

# Civil rights lawyer argues cases for ‘voiceless’ black Americans—and wins

J. Wyndal Gordon says black Americans might know they’ll never commit a crime, but they can never be sure they won’t be charged with one.

By Curtis Bunn  
Urban News Service  
A Division of Zenger News

When LaQuinn Phillips was accused of dousing his pregnant girlfriend with gasoline and setting her on fire in 2018, he had a difficult time finding a lawyer. When he was acquitted after an eight-day trial, he and his family screamed for joy so loudly that a judge threatened them with contempt of court.

The crime was so brutal that most attorneys either demanded giant legal fees up front or wanted no part of Phillips’ case. J. Wyndal Gordon was different. Known in Baltimore as the “Warrior Lawyer,” he fights battles that others shun.

Phillips had never been in trouble with the law before, and Gordon is confident bordering on flamboyant. He argued his way through an eight-day trial, winning “not guilty” verdicts on attempted murder and three other charges.

As his family shouted and the judge banged his gavel, Phillips embraced Gordon. Tears streamed down the men’s faces.

Gordon thrives on serving the marginalized in America, where he believes black men and women have fewer options for good lawyering.

“Part of my job is to keep the [judicial] system honest,” he told Urban News Service, “to ensure that



Gordon COURTESY OF J. WYNDAL GORDON, ESQ.

the guarantees provided in the Constitution are honored.”

“I defend the Constitution so that when you’re walking down the street with your loved ones you’re not hauled off to jail indefinitely without any probable cause, that you have rights and can assert those rights,” he said.

“You don’t have to be looking for trouble to find it. You can guarantee that you might not ever commit a crime. You can’t guarantee that you will never be charged with one.”

Phillips, 36, said Gordon built a reassuring mutual trust with him. “His confidence was a little unorth-

odox at first,” he said. “There is an aura about him. But his confidence gave me confidence that I wouldn’t be sent to prison for something I did not do, would not do.

“Gordon was heaven sent for me. I owe him my life.”

The University of Baltimore Law School graduate’s client list is eclectic. He represented parents who sued Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. because their daughters were not allowed to join. He fought for a 76-year-old woman who police threw to the ground, and a teen arrested for murder after a group ran over an officer in a car.

He also served as standby counsel for D.C. sniper John Allen Muhammad, who represented himself in his criminal case.

Gordon, 50 years old and the father of a five-year-old boy, wanted to be a civil rights attorney when he earned his law degree in 1995. In school, he said, “I fell in love with criminal defense. But as things would have it, civil rights is sort of an offshoot of criminal defense.

“And it hit me: ‘I have to do something about this.’ Next thing you know you, I end up being a civil rights attorney by default, almost because you see so much that it’s hard to avoid it.”

Gordon represented Rhanda Dormeus, whose 23-year-old daughter was shot and killed by a police officer in Randallstown, Maryland in 2016 after an extended standoff. The officer was not charged with a crime, but Gordon won a \$38 million civil suit, proving the officer fired the first shot and killed the young mother.

A judge later overturned the award, but Gordon had made his point. And he’ll keep hammering it while Dormeus appeals.

“He felt empathy and he fought hard,” Dormeus said. “He was prepared and thorough. More than that, he connected with me as a person.”

**Gordon**  
Continued on page 3

# Mississippi justice, then and now

Special to The Mississippi Link

The intriguing film, “Mississippi Justice,” created by Dr. Wilma Mosley Clopton, will serve as the backdrop for the panel discussion Mississippi Justice, Then and Now which will focus on how the criminal justice system works in Mississippi. Mississippi Justice, Then and Now, presented by NMHS Unlimited Film Productions, is sponsored by the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute and Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc., with support from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

“Mississippi Justice,” the film, based on actual court records from Pike county, chronicles the trial of Hattie Lee Barnes, a twenty-year-old black female, with a fourth-grade education who shot and killed the young, blue-eyed blond, six-foot son of a prominent family in rural Pike County in 1951. Her public defender was Joe Pigott, the newest and youngest attorney in Pike county.

Mississippi Justice, Then and Now includes a panel discussion, moderated by Larry Johnson, humanist and philosopher and Wilma E. Mosley Clopton.

The discussion will focus on social justice and its applicability in our current environment.

Panelists include: Municipal Court Judge June Hardwick; Willie Jones, president, Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc.; County Court Judge District 3 Johnnie McDaniels; Pauline Rogers, co-founder, RECH Foundation; Angela Stewart, archivist, Margaret Walker Center; and former Hinds County Chancery Court Judge Patricia D. Wise.

Join us at the Two Museums, 222 North Street, Jackson, MS 39201, March 17 at 6 p.m., for this exciting event. It is free and open to the public.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Katherine Johnson, a pioneering NASA mathematician featured in “Hidden Figures,” dies at 101

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Katherine Johnson, the legendary NASA physicist and mathematician whose work played a key role in the early successes of the U.S. space program, passed away at 101 years old, February 24, in Newport News, Va.

Johnson played a pivotal role in helping the U.S. land men on the moon during the space race in the 1960s and was portrayed by actress Taraji P. Henson in the 2017 film “Hidden Figures.” The book based on the film by the same name was written by Margot Lee Shetterly.

With little more than a pencil and a slide rule Johnson calculat-

ed the exact trajectories for Apollo 11 to land on the moon in 1969 and after Neil Johnson worked in a world where errors were fatal.

The lives of three brilliant African American women were featured in the book and subsequent film. They were Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, who passed in 2008, and Mary Jackson who passed in 2005. Vaughan and Jackson were from Hampton, Va. and Johnson was from West Virginia. Johnson graduated from West Virginia State University and West Virginia University.

Johnson was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 8, 2019, after House Science Committee Chairwom-

an Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson’s passed legislation to honor her.

“We’re saddened by the passing of celebrated #HiddenFigures mathematician Katherine Johnson. Today, we celebrate her 101 years of life and honor her legacy of excellence that broke down racial and social barriers,” tweeted NASA after news of Johnson’s passing.

In September 1960 mathematician Katherine Johnson published NASA’s first scientific paper to name a woman as author. Johnson’s trajectory calculations were vital to the US space missions.

“There were no textbooks, so

we had to write them,” Johnson said.

“It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Katherine Johnson, a truly brilliant mathematician and pioneer. She broke down barriers as one of the few African-American women mathematicians working at the Flight Dynamics and Control Division at NASA Langley,” wrote Congressman Bobby Scott who represents Newport News, Va.

“Her work helped put the first Americans in space and send the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon, thereby helping the United States win the Space Race. While

**Johnson**  
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Johnson





# Delta State University to receive 2020 Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award from Mississippi Historical Society for documentary on 1969 campus sit-in about race relations

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Delta State University will receive the 2020 Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award from the Mississippi Historical Society for an in-progress “DSU Sit-In Documentary” that examines a 1969 demonstration to advance race relations on campus.

“The story of the 1969 DSU sit-in is an important yet understudied moment in the modern black freedom struggle. The work on this project will enlighten not only the DSU community but scholars and the general public,” said Charles Westmoreland, associate professor of history at DSU and president of the Mississippi Historical Society. “DSU faculty and students have collaborated to bring greater light to this important event. Faculty have provided outstanding guidance to students who have truly made this project their own.”

The documentary short, expected to run about 22 minutes, recalls the March 10, 1969, event when 52 black students staged a sit-in at the newly integrated institution to insist that administration address a list of previously submitted demands. Protestors urged the hiring of black professors and counselors, creating a



DSU sit-in participant Maggie Crawford in a still from the documentary.

black history course, establishing scholarships for black students and including black representation in the Student Government Association.

These catalysts for change staged the sit-in in the corridor of President James M. Ewing’s office, uniting under the name of the Black Student Organization, led by president Beverly Perkins ’70.

The student activists were ar-

rested and imprisoned for the night at Parchman State Penitentiary. The next day, they were returned to the Bolivar County Courthouse and released on \$200 bonds.

“History is too often told from the perspective of a narrator who has ties, biases and admiration for a certain character, institution or belief. We have a surplus of these types of accounts in the world,

and they are partial truths,” said documentary participant Sykina Butts, a junior English-philosophy major. “The aim of the project is to capture the fading voices of the ones who paved the way for black students here at Delta State, so that the narrator will have no other choice but to tell the complete truth.”

The “DSU Sit-in Documentary” is being filmed at Delta



DSU sit-in participant Mary Carter in a still from the documentary.

State’s new Digital Media Art Center, a 6,000 square-foot collaborative space between the Art Department and the Delta Music Institute, with a state-of-the-art Mac lab, enhanced video production facilities, a green screen area and a voiceover booth.

