothing.”

“It’s basically another Christmas for women.” Do comments like these sound familiar? Since Valentine’s Day is just around the corner, we are either bound to say or hear one of these from men and women, single and married.

Maybe because I was blessed to have a wonderful father who always gave me, my 3 sisters and my mom candy for Valentine’s Day, I look forward to it. It was sweet that my dad, an extremely generous man, would be so focused on getting chocolate candy hearts for us. Of course, mama always got the biggest one.

Even though we live hours apart now, because of this, there is still a part of me that expects to see that box of candy sitting on the dining room table on Valentine’s Day.

Regardless of whether I get anything for Valentine’s Day, my thoughts of Valentine’s Day are usually pretty joyful. But Valentine’s Day hasn’t always been good day for me. One year, I was so heartbroken that even walking down the Valentine’s aisle in the grocery store brought me to tears. It was just my emotions getting the best of me, but I just couldn’t take why on a day that celebrated love, God would allow me to once again spend it alone, without any gifts of love and feeling unloved.

Following my dad’s tradition, one thing I’ve done is slowly

change my focus: First, I make sure that I treat myself on Valentine’s Day whether I’m in a relationship or not. Next, I give to others instead of waiting for others to give to me. I’ve found that inexpensive cards, homemade treats and candy turn out to be valuable to both the giver and the receiver.


The real beauty of Valentine’s Day is being able to give unconditional love with a grateful heart. Luke 6:38 reminds “Give, and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

I’ve also meditated on this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to you first celebrating all that you have done in my life and all that you promise to do for me. No longer will I place counterfeit intimacy and companionship over the desire you have for me to have Godly intimacy with you. I will remain submitted to your Godly will and look forward to the many opportunities that you give me to show your grace and love to others. I John 4:18 says “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.” I praise you in advance for giving me wisdom and the right strategies as I will no longer be controlled by fear but will live my life with the passion of David, the commitment of Paul and the mind of Christ. Amen.

Happy Valentine’s Day and spread God’s love.

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



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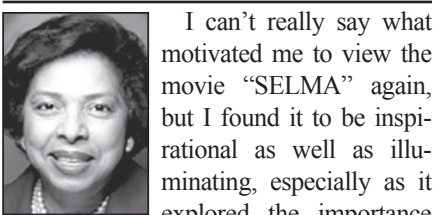
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More than ‘a vote’

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



I can’t really say what motivated me to view the movie “SELMA” again, but I found it to be inspirational as well as illuminating, especially as it explored the importance of voting. I’ve come to believe those of us who are more chronically advanced, politically oriented or who, out of a sense of obligation to our predecessors, routinely vote with the regularity of “Old Faithful,” sometimes fail to understand that others haven’t learned or been taught the significance of The Vote. I don’t condemn those who have a less than complete understanding of voting – I question those of us who have forgotten to teach.

I have always believed that something others want to deny you or in which they want to prevent you from participation is important, especially to them. We can see this played out historically in education, jobs and voting.

To understand the real importance of voting, we must quickly review the voting process before 1965.

Ratified in 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution prohibited states from denying a male citizen the right to vote based on “race, color or previous condition of servitude.” Many will also forget that women had to wait until 1920 to receive the right to vote. This amendment could change the law, but it could not change the hearts and minds of those who were entrenched in the belief in racial superiority.

Those who so believed and administered the voting process in states and localities established extra-legal methods to prevent African Americans from voting. Most notable of these methods were literacy tests which required unreasonable factual knowledge such as reciting the Constitution or reciting with perfect accuracy specific facts about state laws. Some “tests” were as ridiculous as stating the number of beans in a large jar or the number of bubbles that could be created by a bar of soap. These tests were used to disqualify African-American voters, but these same “tests” were not administered to whites.

In the aftermath of the brutal, bloody events on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and other violent deaths in the struggle to gain the unencumbered voting rights, in March of 1965, the 1965 Voting Rights Act was signed into law.

Fast forward to today. Just what do we give up without the unencumbered right to vote. Of course, we give up the right to select a candidate of our choice. That loss is something that most will immediately recognize, but what peripheral losses will we experience?

Statistically, progressive voters outnumber conservative voters by a wide margin. By needing to overcome voter apathy inspired by a “lack of excitement” or the failure of candidates to pass a 100% litmus tests of political purity, we have surrendered our polling place power. Our acceptance of the belief that “our votes don’t count” surrenders our lives to those who have no concerns about our or our children’s future.

Probably our most significant loss is in the judicial arena. For as long as I can remember, the Civil Rights community has depended upon the reasoned judgment of a judiciary with a dedication to upholding the law for all citizens instead of one committed to conservative partisan interests.

Court decisions limiting the rights of the masses exemplified by Citizens United, upholding Republican Party Gerrymandering and loosening the enforcement guidelines of the Voting Rights Act all stand in stark contrast to the expansion of rights engendered by the Brown v. Board decision.

Failing to vote or allowing petty considerations to prevent us from voting with others who share our short- and long-term interests, we choose to live life by default – accepting only what others offer us. Our offering to our children is the same.

E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women. She hosts “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM 89.3 radio.

National Gun Violence Survivors Week highlights those whose lives have been changed forever

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



“On January 8, 2011, I was performing my favorite duty as a Congresswoman – meeting with my constituents – when it happened. In a matter of seconds, a gunman shot and killed six people, injured 12 others and shot me in the head outside a Safeway in Tucson, Arizona. I keep the memories of those we lost that day – nine-year-old Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, Gabe Zimmerman and Judge John Roll – close to my heart. And I will be forever bonded to my fellow survivors who will spend the rest of their lives dealing with injuries and trauma.” – Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

Sometimes, Cleopatra Pendleton walks to her closet and runs her hands through a sequined yellow dress. It was the dress her daughter Hadiya wore to her eighth-grade graduation luncheon.