Additional contributors include Arlene Sanders, political science instructor and chair of DSU’s Diversity Advisory Committee; Ted Fisher, assistant professor of art (video); Michael Stanley, chair of the Art Department; Michelle Johansen, coordinator of DSU’S A World Class Experience; Emily Jones, university archivist; Professor Emerita of English Georgene Clark; Antonia Cannon, who graduated from DSU with a degree in digital media arts, video concentration, last December; Tyler Wells, a senior social sciences major; Briana P. Henderson, a junior digital media arts major, video concentration; and Keenen Davis, a junior digital media arts major, video concentration.

“It’s been amazing to see current students engage in this process,” said Fisher. “They’re documenting first-person accounts of lived history, speaking directly to the participants, somehow bridging a 50-year span in a face-to-

face encounter. And the stories we’re hearing are emotional, honest, and surprising.”

The annual Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award salutes the most outstanding oral history project in the state and comes with a \$300 cash prize. The award honors Hilliard, who retired in 2004 after serving as director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for 31 years. He also was secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Historical Society, which will host its annual meeting March 5-6 on the Delta State campus. DSU will be recognized at an awards luncheon March 6.

“As a member of both the DSU community and the Mississippi Historical Society, I’m proud to say that this project fulfills Elbert R. Hilliard’s lifelong work to preserve Mississippi history,” added Westmoreland, “and tell the compelling stories that have made us who we are.”

The project is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area (MDNHA). The mission of MDNHA is to foster preservation, perpetuation, and celebration of the Mississippi Delta’s heritage through collaboration and sustainable economic development.



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## Johnson

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I knew Katherine Johnson and her family personally for many years, like so many Americans I never fully appreciated the work that she, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Christine Darden and the many other African-American women at NASA trailblazed for so many until their untold story was revealed in Hidden Figures. Mrs. Johnson was a true American hero, and we were so proud to have her call Hampton Roads home. I want to send my deepest condolences to her family and friends, and to everyone who was inspired by her remarkable life and work,” Rep. Scott added.

“Today we mourn the loss of an American hero and a pioneer for women and African Americans in STEM fields. Katherine Johnson played a pivotal role in the outcome of the space race during her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Without her accomplishments and those of her fellow Hidden Figures, which went largely unrecognized until the last decade, the outcome of the Space Race may have been quite different. Her achievements and impacts on our country are great, and her loss will be felt by many. I send my heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and colleagues,” NASA said in a statement.

“We’ve lost an icon and brilliant mathematician with the passing of Katherine Johnson. A barrier breaker and inspiration for women of color everywhere, Katherine’s legendary work with NASA will forever leave a mark on our history. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones,” said Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA).

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke*



Former NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson is seen after President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. PHOTO: NASA/BILL INGALLS, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Gordon

Continued from page 1

“I was broken. ... He was about the only lawyer who would take my case, and I’m glad it was him.” Gordon says his work is “almost like a ministry” and a way to give “a voice to the voiceless.”

He said his legal idols are two men who have passed on: Johnnie Cochran, the attorney who successfully defended O.J. Simpson, and R. Kenneth Mundy, a flashy swashbuckler who represented the

infamous Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry in court.

“They were brilliant legal minds and they challenged the system,” Gordon said. He called Co-

chran “gracious, humble and endearing” – and said the two courtroom legends earned a reverent nickname.

“I call them ‘Black-nificence’” he said.

# Mississippi Link publisher speaks at Black History Month program at VA Medical Center

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

African Americans and the Vote” was the theme for the G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center’s Black History Program which was held February 26 in Montgomery Hall on the campus located on Woodrow Wilson Avenue.

Rose Sanders served as program guide. David Walker, who serves as the medical center director, welcomed the attendees which included doctors, nurses, administrators, managers, therapists and other staff at the hospital. Also in attendance were veterans, their families and visitors from the community.

Walker said, “I love working for y’all and I am so proud of what we do at this institution.” He also said today with hard work and determination we are one of very few VAs in the country with a five star rating after months of reported challenges.

Walker said that even though Mississippi does not have the longest health expectancy rate, the VA does everything possible to help veterans live to see their grandchildren born, grow up, or even keep a leg. He spoke of health disparities in Mississippi, but with screening for cancer and treatment of diabetes, hypertension and other diseases the VA is making a difference in the lives of those heroes that help others.

Walker, who is a U.S. Veteran, was surprised when members of the committee presented him with a framed enlarged replica of the purple heart stamp. He thanked them as the audience applauded.

The keynote speaker was Jackie Hampton, publisher of *The Mississippi Link* newspaper. After being introduced by Gloria Ransom Crossley, Hampton spoke on the subject, “Af-



Peggy King, Jackie Hampton, David Walker

rican Americans and the Vote.” Hampton took her audience on a historical journey regarding the ‘Black Vote,’ from the passage of the 15th amendment of 1869, that prohibited the federal government and each state from denying an African-American male the right to vote based on race, color or previous condition

of servitude” and the Women’s Suffrage Movement which was decades of fighting for women to win the right to vote and then the 1965 Voting Rights Act which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law to overcome all the barriers that prevented black men and women from voting.

She said “The right to vote

has been gained by blood, sweat, tears and sacrifice and unlike any other group of people in the United States, the black vote has been the object of much scrutiny, dissection and suppression.” She described how in 2016 millions of Americans encountered problems voting, due to extremely long lines, malfunctioning voting machines, confusion over voter restrictions, voter intimidation, voter registration problems and Voter ID laws. Yet Hampton said for these reasons, blacks must make sure they continue to go to the polls.

She concluded her speech asking the audience if they remembered the Preamble of the United States Constitution and if so, to recite it with her. So many individuals remembered the words of the Preamble and upon completion of the recitation, she said she was hopeful that the history of the African-

American vote would lead to a legacy of the black vote, making the constitution of the United States a reality.

Bobby Stapleton was given a standing ovation after singing “A Change is Going to Come” and “Soon I will Be Done.” Florine Young received great applause after reciting a poem titled, “Our Part in History,” of which she authored.

A game of trivia led by Robert Gregory, chief of nutrition and food service, proved that the audience knew Black History facts. Prior to Gregory giving three possible choices, hands went up proving this audience knew the answers.

Closing remarks were given by Dr. Tawana Tucker followed by a hot lunch.

Peggy King, chairperson of the Black History Committee, presented Hampton a certification of appreciation and gifts.

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# Community Foundation for Mississippi grants \$125,000 to Museum Trail

Special to the Mississippi Link

The Community Foundation for Mississippi (CFM) recently granted \$125,000 to the City of Jackson to support the construction of the Museum Trail – a 2.5-mile walking, running and biking trail that will connect several museums and attractions to the Mississippi Farmers Market in the capital city.

The Community Foundation’s gift has helped unlock critical funding from other public and private sources to raise the dollars needed to start construction.

“The dollars the Community Foundation brought to the table helped attract an additional \$250,000 in public and private investments to begin construction before the bid expired,” said David Pharr, one of the Museum Trail’s founding volunteers. “Without these critical funds, the project would have stalled for an indefinite period of time, risking expiration of deadlines for completion or loss of resources to other needs.”

Projects like the Museum Trail average a return of \$3 for every \$1 invested. Similar projects in Hattiesburg and Memphis have contributed to a significant economic boon for those cities, including new business development, revenue growth for existing businesses and an increase in tourism dollars. A 2011 study conducted by the University of Cincinnati also found that property values near multi-use trails also tend to increase.

Multi-use trails have been shown to promote healthier lifestyles. A survey conducted soon after the construction of the Longleaf Trace showed that 20% of the 40,000 residents living within 3 miles of the trail reported an increase in exercise.

Finally, multi-use trails have become rallying points for civic improvement in many cities, encouraging neighbors to get to know each other better in what are essentially linear parks.

The Museum Trail is a core segment in a planned network of trails that will eventually provide safe bicycle and pedestrian travel throughout Greater Jackson.



Pictured (L to R) from the Community Foundation for Mississippi are Theresa Erickson, Vice President for Philanthropy; David Pharr, Chair of the Grants Committee; Jane Alexander, President and CEO; Mark Fields, Board of Trustees; Jon Turner, Chair, Board of Trustees; from the City of Jackson Jordan Rae Hillman, Director of Planning; Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay, Ward 7; Jhai Keeton, Deputy Director of Planning and Robert Lee, Traffic Engineer.

“The idea for this project emerged more than ten years ago as a way to contribute to creating a vibrant capital city, improve public health and drive economic growth for Jackson,” said David Pharr, also a CFM board member and chair of the grants committee. “Museum Trail advocates have invested a significant amount of time and energy researching the economic and other benefits of trails like this one in other areas, and we are confident that Jackson and the surrounding communities will benefit greatly from this project.”

“Community foundations connect private dollars to work that supports the public good,” said Jane Alexander, president and CEO of CFM. “We were eager to support this project as it aligns with our work to foster public-private partnerships that lead to lasting and meaningful change for Mississippi communities and positive economic growth in these areas.”

The trail will begin at the Two Museums in downtown Jackson and end at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. In 2017,

CFM supported the Two Museums project with a \$750,000 gift to the Museum of Mississippi History. Funds for the gifts to the Museum Trail and Two Museums projects were made possible by a bequest from John F. and Lucy Shackelford.

“The Community Foundation serves as a convener in the philanthropic space in Mississippi, bringing together public and private donors with nonprofits and other charitable causes to facilitate positive transformational change in cities and towns across Mississippi,” said Jon Turner, chair of the CFM Board of Trustees. “We will continue to support projects like the Museum Trail, and serve as a supporter and connector for others who want to address critical needs in their community through philanthropy.”

CFM has granted more than \$57.3 million in its 25-year history.

For more information about the Community Foundation or to find out how you can work with CFM to make a difference for your community, visit [www.formississippi.org](http://www.formississippi.org).

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# As we celebrate Black History Month, we know that diversity isn't just a buzzword.

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# U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson Today, in celebration of #BlackHistoryMonth



Dr. Otrie Bertrelle Hickerson-Smith. She was the first female African-American psychiatrist in Mississippi. She was also a founding director of Mental Health at Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center.



Dr. Albert Bazaar Britton, Jr. was the first African-American physician admitted to the staff of Baptist Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. The life he began in Enterprise, Mississippi in 1922 would lead to the pursuit of excellence in medicine, securing equality for all through civil rights and working to enhance our community through service.



Dr. Aaron Shirley was an American physician and civil rights activist. Shirley was born in Gluckstadt, Mississippi. He was Chairman of the Board for the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, and an associate professor in pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He was a graduate of Tougaloo College and Meharry Medical College.



Dr. James Anderson was among the first three African-American doctors to earn full hospital privileges in the Mississippi State Medical Association. Dr. Anderson also helped establish the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, where he was the chief executive until his retirement.

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# NNPA Exclusive: Former VP Joe Biden makes his case to black America

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

Perhaps as sincere and open as any other candidate, former Vice President Joseph Biden spoke candidly to the Black Press during an interview in South Carolina with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Feb. 25.

The interview was broadcast live as nearly a dozen Black Press publishers and leaders sat at a round table inside The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel in Charleston.

As a courtesy, reporters from the Associated Press and *Washington Post* were permitted to observe the interview.

“The black vote will determine the democratic nominee ... and hopefully the next president,” said Biden who served as vice president for eight years under Barack Obama. He went on to say that the Black Press is the heart and soul as to why he got involved.

He told Chavis during the 45-minute interview, “The Black community brought me to the dance.”



Black publishers and NNPA President Ben Chavis, Jr. attended an interview with presidential candidate Joe Biden in S.C., Feb. 25.

The Democrat who hails from Delaware laid out an aggressive agenda that he said would undo the severe damage President Trump has inflicted upon communities of color and the poor.

He stated he would hold financial institutions accountable for discriminatory practices in the housing market, and a Biden administration would implement policies that would require communities that receive certain

federal funding to proactively examine housing patterns and identify and address policies that discriminate.

“Americans lack quality and affordable housing. Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the failures in our housing markets, with homeownership rates for black and Latinos falling far below the rate for white people,” Biden stated.

As president, Biden pledges to invest \$640 billion over 10 years to ensure everyone has access to affordable and stable housing.

Further, Biden said redlining must be stopped. “I’m against redlining. It’s wrong,” Biden stated, adding he plans to eliminate local and state housing regulations that perpetuate discrimination.

The former vice president noted that as president he would

help families buy their first home and build wealth by creating a new refundable, advanceable tax credit of up to \$15,000.

He said this will help offset the cost of buying a home and assist millions of families in laying down roots for the first time.

“This is how poor white folks are able to build equity... they get into a home and build equity,” Biden stated.

Biden said he would immediately

move to undo many of Trump’s executive orders including the current administration’s cuts to social services.

“It’s immoral,” Biden stated. “Look what this president has done; cut \$1 billion from all social safety nets, reduced Medicaid and food stamps.”

(To view the entire interview, visit [www.facebook.com/BlackPressUSA](https://www.facebook.com/BlackPressUSA))



Hampton meets Biden at NNPA interview.

# Black History interwoven with suffrage centennial

## 2020 also marks sesquicentennial of 15th Amendment

By Our Weekly  
*Los Angeles*

*“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”*  
— *The 19th Amendment*

This year marks the 100th anniversary celebration of American women’s right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment was won after a 72-year long struggle led by a number of prominent women, including one Harriet Tubman (1822-1913).

Tubman, a former slave and a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad for eight years, was also an abolitionist and political activist. She became a passionate suffragette, attending local meetings and national conferences.

When asked if she believed in women’s suffrage, she said “I suffered enough to believe it.”

Ernestine (Tina) Martin Wyatt is a great-great-great-grandniece of Tubman. An artist and activist, Wyatt’s work is featured as a permanent collection in the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture.

Wyatt joined other descendants of historical blacks – Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells – who were featured on the city of Pasadena’s float, “Years of Hope, Years of Courage” during the Rose Parade last month.

The women’s suffrage centennial float was designed as a symbolic reminder of the responsibility to vote and to continue the fight for equality and inclusion.



Harriett Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor, political activist and suffragette

The day after the parade, Wyatt received a commendation from the office of County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, which read:

“As an innovative and groundbreaking educator, co-founder of Harriet Tubman Day and the Celebrate to Educate program in Washington D.C., you continue in her (Tubman’s) footsteps to inspire youth and educate young people about her many historical achievements during the underground railroad, civil war, emancipation and through the American suffrage movement.”

Wyatt’s great-grandmother worked alongside Tubman and also lived with her for a short period. Wyatt’s grandmother saw Tubman as just another aunt.

“We knew what family meant to her,” Wyatt said in a Focus features interview when the movie, “Harriet” debuted last November. “Her love of family

was one of the things that was perpetuated. The other thing was her faith, a belief in taking yourself out of the center in order to serve the needs of other people. That is really something that has been passed down from aunt Harriet to my great-grandmother to my grandmother to my mother and now to me. And I am passing the same beliefs down to my children and my grandchildren.”

Black men gained their voting rights with the passage of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in 1870. Wyatt understood why Tubman would join the fight to pass the 19th Amendment.

“It only takes one person to change things,” Wyatt said. “It is like a domino effect – what we do and how it affects others in a positive way.”

Michelle Duster is an award-winning author, speaker, his-

torian and writing professor at Columbia College in Chicago. She is the great-granddaughter of prominent journalist, abolitionist and feminist Ida B. Wells (1862-1931). Wells was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation and went on to lead an anti-lynching crusade in the United States in the 1890’s. She also co-founded the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in 1896 and was on the front lines of the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

Duster has written, published and contributed to a total of nine books, two of which include the writings of her great-grandmother: “Ida in Her Own Words” and “Ida from Abroad.” She gives presentations about her work to make sure that Wells’ legacy does not fade from public memory.

“I learned at an early age that my great-grandmother, Ida B.

Wells, was a force to be reckoned with,” Duster writes in one of her articles. “At the end of the 19th century, as an investigative journalism pioneer, she uncovered and documented in meticulous detail the violence of lynching.”

In 1913, Wells founded the Alpha Suffrage Club, the first African-American women’s group that advocated for the right to vote. The club aimed to give a voice to black women who had been excluded from other suffrage organizations. Although women in Chicago were granted the right to vote in 1910, whites tried to ban blacks from voting altogether.

As Wells stated in her autobiography: “We (women) could use our vote for the advantage of ourselves and our race.”

Kenneth B. Morris Jr., is the great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) and the great-great-grandson of Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). His mother, Nettie Washington Douglass, is the daughter of Nettie Hancock Washington (granddaughter of Booker T. Washington) and Dr. Frederick Douglass III (great-grandson of Frederick Douglass).

Morris contributed to the afterword to “Picturing Frederick Douglass: An Illustrated Biography of the Nineteenth Century’s Most Photographed American.” He also wrote the forward to the 2017 centennial edition of the “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave,” which the Library of Congress named one of the 88 books that shaped America.

Douglass, whose biography

was published in 1845, escaped slavery as a young man and devoted his life to ending it through his abolitionist speaking engagements. He became an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln. Later, he used the platform of his newspaper, the *North Star*, to enlist petitioners to sign the declaration supporting women’s rights.

A believer in the equality of all, Douglass was the only African American to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, the first women’s rights convention, held in upstate New York, where he spoke in favor of women’s suffrage.

Morris now carries the abolitionist torch of his ancestor’s legacy with his work in the fight against modern day slavery and his co-founding of the Atlanta-based non-profit Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI), which has its mission to advance freedom through knowledge and strategic action.

He began his activism when a buddy passed along a magazine.