“Sometimes, for just a moment, I imagine that I’m saving it for the chil-

dren that she will never get a chance to have,” Cleopatra says.

Hadiya was shot and killed seven years ago, while standing in a Chicago park with friends after taking her final exams. Just a week earlier, she had marched with pride in President Obama’s inauguration ceremony.

Thirteen-year-old Malachi Hemphill accidentally shot himself while playing with a gun his friend stole from a neighbor. The owner, who’d kept it in a console in his unlocked car, didn’t report it stolen and didn’t even notice it was missing.

“When his heart stopped, so did ours,” his mother, Shaniqua Stephens, says.

Jerri Mauldin Green has been affected by gun violence three times. She grew up hearing the tragic story of her grandparents’ murder-suicide when her mother was only 6 years old. Her childhood best friend was murdered by the father of her children when the boys were only 2 years old and 4 years old. And just this year, a new friend she’d met at a leadership course was shot and killed in his home.

In honor of National Gun Violence Survivors week, Everytown For Gun Safety is sharing the stories of those whose lives have been forever changed by gun violence. National Urban League is proud to be a partner of Everytown, a coalition that includes parents, students, responsible gun owners, teachers, police officers, elected officials and social justice organizations, working together to end gun violence and build safer communities.

National Gun Violence Survivors Week which began last year, is focused on sharing and amplifying the stories of gun violence survivors who live with the impact of gun violence every day of the year. The week is observed in early February because this marks the approximate time that gun deaths in the United States surpass the number of gun deaths experienced by our peer countries in an entire calendar year.

Hundreds of survivors like Cleopatra, Shaniqua and Jerri, who have lost loved ones, along with those who have witnessed an act of gun violence, or been threatened or wounded with a

gun, are sharing their stories on the Moments that Survive story wall. Survivors and allies are amplifying their voices on social media using the hashtag #MomentsThatSurvive, to represent the moments and memories that endure for survivors after experiencing gun violence.

There are more survivors than we might imagine. A shocking 58 percent of American adults have experienced gun violence or are close to someone who has.

They are mothers like Tonjula Mason-Shelby, who felt that her reason for living was taken from her when her only child, Kimondra Mason, was gunned down. They are women who found the courage to leave their abusers, like Laura Morris who bears the scar of a gunshot wound on her shoulder. They are daughters like Khary Penebaker, whose mother Joyce took her own life with a gun when Khary was a child.

Their lives have been changed lives forever. Sharing their stories highlights the devastating human consequences of gun violence in America.

Hair discrimination is alive and well

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Andrew Johnson, a high school wrestler, was forced to submit to the humiliating act of having his dreadlocks shorn or have his New Jersey team

forfeit their match to the opposing team. A gleeful white woman seemed too pleased to invade the young man’s person, and his team won, but at what price? When this happened in December of 2018, there was a national outcry, and the referee was suspended.

A year later, DeAndre Arnold, a senior at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu, Texas, was told that he would not be able to graduate unless he cut his hair. He’s been growing his dreads for more than five years, often wearing them in a bun so that they did not violate the school rule that hair could not touch the collar. This is part of a pattern of policing black hair in our nation’s high schools and workplaces. And these dress codes are an attack on black people, designed by white people and for white people.

Hostility toward natural hair, locs and twists is really unvarnished hostility toward blackness and its manifestation. It is an insistence that black people conform to Eurocentric

norms.

Andrew Johnson and DeAndre Arnold made headlines, but many cases do not. Often, the “code” is subtle, and the backlash painful and undeniable, but never spoken. So many women are told that their hair is “too wild” or “ungroomed,” as if bone straight hair is the only way to wear it. And perhaps it is not said so much as hinted. And black women (and men) have the choice of playing the game or stalling their careers. This doesn’t happen so much on the coasts in California, New York and the District of Columbia. But it happens enough that activists have worked to outlaw hair discrimination.

On July 3, 2019, California became the first in the nation to outlaw discriminating against natural hair. The CROWN Act, or Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair, was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. A few days later, New York State passed a similar law, as did New Jersey. A few cities and counties, like Cincinnati, OH and Montgomery County, Maryland, have also followed suit.

A dozen or so other states and municipalities have explored, and even introduced legislation that prohibits discrimination against those who wear natural hair, braids, locs or twists. Despite legislation, hair dis-

crimination is alive and well.

The text of the California legislation explores the history of hair discrimination. It reads in part, “The history of our nation is riddled with laws and societal norms that equated ‘blackness,’ and the associated physical traits, for example, dark skin, kinky and curly hair to a badge of inferiority, sometimes subject to separate and unequal treatment.” The bill goes on to say, “Professionalism was, and still is, closely linked to European features and mannerisms, which entails that those who do not naturally fall into Eurocentric norms must alter their appearances, sometimes drastically and permanently, in order to be deemed professional.”

The fact that a diversity of hairstyles needs to be addressed through legislation speaks to the intransigence of white supremacy, the need white supremacists have to require black people to conform to their standards.

Even as the population of people of color grows in our nation, white supremacists are holding on, strong, to their racist norms. Some of them don’t even think they are racists. They are, indeed, “nice” people. They speak of neatness, wildness and their own discomfort with “different” hair. They think that folks should go through having their hair fried to make other people comfortable.