“The cover story was of 21st century slaves and I reacted the way I think most people do,” Morris said. “Slavery didn’t end with the work of Frederick Douglass, and I have two teenage daughters, who at the time were 12 and 9 years old. I got up and walked into my girls’ room and I found that I couldn’t look them in the eyes and not do anything.”

The FDFI teaches children about the 27 million people currently enslaved worldwide.

“As Frederick Douglass said, it’s easier to build strong children than repair broken men,” said Morris.



# Veteran educator at Bates Elementary named JPS Counselor of the Year

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Joice Greer of Bates Elementary School was named the 2019-2020 JPS Counselor of the Year in recognition of National School Counseling Week at a celebration held February 7.

Greer is a veteran educator with more than 20 years of experience. Recently elected Secretary of the Mississippi School Counselor Association, Greer is an active member of several professional counseling organizations. She takes pride in her counseling program at Bates Elementary School under the leadership of Principal Stephan Johnson. She empowers the school's students with behavioral modification strategies to promote a joyful learning environment.

Greer advocates, leads, collaborates and consults with scholars, staff, parents and the community to help provide equitable educational opportunities for all.

Also recognized with special counseling awards were:

Ebonie Butler-Cheeks, Forest Hill High School – The Collaborating Counselor Award

Adrienne Fleming, Early College High School – Professional Counselor Rookie of the Year Award

Whitney Gray, McWillie Elementary – The Bomb.com Award

LaShonda Turner, Timberlawn Elementary – Growth Mindset Award

During the program, all JPS counselors received a certificate



Greer



Collaborating Counselor Award  
Ebonie Butler-Cheeks



Rookie of the Year Award  
Adrienne Fleming

of appreciation in recognition of their commitment to the district's students.

As a guest speaker for the event, Superintendent Errick L. Greene used his time to share words of encouragement with the counselors. Ada Gater of Oak Forest Elementary served as the keynote speaker. Tying into the national theme, "School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans," Gater reminded counselors of their essential role in the success of JPS scholars.

National School Counseling Week (NSCW), sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, was held February 3-7. NSCW focuses public attention on the unique contributions of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what professional



The Bomb.com Award  
Whitney Gray



Growth Mindset Award  
LaShonda Turner

school counselors do. The event highlights the tremendous impact professional school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan

for a career.

"We planned this celebration as a way to commend the professional school counselors of the Jackson Public School District,"

said Director of Counseling LeSian Davis. "Our counselors contribute to transforming scholars' lives by helping them to examine their abilities, strengths,

interests. Additionally, they work with parents and other educators to enhance students' academic experiences through a variety of means."

# Jackson Public Schools hosts Traveling STEM Carnival

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) brought their Traveling STEM Carnival to Kirksey Middle School in February. Approximately 1,300 JPS fourth-graders participated in the carnival's highly engaging educational activities.

MSMS students and faculty used interactive lessons and demonstrations to teach our scholars principles in STEM, such as inertia, electricity and the metric system. Robotics-themed games and an adaptation of the popular code-breaking game, Mastermind, were also part of this unique learning experience.

JPS elementary assistant superintendents were excited to bring the program to Jackson Public Schools and were intentional about ensuring that fourth-grade scholars would have this opportunity.

"We are delighted for this opportunity and partnership with the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science," said Kathleen Grigsby, the assistant superintendent for the Elementary Division. "This collaboration will give our students exposure and academic enrichment to help them excel in STEM."

"The Traveling STEM Carnival is a major undertaking," said Lauren Zarandona, a math instructor at MSMS. "When the fourth-graders beat their MSMS helper at our version of Mastermind, or they unlock the digital lockbox created just for them, it makes [the effort] all worthwhile."

Since 2014, MSMS has hosted the carnival across Mississippi to allow elementary school students to participate in educational, interactive STEM-related exhibits.



JPS fourth-graders took part in interactive exhibits and played games as they learned fundamental concepts in STEM.

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# CPSD welcomes new Public Information Officer

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Clinton’s public schools will soon have a new spokesperson.

Lifelong Clintonian and Clinton High School graduate Robert Chapman is the Clinton Public School District’s new public information officer. He replaces Sandi Beason, who is leaving the district to work in another industry. “Sandi has taken our district to amazing new heights over the past 12 years in our public relations program and we are forever grateful for her hard work and sacrifice in spreading the good news of Clinton’s public schools over our city, state and nation,” said Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. “We congratulate her on this new opportunity, and we look forward to working with Mr. Chapman in our PR role.”

Chapman is a native of Clinton and a 2003 graduate of Clinton High School. After attending the University of Mississippi where he wrote for the campus newspaper *The Daily Mississippian*, Chapman graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He completed his Master of Arts in English from Mississippi College in 2016.



Chapman

Following graduation from the University of Mississippi, he took a position at the *Clarion Ledger* as a page designer and copy editor where he expanded his writing, photography and design skills. In 2009 he entered into the education field as an English and social studies teacher in Jackson Public Schools.

After accepting an English position at Clinton Junior High School in 2011,

Chapman’s professional life centered around Clinton Public Schools where he served as a teacher, coach, year-book sponsor and most recently sports information director. He has overseen Clinton’s live stream for the previous five years showcasing various boys and girls sports as well as other district events.

Chapman has been involved with various community events and service groups, serving on the Clinton Main Street Association’s BBQ on the Boulevard committee and assisting in the promotion of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce music and arts festival, Red Brick Roads. He is a graduating member of the Leadership Clinton class of 2019 and serves in various forms at First Baptist Church of Clinton. He looks to bring his communication, photography and interpersonal skills to his new role.

Chapman is married to fellow 2003 CHS graduate Megan McGuire Chapman. His daughter Charlotte and son John both attend Clinton schools as third generation Arrows.

# Hinds CC holds robotics competition as part of NASA week

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Entering a program of study in math and science is making Donald Hughes’ career plans run as smoothly as the mockup Mars rover he helped build with some classmates.

Hughes, of Jackson, had taken college-level coursework in high school but didn’t know what kinds of doors could open for him in the STEM fields until he arrived at Hinds Utica Campus. The acronym represents areas of study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“I was able to take college algebra and college trigonometry before I got here, but being in this program broadened my perspective of the entire STEM field,” Hughes said. “There’s a lot more involved with it than just science. There’s a technology aspect to it, plus engineering.”

Hughes and about three dozen other Hinds students in STEM fields took part in NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) On Campus events on the Utica and Raymond campuses Feb. 17-20. One event was a robotics competition where four teams of students designed and programmed a miniature Mars rover.

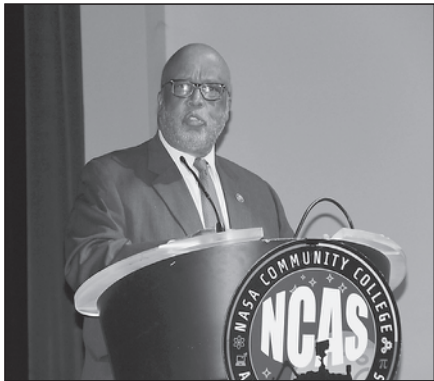
Hughes and Aaliyah Hill, a Utica Campus freshman student from Waynesboro, were on opposing teams but had the same goal – to get their rovers to perform without error some of the same maneuvers done by the real ones sent by NASA to survey the Red Planet.

“My major is veterinary medicine and I have always been intrigued by science,” Hill said. “I’ve always loved animals, biological functions and how the body works. So, it’ll be exciting to work where I can be around that.”

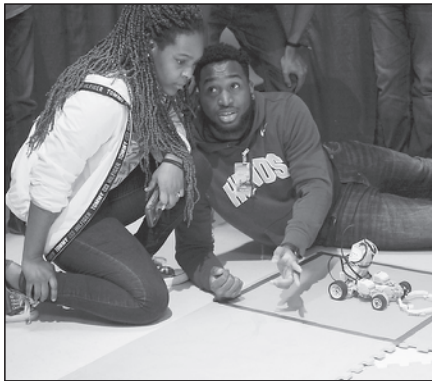
Students also took a field trip during the four days of events, to NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. They toured the 832-acre facility and heard from experts in NASA’s spaceflight systems.

During the closing program, held at the Bobby G. Cooper Fine Arts Building on the Utica Campus, U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson spoke about the growing importance of STEM careers, especially those that involve mastery of technology.

“Most of you are already not intimi-



Thompson



Rover Competition



Green Team



Red Team

dated by technology,” Thompson said. “And that is absolutely where we’re going in this country now. The day of doing something only manually is pretty much gone. You have to exercise your mind and I encourage you to keep going in that direction.”

Hinds’ Utica Campus was among five other minority-serving community colleges in three states chosen for the initiative, which is part of pilot

activity by the National Space Grant Consortia and NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).

The effort, called NASA On Campus, is a campus-based adaptation of the successful NCAS program, which gives STEM students in two-year colleges an authentic NASA experience at a NASA center.

# HCCHS Algebra Team 9th at State Math Tournament



Algebra I team: Coreyanna Garmany, Romiya Grant, Kamaria Jackson, Carmen Smith, Chasity Wright and Jaylon Barnett

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Thirty Holmes County Central High School students participated in the annual Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science’s annual Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Tournament February 20.

The tournament has been a state tradition for nearly 30 years and HCCHS students have participated yearly since 2017, increasing from 20 to 30 students making up the team. Teams from across the state competed in areas of written tests, ciphering, mini-interschool competition and in a potpourri round.

This year’s competition was in the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus.

HCCHS’ team consisted of students in five math subjects: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus and Calculus, accompanied by 3 math teachers and 2 administrators.

Students took written tests with multiple-choice answers in the subject area in which they are enrolled. Calculators were not allowed.

Scores were based on the number of correct answers. Following the written tests, was the timed Ciphering round, in which points were awarded for speed: 2 points for answering correctly within 1 minute, 1 point for answers after the 1st minute. Team scores were the sum of the scores of the four highest cipherers. All HCCHS students participated.

For the mini-interschool round, each school was allowed one team of up to 10 students, but they could not have more than 5 students who are taking calculus. They worked as a group and could use three reference books, but they were not allowed to access any electronic devices.

The potpurri round allowed one 4-person team per school to solve logic puzzle-type questions. These teams could not involve any of the students on the mini-interschool team since the rounds were held at the same time.

At the awards ceremony the top 10 scorers in each category were named and certificates and trophies were presented. HCCHS placed 9th in the Algebra I written test. Members of the Algebra I team are: Jaylon Barnett, Coreyanna Garmany, Romiya Grant, Kamaria Jackson, Carmen Smith and Chasity Wright.

Math teacher Rebecca Victor said, “the students took part in academically challenging activities and enjoyed interacting with other Mississippi students. Everyone learned a lot and had fun.”

Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson said, “these are the positive types of exposure we want our students to have so that they understand they can compete with Mississippi students, as well as aim higher to be part of the global community upon graduation.”

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“Since being honored and blessed to take the helm of the Sonic Boom in 2015, the Sonic Boom has had several “legendary” shows that display the awesome talents and hard work of our wonderful students. The following shows will display a small part of why the Sonic Boom is (still) being recognized with such high honors from 2015-present.”



# Mid: More than 7,000 flood insurance policies in affect in flooded areas

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) continues to assist neighbors who have experienced flooding from the Pearl River.

If you experienced flood-

ing, file an insurance claim as soon as possible. Once it is safe to return to your property, document any damage with photos and videos. You should also prepare a list of damaged items in your home and photo-

graph those items as well. *If you have an insurance related question, call your agent or call the Mississippi Insurance Department at 1-800-562-2957 or email consumer@mid.ms.gov*

At last check, there were more than 62,500 flood policies in force in Mississippi. In the area affected by Pearl River flooding, there are more than 7,700 flood insurance policies in force. The following table shows the policy count and total coverage by county.

COUNTY	POLICY COUNT	TOTAL COVERAGE (IN THOUSANDS)
HINDS	4,062	868,817.50
RANKIN	2,143	596,428.00
PEARL RIVER	928	214,580.50
MARION	267	48,934.30
SIMPSON	108	16,274.60
LAWRENCE	71	11,790.70
NESHOBA	61	13,862.20
COPIAH	43	8,349.80
LEAKE	26	3,673.70
JEFFERSON DAVIS	5	1,025.00
TOTAL	7,714	1,783,736.30

Policies and coverage totals are also broken down by municipality in the table below. These numbers are included in the county totals.

COMMUNITY	POLICY COUNT	TOTAL COVERAGE (IN THOUSANDS)
CARTHAGE	9	814.70
COLUMBIA	128	25,657.90
FLOWOOD	471	188,955.50
JACKSON	3,526	745,000.10
MONTICELLO	24	4,877.70
PEARL	418	81,878.60
PHILADELPHIA	45	10,092.70
PICAYUNE	233	54,532.30
TOTAL	4,854	1,111,809.50

# Legislative Doctor of the Day at the Capitol



Left, Frazier, Davis-Sullivan and Norwood

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Dr. Hursie Davis-Sullivan of Jackson served as Legislative Doctor of the Day at the Capitol

February 19, 2020. In that capacity, she was available to provide emergency medical treatment to lawmakers and staff.

The doctor is standing with Senators Hillman T. Frazier and Sollie B. Norwood, who represent her district.

# Lt. Governor Hosemann with pages Parker and Moore



Left, Parker, Moore and Hosemann

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Carlos D Parker II of Terry recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. He is the son of Carlos and Zeddie R. Parker and attends Terry High School. When asked about the week, Parker said, “Paging for the Mississippi State Senate was an amazing experience. The

connections I’ve made, the lessons I’ve learned and the friends I’ve found, I will cherish for a lifetime.”

Austin Raish Moore of Vaughan recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Moore is the son of Kristi and Kelly Moore and attends Benton Academy. When asked

about the week, Moore said, “This week has been an amazing experience. It is very, very eventful. It has been a really great week.”

Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff.

They are pictured with Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann Jr. who sponsored their visits.

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# Big insurance must help end surprise medical billing

*Stop unjust financial burdens on African Americans and others*

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.  
*NNPA President/CEO*

It is a serious financial problem that far too many African Americans – from impoverished individuals to working-class families – face these days in the bewilderingly complicated health-care market: Getting hit with an unexpected bill after a hospital stay or visit to the emergency room.

Known as “surprise medical billing,” these unexpected costs arise when a patient goes to a hospital for emergency or non-emergency care, only to find out afterwards that one of the medical providers who administered care was not covered in the patient’s insurance network.

This outrageous situation benefits one group and one group alone: powerful insurance executives, who have managed to get off the financial hook for such bills, even as insurers shrink insurance coverage networks to wring more and more profits out of the system.

But this predatory practice is overwhelming to a family already dealing with the emotional and financial burdens of a medical crisis, typically adding thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses that can wipe out savings accounts or

otherwise strain tight household budgets.

So, what can be done to stop and end surprise medical billing?

The good news is that both Republicans and Democrats in Congress agree that legislation is needed to protect patients against unexpected medical charges. But as with many complicated issues confronting Congress, lawmakers have been divided on the details of such legislation.

Part of the paralysis in Congress stems from confusion and disinformation, as insurance executives and their allies try to frame the debate to their advantage.

When Congress tried to address the issue last year, for example, the insurance lobbying machine swung into action, attempting to place the blame for surprise bills on out-of-network medical providers who end up having to charge patients when insurers refuse to cover a medical bill.

Big insurance almost got its way in that legislative debate when a handful of lawmakers threw support behind a legislative proposal that would shield insurance companies from paying what they ought to pay. The legislation, championed

by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), specifically called for setting benchmarked rates for out-of-network medical providers.

But far from solving the problem, this approach would make matters worse. It not only frees insurers from their responsibilities, it fails to compensate providers for the cost of the care that they actually provide. And that, in turn, means either patients will get stuck with the bill or medical providers will have to absorb big losses that ultimately jeopardize their ability to stay in business.

Fortunately, the proposed bill stalled after the medical community warned that the benchmarked rate favored by the insurance industry would allow insurers to exert a new troubling level of control over health-care prices and the larger health-care delivery system.

Now, as Congress begins to take up the issue once again, health insurance companies that evaded significant scrutiny last year seem to be drawing close scrutiny now, both inside and outside of Washington.

Speaking to a group of faith leaders and policymakers in South Carolina, an important stop for the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, Reverend

Al Sharpton criticized the surprise medical billing legislation backed by insurers and stressed the urgent need to deal with the continued lack of access to adequate health insurance coverage for minority communities.

“Washington is getting it wrong,” he wrote in an opinion piece published after his South Carolina trip, adding that the bill introduced by “Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) to ‘solve’ the surprise billing problem would literally insulate insurance companies from covering these costs, at a time when profits for insurance companies have reached record highs.”

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Ma.) predicted that health insurers would do little more than look out for their own interest if they were given the authority to set rates for out-of-network providers.

“My concern with giving too much weight to such a benchmark rate is that we already know insurers are looking for any way they can to pay the least amount possible,” he said. “They will work to push those rates down, regardless of what it means for community providers like physicians, hospitals and our constituents who they

employ.”

There were similar concerns in the U.S. Senate, where Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.) warned that insurers began gaming the system in California once benchmarking rates became the law of the land in that state in 2016.

“Insurance companies cancel contracts and then they have the negotiating power and they establish” their own rate, he said, adding that such benchmarking of rates would likely put hospitals “out of business.”

It’s worth noting that lawmakers are raising such concerns despite the considerable backing the insurance-industry legislation has had from two powerful lawmakers: Senator Alexander, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and Frank Pallone, the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, whose jurisdiction includes health care issues.