I really don’t care how people wear their hair. It truly is a matter of choice. And hair does not have to be political. But hair choices must be respected and discrimination against natural hair, braids, twists and locs cannot be tolerated. Intolerance about natural hair is an intolerance against black people. It is, at best, unacceptable.

Kudos to California State Senator Holly Mitchell for starting the ball rolling. Congratulations to those who worked with her to pass this important legislation. And shout out to the others who have embraced her legislation by introducing it in other states.

Hair discrimination is not the most egregious injustice that black people experience, but it is an injustice nonetheless. Just ask DeAndre Arnold, who won’t be able to march with his peer graduates because he wears dreads, or the wrestler, Andrew Johnson, whose locs were shorn because a racist referee had neither intelligence nor tolerance.

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.juliannemalveaux.com

Witnessing two history-makers in action

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



As we continue to celebrate Black History Month 2020, it is necessary to pay tribute to two history-makers who are still with us, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., who is a renowned historian of religion and Charles Fuller, one of the premier playwrights of our time. During the past month I’ve had the spiritually enhancing, knowledge-expanding experience of witnessing two brilliant, serious, thought-provoking brothers in action.

Wright, despite being in a wheelchair, delivered a powerful Dr. King birthday message, titled “What Do You See?,” to over 1,500 congre-

gants in Howard University’s Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel in Cramton Auditorium.

With a compelling voice he urged black folks to not be discouraged or distracted by current events in this nation. He cited historical and Biblical references to show that this is nothing new, that our ancestors with determination, faith and skills had made it through similar or even worse circumstances.

He made a special appeal to the significant number of young people among the congregants. “Stay woke! Stay conscious! Hold on to your hope,” he urged them to enthusiastic amens and applause.

When attending Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker’s church in Harlem, he would sometimes say “I’m not just a Baptist.

I’m a black Baptist.” Wright is not just a christian; he’s a black christian.

The second history-maker, Fuller, though not physically present when I saw his unforgettable play, A Soldier’s Play, on Broadway, was definitely there spiritually. I first saw his compelling, provocative creation in the 1970s when it was presented by the Negro Ensemble Company. It is one of my favorite plays. Fuller, with supreme talent and intelligence make audiences aware of the lacerating psychological damage this basically white supremacist society inflicts on way too many black men.

The lead character, played by David Alan Grier, is a demonic, self-hating black sergeant who is basically a black white supremacist. With scorn and disgust, he physically and emo-

tionally brutalizes the mostly rural young black soldiers under his command. “It’s people like you,” he continuously snarls at them, “who justify the attitude of white folks about us.” Eventually he is mysteriously killed.

The second leading character is a black army captain, played by Blair Underwood, whose job is to find out who killed the despicable sergeant. Throughout the play, which takes place during World War II, Fuller includes conversations from white officers about confronting the Nazis. What they didn’t talk about was the brutality and terrorism being inflicted on black folks by white supremacists in the United States.

A wise person will take advantage of any opportunity to see the two great history-makers in action.



Managing your weight: UMMC program offers individualized approach

The Mississippi Link Newswire

When Katelyn Greenlaw eats, her body doesn't get the memo when she's had enough.

A rare genetic disease, Prader-Willi Syndrome, keeps Katelyn from experiencing the sensation of fullness. "In her mind, even after she eats, she will say she is hungry," said Talisha Greenlaw, mom of 19-year-old Katelyn.

Children and adults with Prader-Willi often cope with obesity. "You eat and eat and eat. We have to be mindful of that," Talisha Greenlaw said. Mild to moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities Katelyn copes with also are common with the syndrome.

Katelyn, however, is learning how to manage her food intake and nutrition decisions thanks to her multidisciplinary care team at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's weight management program. The Madison Central High student is currently bridging from pediatric to adult care, said Shanda Sandridge, her pediatric gastroenterology nurse practitioner.

No matter the patient's age, there's a commonality in their care: Everyone has a specific team that works in tandem to create an individual treatment plan, especially in the face of pre-existing health conditions that can exacerbate obesity. And, care is structured so that patients can see multiple team members at a single appointment.

"I tell patients that this is a three-pronged approach: the exercise part, the nutrition part and the pharmacological part," said Dr. Tobe Momah, an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine who is board-certified in obesity medicine.

"The more we treat them collaboratively, the better the outcome."

The weight management program offers a number of options at its spacious new clinic location at Riverchase Medical Suites, 2550 Flowood Drive in Flowood.

Adult medical, non-surgical weight management is led by Momah and Dr. Kimberly Bibb, also an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and board-certified in obesity medicine.

The care team also includes registered dietitian Paul Robertson and Dr. Buren Smith, a clinical psychologist. The program also includes pharmacy services, meal replacement and supplements, and lifestyle and behavior therapy. Exercise therapy is provided at UMMC's Wellness Center in Flowood.

Americans with a body mass index of 40 or greater are considered morbidly obese. Patients



Pediatric gastroenterology nurse practitioner Shanda Sandridge explains healthy meal choices to patient Katelyn Greenlaw.

seen by Momah and Bibb, most between ages 40-50, have an average BMI of 50.3. A healthy weight for adults generally equates to a BMI of at least 19 but less than 25.

"That tells you how severe the problem is in Mississippi," Momah said. The state consistently ranks either first or second nationally in rates of obesity at about 39 percent of residents.

Adult bariatric surgery is led by Dr. Kenneth Vick, professor of general surgery. The care team includes Robertson, Smith, nurse practitioner Jennifer Godbold, and the nursing and support staff.