More than that, Senator Cassidy introduced legislation that would eliminate surprise medical billing by establishing an arbitration system between insurers and providers – rather than sticking the disputed medical charges to patients. And that legislation is gaining

strong bipartisan support, as is a similar bill in the House that is being advanced by Representatives Representative Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) and Representative Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.), both of whom are doctors.

Surprise medical billing is a problem we can no longer ignore, particularly at a time when roughly two-thirds of Americans say that they are concerned about their ability to pay for an unexpected medical expense for themselves or for a family member. And this practice is especially hard on African Americans and other people of color in the U.S. who already face significant barriers to health care and who generally receive lower quality of care than the rest of the nation.

Congress has an opportunity to make things right by ending the practice of surprise medical billing. Black Americans and all others in America shouldn’t be saddled with exorbitant bills that they had no reason to expect – and that impose an unjust financial burden.

*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.*

# National Black Political Convention aims to set black agenda

*April 16-18 gathering expected to draw Democratic presidential candidates, national policy makers, activists*

By Brianna Nargiso  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*

As political observers continue to track America’s high valued black vote to see which Democratic presidential candidate may win the lion’s share this election year, the National Policy Alliance will host the National Black Political Convention at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. April 16-18, 2020, to create a universal black agenda.

“Voices sharing what we need to be focused on, planning and getting an agenda that is actually pertinent to our future.” This is how convention planner Linda Haithcox Taylor describes the convention, expected to draw members of Congress, speakers and political activists from around the country.

Presidential candidates Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Vice Pres. Joe Biden have all confirmed their attendance. Confirmed speakers include Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Kamala Harris, Congressman Anthony Brown, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Doug Williams and more than 30 others. Pres. Barack Obama has also been invited to speak about what black people should be doing during this election period and throughout the next eight years.

The convention will serve as a political caucus for both black voters, government officials and community organizers as black leaders reconcile some of the most compelling issues



Waters

and concerns that are heavily impacting the black community. The status of healthcare, economic and environmental justice, affordable housing, education, criminal justice, black veteran’s affairs, energy, media relations and the role of the black entertainment industry are among those crucial issues.

On April 16, two weeks before the Maryland primary, The National Black Political Convention will kickoff its weekend of events with a presidential forum at Bowie State University in Baltimore. Bowie is significant because not only is it the oldest historically black university in Maryland, but in 2017, the university also welcomed its first female president, Anita Breaux.

The goal is to spend the weekend creating a united black agenda to be



Booker

sent to both the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee. Issues will be discussed through a series of speaker-led sessions. Sessions can also expect to be diverse in generation, offering representation for both older and younger voters.

Conveners for the convention include National Blacks in Government, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, National Black Agenda and the Futures Forum among others.

Attendants can register for the National Black Political Convention by going to the website of the National Policy Alliance: <https://npalinks.org/nbpc/>

The first National Black Political Convention in 1972 served as the first major gathering of black voters



Harris

and political thinkers in Gary, Indiana united to discuss the pressing social and economic issues of the time. These issues included minimum wage discrepancies, home rule for Washington, D.C, the elimination of capital punishment and more.

Thousands of African-American intellectuals, community organizers and voters were present alongside representatives from 46 states. Notable attendees were then presidential candidate Shirley Chisolm, volunteer sargeant at arms Muhammad Ali, Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale, Coretta Scott King, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Min. Louis Farrakan, civil rights icon Dick Gregory among others.

From this convention came several united principles pursued by black civil rights organizations, religious

leaders, local, state and national officials. Convention participants convened to discuss the creation of a black agenda to be given to political parties.

Echoing the legacy of the 1972 convention, 44 years later, in 2016 another convention was hosted, this time by the National Policy Alliance. Missioned as an organization that “brings together public officials, community leaders, aspiring public servants and the citizens they serve,” the National Policy Alliance organized what would be the second National Black Political Conference marking the end of Pres. Barack Obama’s term as president.

The agenda of issues included but was not limited to education, gun control, healthcare, voting rights and economic opportunities for African Americans.

Since the first convention in 1972, the number of black members of Congress has more than tripled, significantly increasing black representation in government. However, many challenges remain and can expect to be redressed and brainstormed for applicable solutions.

Taylor says the National Policy Alliance wants the room full of people dedicated to the black agenda, ready to propose solutions and share experiences contributable to the cause of the convention.

She concludes, “This is not and has never been a meeting about complaining, it’s a meeting about solutions.”





# Exhort one another daily

P A R T 1

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



We read in Hebrews 3:12-14 these words: “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”

Our scripture text exhorts us to “Take heed” lest we fall into a condition of unbelief as many others have done. I want to remind us that none of us have it made. There is always

the possibility of losing out with God. We may be saved today and be in good spiritual condition, but that can change if we fail to watch and stay alert. Others have lost out, and it can happen to us also.

There is an enemy who is ever seeking an opportunity to turn the child of God away from righteous living. We need to take heed to ourselves, be serious, be sober and be diligent about the things of God and our soul. Why? Because we could become faint in our mind and think that serving God is too difficult. We must beware of becoming weary in the battle for truth and right, thus entertaining the thought of laying down the armor.

Consider the pitfalls that so many have fallen into, thereby

losing out with God. We must realize that one day this life will come to an end. This race will soon be over, and only those who have been faithful to God, who have stood firm, and who have endured to the end will obtain the final reward – Heaven.

The Old Testament contains many examples of the children of Israel failing and going back on the Lord. Often times, they provoked Him to anger with their unbelief. They refused to believe that He would carry them through and supply all their needs.

When in the wilderness, the Israelites complained and murmured against God and His man, Moses. They complained of having no food to eat, so God sent manna from heaven, but that soon became

distasteful. They murmured and complained because they had no water to drink, so God sent forth water from the rock.

When the Israelites came to the place of entering Canaan Land as God had promised, they did not believe He would destroy the giants who lived in the land. Their unbelief caused them to send spies to seek out the land.

God’s wrath was stirred to the degree that He said in Hebrews 3:11, “They shall not enter into My rest.”

Next week – Part II, “Exhort one another daily.”

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

## P R E S E R V E D

# Being a do-right christian in a do-wrong world

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



It’s hard being a do-right christian in a do-wrong world...sounds like a bad blues song, doesn’t it? This phrase came up once in a conversation that I was having with a single male friend. He wondered if I noticed that it seemed like those who do wrong seem to get further ahead than those who try to do the right thing. After he made his statement/question, I had to agree that part of what he said was true.

We went down the list of examples and it looked like there didn’t seem to be any incentives for doing right. Think about it: you cheat in sports using steroids...and you win a championship prize or become an all-star. It seems like those who rely on old-fashioned hard work rarely are celebrated for their natural athletic ability.

We all know people (or for some of us...we may be the people) who have stretched the truth a little bit to get a job or job promotion. And the person who was honest about not completing their degree is stuck in the mailroom.

In the midst of our discussion, we cited example after example from our own lives and from those we knew who seemingly had escaped negative consequences for doing wrong. Strangely, the more we talked about people doing wrong and getting away with it, we both concluded that in most instances, they ultimately “paid” for their transgression in some form. If they didn’t repent for their wrongdoing, some were fired from their dream job and others were burdened with years of nagging,

tormenting guilt about their past wrong doings.

Tiger Woods is just one example of someone who seemed to get ahead doing wrong. However, his secret sins were exposed and God’s truth remained: there are always consequences to compromise. It’s been years since his presumed treatment for drug abuse and sex addiction and he is still competitive as a golf player. But he’s not as strong a player as he once was. Restoration, and not humiliation, is God’s promise when we repent.

Our conversation never defined what right is but then naturally shifted to how we should do right. For some it is the fear of bad reputation, bad credit or the fear of God that keeps us from doing things that we know are wrong even though it may look and feel right.

Could it be because some people are “nice” and just don’t have a mean bone in their body? Cut someone off in traffic and you’ll find out how many mean bones they have and off-color words they can spout with a Shakespearean flourish.

Proverbs 14:12-13 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief.”

Doing right means that we focus not on others, our past or even our present mistakes, but that we take a great leap of faith and join God in our future.

*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 preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*

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MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

**MONDAY**  
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.  
Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.

Michael T. Williams  
Pastor

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Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.  
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*"A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man"*

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*Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others*

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Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.

**Sunday Worship**  
Service 11:00 a.m.  
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worship service 12:00  
tomorrow

**Wednesday**  
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**Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor**  
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Church: 601-859-1858



## Normalcy

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



Normalcy. *Dictionary.com* defines normalcy as: the quality or condition of being normal, as the general economic, political, and social conditions of a nation; normality. While overly broad, it's easy to believe that most citizens of this nation would accept this definition as accurate. Amazingly, the example given for word usage was: After months of living in a state of tension, all yearned for a return to normalcy.

Not so amazingly, I accept that our loss of normalcy shapes the state of our current national distress. What's worse – under #45 – there is little hope of relief from the state of flux we now endure. Confusion and uncertainty occupy more space in my future concerns than at any other time in my life.

What is certain is that I yearn for a time, as those just a few short years ago, where things weren't perfect, but where we weren't subject to the unlawful, perverse whims of a would-be tyrant and those who would support him blindly.

The majority of voters knew better. We voted, and not for him. We knew him to be racist, misogynistic and lacking in values and character. He was self-described, and described by those closest to him, as a disruptor whose primary goal was to destroy the institutional fabric of the nation. Although not completely successful, in three years we have seen him take giant steps toward his singular rule as we hope, pray and act to prevent his stated goals.

Rather than working for the benefit of the entire nation, he first, with the support of a Senate and House of Representatives corrupted by the goal of perpetual power, began to pass laws which had no effect other than to enrich the wealthy. When his laws and executive orders didn't directly enrich the already rich, they were motivated by a racist and infantile effort to erase the legacy of President Obama.

Many have grown so weary of the on-going litany of breaches of presidential protocols, practices and traditions that they have given up their protests of his conduct for the safer tact of "praying for divine relief." Many more, I believe, have failed to correctly anticipate how the pieces of his strategic jigsaw puzzle fit together.

Our government of three co-equal branches has been co-opted by an executive branch which has manipulated the judiciary with the lifetime appointments of scores of unqualified judges and enlisted the assistance of a cooperative Senate to maintain the gridlock of legislative inaction. Within the executive branch, he has established a revolving door of cabinet and staff that make his judgments and whims the only constants in administration policy.

Most alarmingly, his recent forays into the judicial process – military and civilian – are disturbing to the core. His act of reversing the judgment of a military court released a war criminal with the additional effect of eroding confidence in the military chain-of-command and the standards of conduct servicemembers are bound to uphold.

The recent pardons/commutation of sentences for 11 federally convicted criminals are within his constitutional authority, but were they purposed to uphold justice? To the contrary, I believe they were issued with the desire to condition the public to accept any action he might choose to take. His actions are those of a monarch, not a president. But he's already told us of his intention to remain in office – like a king.

It's not normal to be able to "boil a frog." The key to boiling the frog is to turn the heat up gradually so it won't notice.

Even when our "normal" is disrupted by perverse mismanagement, we have the capacity to access and reject the disruption. We have the capacity and the responsibility.

*Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. She's also host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFM-FM 89.3.*

## National Urban League and BET networks launch #ReclaimYourVote

By Marc H. Morial  
Trice Edney Newswire



*"Voter suppression isn't guns and hoses and bully clubs and Bull Connor. It's administrative burdens that interfere with your right to vote. In the south they try to stop you from getting on the rolls ... and to stay on the rolls ... and have your ballot be counted. We need our democracy to work, we need poverty to end, we need disenfranchisement to be a thing of the past, because when people are suppressed or oppressed it rages. It may be silent for some time but eventually it will come out." – Stacey Abrams*

During a hearing in 2017, California Congresswoman Maxine Waters secured her place as a social media hero when she dismissed the evasive meanderings of Treasury Secretary Steven

Mnuchin with the stern and uncompromising retort, "Reclaiming my time."

Now, the National Urban League and BET Networks have turned Rep. Maxine Waters' iconic catchphrase, into rallying cry.

#ReclaimYourVote is a social change campaign committed to harnessing black collective power and increasing black participation in the 2020 Census and the 2020 Election.

With its primary channel reaching more than 90 million households, BET Network is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African-American audience.

The biggest part of Russia's insidious operation to disrupt the 2016 presidential election was aimed at dissuading black Americans from voting, as our 2019 State of Black America® report revealed. This illegal foreign operation

unfortunately aligned perfectly with a wave of racially-motivated voter suppression laws that have swept the nation over the last several years.

#Reclaim Your Vote is our response. Fully half the states in the nation have enacted restrictive voter suppression laws, aimed at racial minorities, over the last 10 years. The 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, which gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, opened the floodgate for racially-motivated voter suppression.

Texas, for example, passed a strict voter-ID law that allows voters to use a handgun license to vote, but not a student ID from a state university. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, more than 80 percent of handgun licenses issued to Texans in 2018 went to white Texans, while more than half of the students in the University of Texas system are racial or ethnic minorities.

Meanwhile, Russia's campaign to

disrupt and influence our democracy continues. We must be vigilant against misinformation about the candidates and any efforts to mislead voters about the election. One of the most common tactics of hostile foreign actors is to abuse the trust in movements like #BlackLivesMatter to insinuate themselves into online communities to spread lies and dissuade black people from voting.

The nationwide #ReclaimYourVote campaign will layout the most significant issues, break down otherwise confusing processes, and highlight specific ways where we can reclaim our collective power by harnessing the power of media, entertainment and technology to drive civic engagement.

The next phases of #ReclaimYourVote will focus on rallying the community around the critical matters that directly affect them with issues-based content and comprehensive analysis.

## The pernicious power of patriarchy

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Our nation, these United States, is founded on the principles of racism and patriarchy. They are reflected in our very constitution, where enslaved persons were counted as a fraction of a person, and only men of property were allowed the right to vote. The filthy inequality at the foundation of this nation has now bubbled up and boiled over, now polluting every aspect of our lives.

Patriarchy places men at the center of life, and women at the periphery. It suggests that women do not matter. It allows for the subjugation of women when they attempt to enter public spaces that have previously been earmarked as "male" spaces. Thus, there were no restrooms for women legislators in the US House or Senate, even as women entered those spaces. They were only created when women demanded them. Of course, restrooms are just a minor manifestation of the hegemonic patriarchy that rules our nation.

A great picture of our nation's racist patriarchy was the visual of dour and dissipated white men interrogating the amazingly composed Anita Hill as she reviewed her experiences with now-Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Though Hill was persuasive, she was attacked in the vilest of terms, accused of nonsense like "erotomania,"

and even recently harassed by Thomas' unhinged spouse who was still seeking apology after two decades. Note to Thomas, take the phone from your wife when her meds are not working. In any case, Thomas is on the Supreme Court because white men chose to disregard the word of a black woman, a decision that then-Senator Joe Biden says he now regrets. Thomas was confirmed by the narrowest margin in history 52-48.

Here we go again. By the time this is published the matter of 45's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is resolved, but the issue of pernicious patriarchy will not be. Regarding Kavanaugh, he has been accused by Christine Blasey Ford of sexual assault more than 35 years ago, when both were teens. She disclosed her accusations in a letter that California Senator Dianne Feinstein received in July, but did not share with the FBI until later, mainly because Ford asked for confidentiality. Ford has requested that the FBI investigate her assertions, and the Senate judiciary committee is still fast-tracking the Kavanaugh vote. The outcome, while necessary, is not the bottom line. The issue is the way that racist patriarchy makes some offensive and illegal behavior acceptable.

Privileged white male culture allows and encourages excessive drinking and obnoxious behavior toward women. It is excused because "boys will be boys." But what boys? Black boys,

even accused of "reckless eyeballing," are fair game for lynching. White boys on rampages are excused for assault, rape and attempted rape. Can I call the name of Recy Taylor, the young black woman who was walking home from church and raped by a gaggle of white men who thought her body their right? Can I remind us of the Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton Williams, who said that if rape was inevitable, a woman should "lay back and enjoy it"? Ann Richards beat him, but that wasn't quite the point. The point was that some man thought that rape was inevitable enough to "enjoy."

Privileged white male culture allows a man who should not have been elected president to denigrate women regularly. We are "fat" "dogs" and "liars." He bragged about grabbing women's genitals, and our society is so poached in pernicious patriarchy that 52 percent of all women still voted for him. They thought he was joking because, for too many women, patriarchy has so seeped into our consciousness that the abuse of women is a joke.

If we women were honest, we would say that we have all cosigned patriarchy in the interest of keeping it moving. We have deflected the sexist comments that come our way, even as we cringe from them. We smile at men that we abhor because they may have decision making power in their hands. We dress up or dress down depending on the occasion and the way we have to play the

game. We know the system is slanted against us, we know we still have to play, and we decide when we choose to blow the whistle, a whistle we could blow every single day. #MeToo is the tip of the iceberg because it fails to deal with race systematically, but also because it manages the evident and personal, not the institutional.

In addition to being #MeToo women, we are mothers, sisters, daughters and wives (hello Julie Chen Moonves), so some of us want to justify patriarchy for "our" men. Our son, husband, cousin, brother "didn't mean it" and could not be that bad. Wake up call if they violated a woman, they were that bad. If they raped a black woman and you turned away from the accusation, you are wrong, you are horribly and complicity wrong.