Candidates for bariatric surgery generally have a body mass index of at least 40, or 35 with co-morbidities such as cardiovascular disease or diabetes, said Adam Dungey, the Medical Center's administrator of weight management services. Procedures offered include vertical sleeve gastrectomy, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass and adjustable gastric band in addition to revisional bariatric procedures.

Patients must complete an extensive screening process to receive medical clearance, which can include a sleep study, cardiovascular screens, a psychological evaluation and pre-surgery education, Dungey said. A surgical workup follows, and they receive comprehensive post-operative follow-up care for life.

Sandridge leads pediatric weight management, with collaborating providers including the entire adult weight management team and Dr. Naznin Dixit, professor of pediatric endocrinology.

The team also includes dietitian Krista King and Dr. Crystal Lim, a psychologist and a director in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Patients receive lifestyle and behavior therapy, family education and meal supplementation.

"The great thing about it all is that patients are medically supervised," Dungey said.

The weight management pro-

gram is recognized as a Quality Comprehensive Center under the American College of Surgeons' Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.

Patients often come to the program "as their very last straw," Momah said. "Most come because they want to lose weight to have a procedure – a transplant, or knee or hip surgery. They might say their doctor won't operate on them because they want them to lose weight first."

Some patients immediately want bariatric surgery, even though they haven't tried and failed to lose weight through diet and exercise. "We want them first to try to lose weight in a non-surgical manner. We don't want surgery to be seen as the easy way out, because it's not," Dungey said.

The weight management team first educates patients about nutrition and lifestyle changes they must make in order to reach and maintain their goal weight. "Some patients lose weight that way and don't need surgery," he said.

But for others, surgery is a tool to get them started because it decreases the size of the stomach, thus the amount of food you can take in, Dungey said.

Ongoing care from the entire team is critical to patients maintaining their weight loss, he said. "That and lifestyle changes are the most important factors," he said. "If you don't make the other changes, you don't have success."

When a pediatric patient still requires care as they approach adulthood, they're transitioned to the adult team. And for some children, the weight loss journey can begin when they're as young as 2, Sandridge said. "The most common ages we see are 8 to 12, but we do see a fair number of toddlers who are overweight and who already have comorbidities," she said.

Children undergo many of

the same front-end screening as adults, including checks for depression, anxiety and bullying. Often, the entire family, not just the child, needs help with motivation for weight management, Sandridge said.

"The family has to be on board," she said. "Children mirror what they see others do, so we try to make it a family-based approach so that everyone is practicing a healthy lifestyle. That way, one child isn't being singled out."

Exercise can be as simple as "just putting on music and dancing is a way to be active, and there are online videos," Sandridge said. "We figure out what the child is interested in."

Katelyn is learning to be mindful of everything she eats, including her carbohydrate intake, Greenlaw said. The program suggests 30 carbs per meal and 15 per snack, but Greenlaw sometimes cuts those numbers to give Katelyn a little leeway in the event she unexpectedly takes in an extra snack. "That way, it won't tip the scales," Greenlaw said.

"If someone gives her the option between an apple and a cookie, she will pick the apple, even though she wants the cookie. I let it be her decision."

Sandridge has been a big help, Greenlaw said. "She suggested getting Katelyn her own small refrigerator. All of the things in it are hers. We also pack lunch in cute containers, and if we do a turkey burger, she uses lettuce for the bread."

The multidisciplinary approach to care is good for communication and convenience, Greenlaw said. "She has several doctors already, so it makes it a lot easier to see them all at one time," she said. "Katelyn likes it because each of them knows her progress, and she has three people giving her praise as opposed to just one person."

"When we leave, she wants to be able to lose five more pounds. She says, 'Crystal will be proud of me. Shanda will be proud of me.'"

The weight management program "is a much-needed service," Momah said. "We know as clinicians that once we get a patient's weight under control, then it helps us control heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, stroke and kidney disease."

"The bottom line is that weight management is comprehensive and collaborative care in all aspects."

For more information on UMMC's weight management program, call 601 984-1285 or email weightmanagement@umc.edu

Heart and blood vessels change as we age

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



Age plays a significant role in vein health. Aging can cause changes in the heart and blood vessels.

As people age, the heart tends to enlarge slightly, developing thicker walls and slightly larger chambers. The increase in size is mainly due to an increase in the size of individual heart muscle cells. Together, these changes make the vessels stiffer and less resilient.

The heart has two sides. The right-side pumps blood to the lungs to receive oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide. The left side pumps oxygen-rich blood to the body.

Blood flows out of the heart through arteries, which branch out and get smaller and smaller as they go into the tissues. In the tissues, they become tiny capillaries.

Capillaries are where the blood gives up oxygen and nutrients to the tissues, and receives carbon dioxide and wastes back from the tissues. Then, the vessels begin to collect together into larger and larger veins, which return blood to the heart.

The heart has a pacing system that controls the heartbeat and regulates the electrical signals that stimulate the heart's pumping action. Over time, this natural pacemaker loses some of its cells, and some of its electrical pathways may get damaged. These changes can result in a slightly slower heart rate at rest and a greater susceptibility to abnormal rhythms (the most common of which is known as "atrial fibrillation").

With increasing age, all the structures of the heart also become more rigid. The muscles of the left ventricle get thicker, the heart may increase slightly in size, and the volume of the left ventricle may decline. As a result, the heart may both fill and empty more slowly, thus putting less blood into circulation. The increase in one's heart rate and cardiac output in response to physical activity is also diminished, and one's maximum heart rate declines. The drop in maximum heart rate appears to be greater than average in sedentary individuals and in those with overt cardiovascular disease.

There is no major changes to blood with age, but there is a reduction of red bone marrow. This means that there is a diminished capacity for blood cell formation in the elderly. In the absence of heart disease, the heart remains essentially the same size, or diminishes slightly in size. The is a reduction in the number and size of cardiac muscle cells with aging and an increase in fibrous tissue. Blood vessels reduce in elasticity with age. This is due to a reduced elastic fiber content in the wall of the arteries.

One of the conditions that is prominent in the aging

of the circulatory system is Chronic venous insufficiency (CVI). An estimated 40 percent of people in the United States have CVI. Chronic venous insufficiency occurs when these valves become damaged, allowing the blood to leak backward. Valve damage may occur, not only as the result of aging, but also as a result of extended sitting or standing or a combination of aging and reduced mobility. When the veins and valves are weakened to the point where it is difficult for the blood to flow up to the heart, blood pressure in the veins stays elevated for long periods of time, leading to CVI. It occurs more frequently in people over age 50, and more often in women than in men.

Vein damage is cumulative – the longer we live, the more challenges our veins have endured. By the time we reach an advanced age, our legs have undergone many years of stress. Age, sedentary lifestyle and obesity are the main risk factors for the development of chronic venous insufficiency in the elderly. Patients present with complaints such as pain, edema, burning, bloating, weight sensation, restless leg syndrome, night cramps, varicosities, color change and open wound in the legs.

According to WebMD, "your age isn't the only thing that can affect your arteries. Lifestyle matters, too. Extra weight, smoking, lack of exercise and eating a lot of foods high in trans-fat can all take a toll. Potentially dangerous artery problems considered common as people age may actually be avoided or delayed well into the senior years."

As you get older, it's important for you to have your blood pressure checked regularly, even if you are healthy. This is because aging changes in your arteries can lead to hypertension. You may feel fine but, if not treated, high blood pressure could lead to stroke and problems with your heart, eyes, brain and kidneys.

To manage high blood pressure, exercise, dietary changes and reducing your salt intake can help, but as aging changes in the arteries often cause high blood pressure in older age, medication is often necessary. It is not uncommon to need more than one medication to control your blood pressure.

The risk for high blood pressure and increased blood vessel stiffness, which both increase the risk of heart disease, may be reduced with a healthy lifestyle.

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

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

Free radon test kits available while supplies last

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Radon Program is partnering with the Mississippi Public Library System to offer free radon home test kits to Mississippi residents.

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas and is the second leading cause of lung cancer nationwide. More than 20,000 Americans die of radon-related lung cancer each year, and radon causes up to 15 percent of lung cancers worldwide.

Radon is a radioactive gas found in nature. Its source is

natural uranium in the earth. Being a gas, radon moves upward out of the soil and into the air, where it can enter and accumulate in homes. Uranium is found in most soils and in granite.

Test kits are available while supplies last at the following libraries across the state:

Northern Mississippi
Lee County Public Library – Tupelo
Starkville/Oktibbeha Public Library – Starkville
Carrollton/North Carrollton Public Library – North Carrollton

Humphreys County Public Library – Belzoni
Elizabeth Jones Public Library – Grenada
Indianola/Sunflower Public Library – Indianola
Greenwood/Leflore Public Library – Greenwood
Central Mississippi
B.S. Ricks Public Library – Yazoo City
Eudora Welty Public Library – Jackson
DeKalb County Public Library – Dekalb
Attala County Public Library – Kosciusko

Leake County Public Library – Carthage
Meridian-Lauderdale Public Library – Meridian
Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg Public Library – Hattiesburg
Poplarville Public Library – Poplarville

For more information on radon exposure, visit the MSDH website at www.HealthyMS.com/radon.

Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.



LEGAL

Electronic Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3121 High Schools Science Lab Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 17, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project JPS High Schools Science Lab Renovations will be held at Jim Hill High School, 2185 Fortune Street, Jackson, MS 39204 on February 28, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$500.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact John Murray at Canizaro Cawthon Davis, Phone: 601-948-7337 or Email: jmurray@ccdarchitects.com.

2-13-2020, 2-20-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bids

Bid 3119 Career Development Center Door Replacement Project
Bid 3120 Career Development Center Restroom Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 3, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Career Development Center Door Replacements and Restroom Renovations will be held at Career Development Center, 2703 First Avenue, Jackson, MS on February 19, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is mandatory. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duval Decker Architects, Phone: 601-713-1128 or Email: kl@duvaldecker.com.

2-6-2020, 2-13-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFQ
RFQ 2020-01 Architectural/Engineering Design Services

Sealed, written formal rfq proposals for the above rfq will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 20 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Jackson Public Schools will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 2:00 p.m. CST on February 10, 2020 in the Jackson Public School Board of Trustees Board Room at 621 S. State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Attendance at the Pre-Conference is mandatory for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the services. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfqs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfq if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfqs are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us

2-6-2020, 2-13-2020

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 03/17/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 323-016 Water & Wastewater Improvements
South Mississippi Correctional Institution
RFx #: 3160003443

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

Professional: Mid-South Consulting, Inc.
Address: Post office Box 349
Florence, Mississippi 39073
Phone: 662-397-6959
Email: abernathycg@mid-southconsulting.com

A deposit of \$150.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

2-13-2020, 2-20-2020

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 03/17/2020, for:

RE: GS# 350-023 New Jefferson Lot
Office of Capitol Facilities
(Department of Finance and Administration)
RFx #: 3160003452

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

Professional: Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A.
Address: 500L East Woodrow Wilson Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601-969-7543
Email: info@burriswagnon.com

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

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

2-13-2020, 2-20-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bids

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels for the following:
1. 1833 WALTHAM ST.
2. 1720 CAMELLIA DR.
3. 2611 TERRY RD.
4. 614 MCDOWELL RD.
5. 1071 MCDOWELL RD.

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

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 Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. 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.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by: LaTonya Miller, Manager
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

2-13-2020, 2-20-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR ELIZABETH CLAIR'S

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

2-6-2020, 2-13-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR DISTRICT DRUGS

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

2-6-2020, 2-13-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is soliciting proposals from qualified proposers to perform household hazardous waste collection services at the Environmental Service Center (ESC), which include proper handling, transporting, disposing of, and recycling of household hazardous wastes.

Proposals will be received by the City of Jackson at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, until 3:30 P.M. CST, February 25, 2020.

Selection of a Service Provider for contract/agreement negotiation will be based on an objective evaluation of the following criteria: A. Service Provider's innovative approach B. Service Provider's experience, qualifications and references as demonstrated in similar engagements C. Expertise of key personnel to be assigned to the contract D. EBO Plan and commitment to maximizing MBE and FBE participation goals E. Cost proposal

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

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) and the EBO plan (one signed original plus five copies included in the proposal) shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package. "Proposal for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services".

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 by 3:30 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals at no charge from the City's Website at <http://www.iacksonms.gov/bids> or from:

Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
City of Jackson
Department of Public Works
Warren Hood Building
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
lweathers@city.jackson.ms.us

Robert Miller, Director
Department of Public Works

2-6-2020, 2-13-2020

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.
2015 CHEV 4- Door - Vin# 1G11B5SL5FF271380
Registered to Bowles Alvin
GM Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: March 4, 2020
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

2/13/20, 2/20/20, 02/27/20

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o/mo.

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Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

1. Winter sport
4. Uses
10. Speak softly
11. What you watch for a photo
12. Artist's creation
13. Write in code
14. Paltry
16. Acid
17. El __ (Texas city)
18. CA city
20. Street (abbr.)
22. Reside
26. Tool
29. Rewrote
31. Milder
33. Vane direction
34. Being
35. Untalkative
36. Determines how heavy it is
37. Ocean

DOWN

1. Terror
2. Asian nation
3. Tiny amounts
4. Cain killed him
5. Plastic
6. Circle part
7. Movie star
8. Caps
9. Gem
15. Distress call
19. Boxer Muhammad
21. What babies grow
23. Objects
24. Locus
25. Swelling
26. Some (2 wds.)
27. Citizen of Denmark
28. Baked pasta dish
30. Removes the water
32. Big truck

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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PICK UP

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AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON
BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

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Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

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Auctions

AUCTION - REAL ESTATE and Personal - Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m.- Two homes Meridian, MS. 39305, 4720 Chandler Road Brick home, four bedrooms, 3 baths on 1.3+/- acres and 4710 Chandler Road four bedrooms, 2 baths on 2.19+/- acres, some personal property. For Brochure 1-205-822-4229. Redmont Auction & Land Co. Inc., Jack Propst real estate #15518 Auctioneer # 874.

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PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS From Ultimate Medical Academy Offer Quality Healthcare Education to Students 100% online.- Ultimate Medical Academy: 1-866-664-4140
TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 833-992-0228. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

For Sale

CHURCH FURNITURE - FACTORY DIRECT! Custom built, pews and pulpit furniture and cushions for hard pews. Factory Direct to you. Call for quote. 1-800-231-8360. www.pews1.com

Insurance

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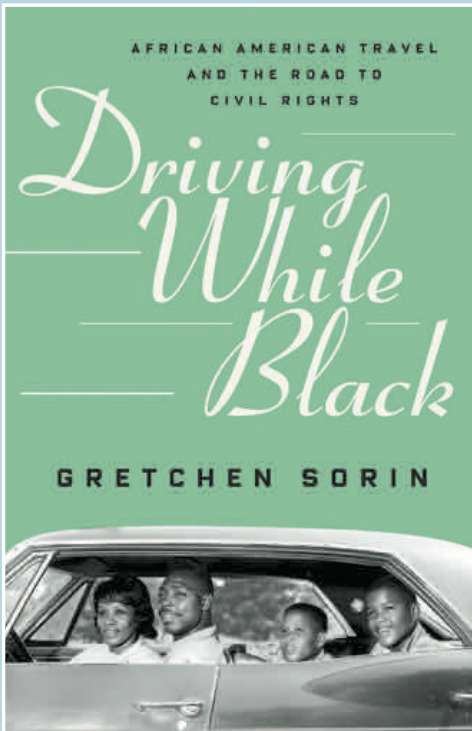
Week of February 09, 2020

CSLC Merdis A. Anderson Scholarship Awards Banquet

Lexington, MS • January 25, 2020

PHOTOS BY GAIL BROWN





BOOK REVIEW: DRIVING WHILE BLACK

BY GRETCHEN SORIN
C.2020, LIVERIGHT
\$28.95 / \$38.95 CANADA • 352 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Seat belts on. Keys in the ignition, rear view mirror’s been adjusted, steering wheel is set for maximum comfort. You’re ready to go, ready for this trip to get started.

In “Driving While Black” by Gretchen Sorin, you’re heading back in history.

Few things in America have altered the cultural scene more than the automobile. Not only has it changed the way we move, it affected the way we dress, talk and eat. But, says Sorin, for

black folks, the automobile has “meant something different” – mainly, “the automobile made it more difficult... to enforce racial apartheid while cruising along the highways at forty-five miles per hour.”

Once was a time that black people couldn’t travel far, if at all. Moving about from plantation to plantation allowed opportunities for slaves to escape or, at the very least, to learn the lay of the land, neither of which was desirable for a slave owner. Even free blacks were restricted from too much movement then.

After the Civil War ended, former slaves began to head north for work and to escape Jim Crow laws, a Great Migration that didn’t preclude the occasional trip back South by rail or by bus to visit friends and relatives. There was still segregation in travel but the bigger fact was that travel itself was no longer restricted.

Starting around the 1920s, automobile ownership began to be a possibility for mobile (and upwardly-mobile) African Americans. This meant even more freedom – a road could lead al-

most anywhere – but it could also mean danger, if you accidentally went where you weren’t welcome.

On the other hand, you could sleep in the car, depending on the kind you bought; some vehicles were faster, and could outrun violence; others meant fewer fill-ups. Restroom stops, if you were black, were still an issue.

By the 1970s, Sorin says, this was all mostly a moot point. The Civil Rights Movement had changed the country, and segregation at hotels and gas stations was a thing of the past. And yet

today, once again, DWB comes with a whole different set of dangers.

Here it’s not even spring, and you already know where you’re going on vacation this year. If you haven’t packed a book yet, “Driving While Black” is the right one to take.

You won’t be sorry if you travel with this travel-history book. Sorin’s all-encompassing in her information, beginning with slavery and moving at a good clip into the twentieth century with, like any decent roadtrip, a few side-stops along the way. If

this seems like old news, it’s not: Sorin also shows us things we don’t often consider, including tales of black musicians’ reliance on freer travel, how sports were changed by fewer restrictions, and how black drivers accidentally taught white business owners a lesson or two.

Sorin even adds personal anecdotes to the openings of her chapters, making “Driving While Black” a great vacation (or anytime) read. If you’re needing a smart, comprehensive look at the history of travel, grab it and buckle up.

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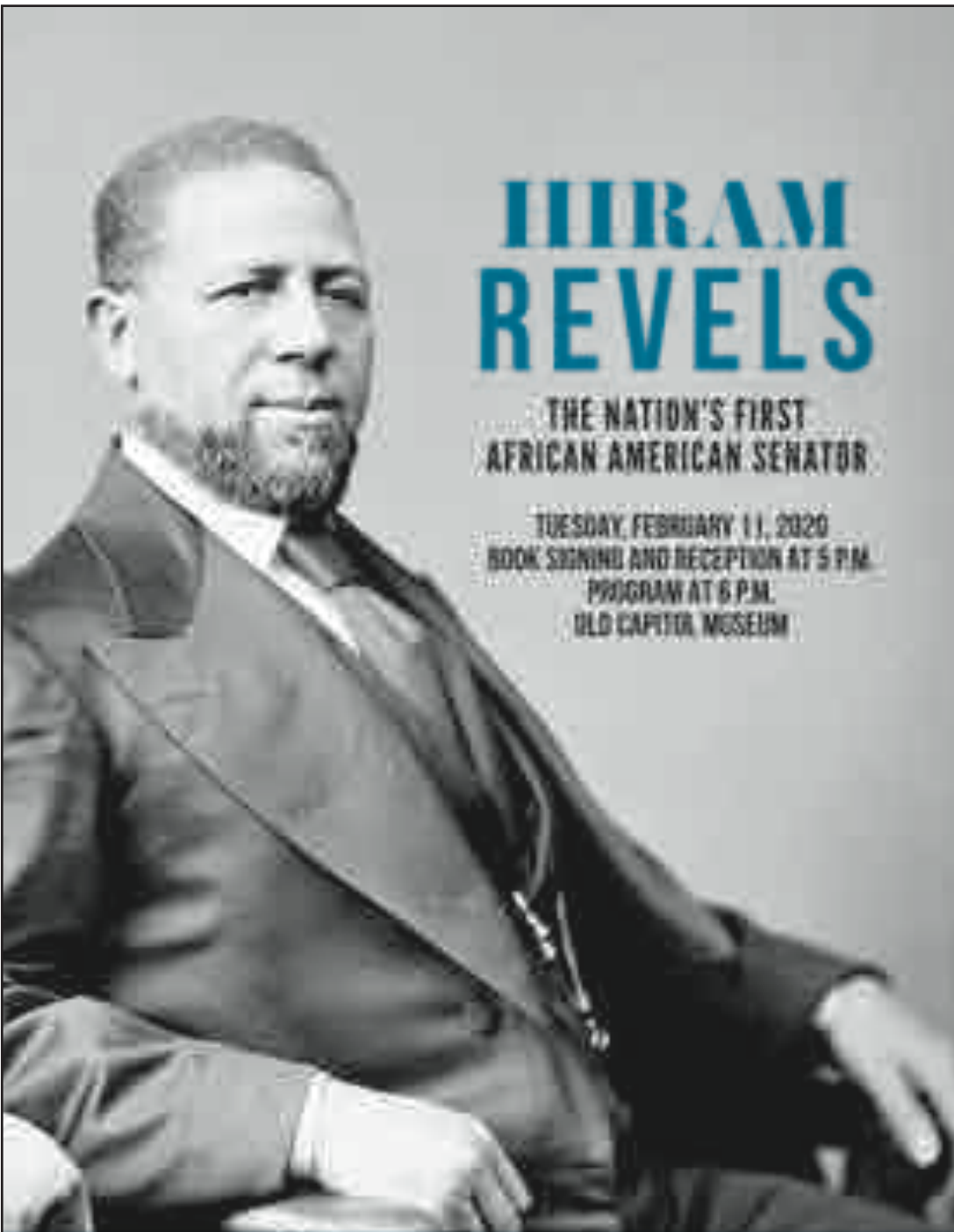
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MDAH

Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma's joint Founders' Day weekend

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In celebration of 100 years of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and 106 years of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, the Jackson Metro area graduate chapters – Alpha Delta Zeta (Jackson), Tau Upsilon Zeta (Clinton), Mu Sigma (Jackson), Rho Iota Zeta (Mendenhall), Omega Tau Zeta (Brandon), Tau Phi Zeta (Canton) – along with the collegiate chapters – Lambda Beta (JSU), Nu Beta (Tougaloo), Alpha Beta (JSU), Beta Rho (Tougaloo) – were excited to celebrate

their Joint Founders' Day weekend.

This celebration began Friday, January 24, with a Blue and White fellowship followed by a joint community service project at the Stewpot of Jackson, MS, Saturday morning, January 25.

The Blue and White family of the Jackson Metro area donated nearly 2,000 non-perishable items and canned goods. Members of the sorority and fraternity also sorted and packed the shelves with the items donated.

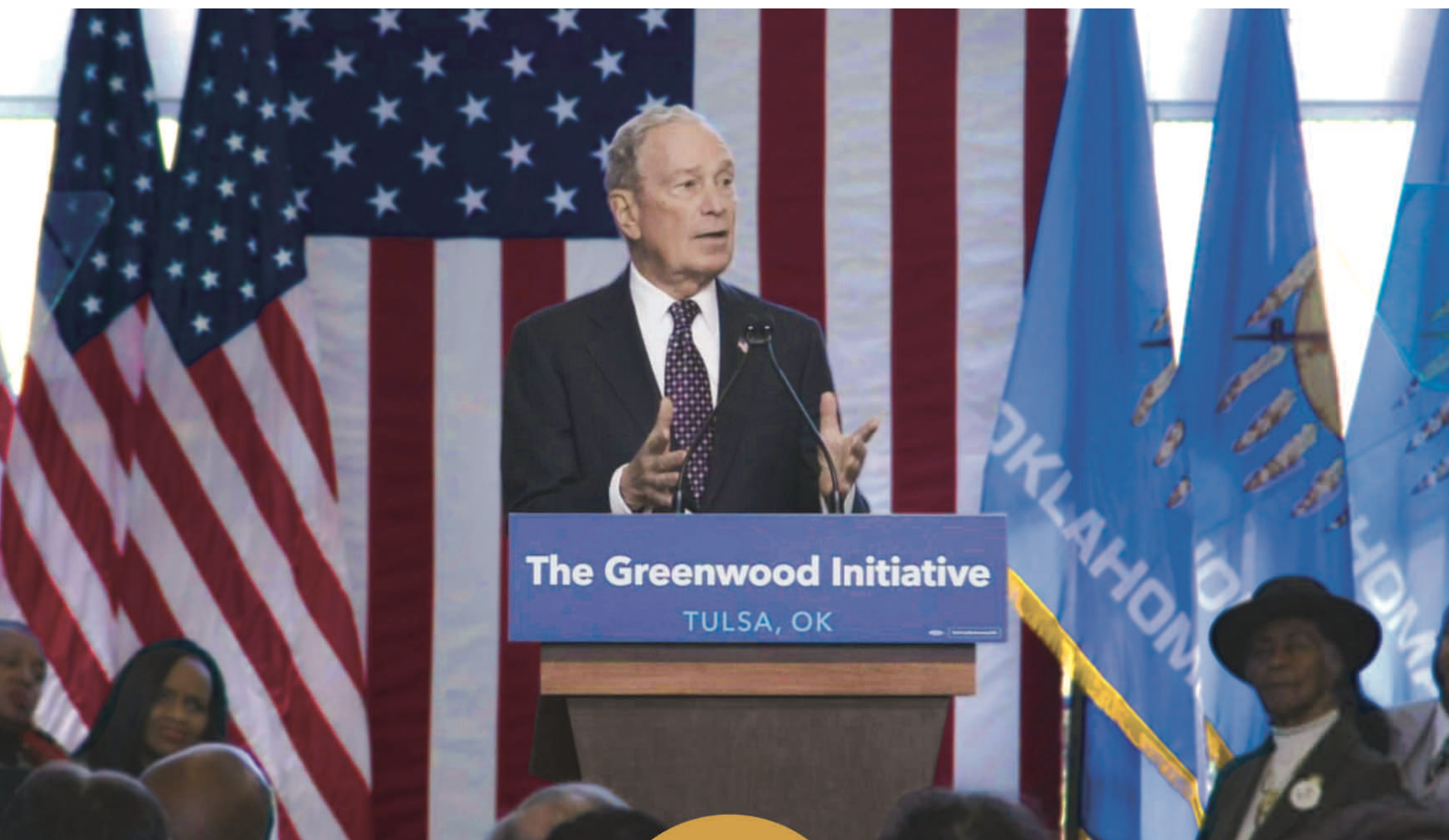
The culminating event, the annual Joint National Founders' Day Celebration, took place on Saturday evening. The tribute was held at Fondren Hall located in Jackson, MS.

Some of the special guest included the Mississippi State Director of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Kenya L. Washington and the Mississippi State Director of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, Mark A. Young Sr. as well as community partners and elected officials. The room was filled with over 200+ members of the Blue and White family.

Unified as one, both Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated were proud to continue the legacy of their founders through the commitment of service to others.

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG





MIKE GETS IT.

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES TO STAND IN THE WAY OF CREATING WEALTH IN BLACK COMMUNITIES.

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- ✓ Investing \$70 billion in neighborhoods that need it most.

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