Tearing down the walls of pernicious patriarchy means attacking the very foundation of our nation. When we attack patriarchy, we also attack the racism that is also part of our foundation. Many have lined up to support Christine Blasey Ford. How many are equally willing to attack the pernicious racist patriarchal roots of our nation?

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

## Kerner Report set standard for what a serious presidential candidate should champion

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



As the Democratic presidential primaries move onto Nevada, South Carolina and the many Super Tuesday states, candidates turn their attention to people of color, and particularly African Americans.

Many candidates find their rhetoric contradicted by their record; their promises conflicting with their performances.

Donald Trump now seeks to woo black voters by taking credit for the economy, by touting the first steps in reducing mass incarceration and by hyping so-called "opportunity zones."

His history – rising to prominence with the vile racist campaign about whether Barack Obama is American, embracing the Nazis at Charlottesville,

dedicating his administration to erasing all things Obama, framing his political appeal on race bait politics – gives lie to his histrionics.

The same occurs on the Democratic side.

Pete Buttigieg always sounds good, but African-American leaders in his town exorcise his record as mayor on race and policing. Amy Klobuchar runs as a moderate, but her brutal record as a prosecutor limits her appeal. Mike Bloomberg has the resources to flood the zone, but he too struggles to explain his harsh, racially biased stop-and-frisk policies as mayor of New York or his laughable embrace of right-wing nutcase theories that somehow anti-redlining policies triggered the financial crisis.

Bloomberg is joined by Joe Biden on what seems like an endless apology tour.

African-American voters are not easily fooled. They have a clear agen-

da. They suffer structural inequality – more unemployment than whites, lower wages, worse jobs, worse schools, inadequate health care, unaffordable housing, unsafe neighborhoods befouled by pollution and poisons, inadequate childcare, lack of recreational facilities and the outrages of a criminal justice system that is structurally biased against them. They want what most Americans want, and they have a trained eye about politicians.

Notably absent from the debate is a leader prepared to be as bold and as serious about the challenges facing African Americans as the Kerner Commission was 22 years ago. The commission, chaired by Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner, was created by President Lyndon Johnson in the wake of the devastating urban riots of the late '60s. It included leaders from both major parties, as well as representatives of labor, the police, business and civil rights groups.

It became famous for its stark warning: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white – separate and unequal."

Martin Luther King Jr. pronounced the report a "physician's warning of approaching death, with a prescription for life." In many ways, it was the last attempt to address honestly and seriously the structural inequalities that plague African Americans.

It told harsh truths: "What white Americans have never fully understood but what the Negro can never forget – is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it and white society condones it." It concluded that one main cause of the urban violence was white racism that left too many young African Americans waiting hope.

*Continue reading online at www.TheMississippiLink.com*



# COVID-19: UMMC experts explain what you need to know about novel coronavirus

By Ruth Cummins  
[umc.edu](http://umc.edu)

Chances are good that at some point, you’ve had some sort of coronavirus.

Chances are slim, however, that those living in Mississippi are at risk for the novel coronavirus strain making news headlines, a new coronavirus that’s the cause of a worldwide outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in late 2019 in Wuhan City in China’s Hubei Province.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center has processes in place to identify who should be screened for the new strain, referred to as COVID-19, as well as answer questions from patients, families and friends, said Dr. Jason Parham, director of the Department of Medicine’s Division of Infectious Diseases.

As of Feb. 19, 15 cases of COVID-19 had been reported in the United States, none of them in Mississippi. The medical center is actively preparing should it receive a patient with COVID-19, said Dr. Bhagyashri Navalkele, medical director of Infection Prevention.

“Infection Prevention, along with the Mississippi Center for Emergency Services and other key leaders, are making sure that if we identify a case, we will take the proper steps to minimize risk to other patients and staff,” she said.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention alerted the medical community in this country Jan. 8 to be on the lookout for patients with respiratory symptoms and a history of travel to Wuhan.

The CDC prepared proactively for the virus’ spread to this country by developing guidance for clinicians for testing and managing COVID-19, as well as guidance for home care for patients who have it.

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19, which has symptoms that include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Most sufferers experience mild illness and recover with supportive care, Parham said. “There have been cases with severe respiratory illness, mostly pneumonia, requiring hospitalization,” he



said. “Severe illness appears to be most frequently seen in those with underlying chronic conditions.”

Worldwide, 2019n-CoV has killed more than 2,000 people, all but six of them in mainland China. It’s infected more than 75,000 people, with more than 1,000 of those cases outside mainland China.

If you have had a cold or cough, it could have been caused by a coronavirus – just not the COVID-19 strain. “Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause respiratory illness in humans,” Parham said.

“Numerous other coronaviruses circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats,” Parham said. And in rare situations, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread from person to person, he said. That was the case with the coronaviruses Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, in 2003 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, in 2012.

The earliest patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in Wuhan City reportedly had a link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread.

The medical center is following CDC recommendations to identify patients who should be screened for COVID-19. Currently in this country, only the CDC is conducting testing, using multiple specimens from sites including lower respiratory, upper respiratory and blood serum. The Mississippi State Department of Health is expected to be equipped for laboratory testing for COVID-19 in coming weeks.

Screenings should take place on someone experiencing fever and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness, AND in the last 14 days before symptoms onset, had either:

- A history of travel from Hubei Province, China
- A required hospitalization and a history of travel to mainland China

- Close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient.

The CDC defines close contact as being within about 6 feet, or within the room or care area, of a patient with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment, or PPE. That PPE could be gowns, gloves, a specific disposable respirator or eye protection.

Close contact also entails having direct contact, while not wearing PPE, with infectious secretions, such as droplets from coughing, from someone diagnosed with 2019-n-CoV.

If a UMMC provider suspects a patient has COVID-19, Navakele said, they will take these immediate steps:

- Put a regular face mask on the patient and transfer them to a private room, preferably a negative pressure room.
- Initiate airborne and contact isolation. If the patient isn’t in a negative pressure room, use a HEPA filter and

make arrangements to transfer the patient to a negative pressure room.

- Contact Infection Prevention and the state Department of Health.
- Use dedicated equipment for the patient room, and limit patient movement outside the room.
- Avoid any unnecessary diagnostic tests, and allow no visitors with the exception of a child with a single parent, or an end-of-life situation.
- Put on PPE prior to entering a patient room.

Anyone who fits the screening criteria for COVID-19 and is having symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should call the doctor’s office or emergency department before they visit. Patients will receive special instructions before arrival to avoid the risk of exposing others in the office or waiting room.

Although the risk COVID-19 infection in Mississippi is very low, Navalkele said, members of the public should follow the same precautions that they would for flu or virus prevention:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water isn’t available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home from work or school if you’re sick.

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and then throw the tissue in the trash, and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

“We have a high number of flu cases in Mississippi, and we are continuing to see an uptick,” Navalkele said. “If you are sick with the flu, you need to make sure you are staying home and taking appropriate precautions.”

Mississippians as of now have no reason to be fearful, Navalkele said. “This particular coronavirus from China is a new infection. Limited information is available, and that results in anxiety and fear,” she said. “Because it’s new, not everyone has immunity against it. It’s another virus, but one where you would need to take the same precautions as you would with the flu.”

## The Association of Black Cardiologists celebrates Fourth Annual Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day in Harlem

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC), Inc., is excited to kick off the official Heart Valve Disease (HVD) Awareness Day activities with a public community educational health event hosted by the Alliance for Aging Research and The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce.

The Association of Black Cardiologists collaborating with Quantum Genomics’ NEW-HOPE Study, incorporating minority inclusivity, presents Late-Breaking Trial success of novel antihypertensive agent (PRNewsfoto/Association of Black Cardiologi).

The community program provides an excellent opportunity for the ABC to shed



light on the treatment options and technologies available for HVD as well as the fact that minority patients with this cardiac condition are too often underdiagnosed and undertreated.

The Black History and Heart Month event includes free health screenings, interactive exercise demonstrations and a 1-hour educational program

featuring healthcare experts, patient advocacy organizations and community leaders from The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, WebMD and the Alliance for Aging Research.

ABC Past President Dr. Icilima Fergus and ABC CEO Cassandra McCullough will be among the panel of speakers. It will be streamed live on the

Valve Disease Day Facebook page starting at 11 a.m. EST.

“As one of 75 partners and thousands of campaign advocates, we’re proud to participate in this fourth annual Valve Disease Day event to raise awareness about the specific risks and symptoms of heart valve disease,” Dr. Fergus says. “Advocating for early detection of the disease as well as for better access to life-saving treatment for communities like Harlem are paramount to the ABC’s mission.”

While we know African Americans tend to be younger when they develop HVD risk factors, less is known about whether health care providers are detecting and treating HVD in these patients. One

study found the odds of being referred to a cardiothoracic surgeon for treatment of HVD were 54 percent lower in African-American patients compared with whites. Additionally, African Americans with HVD are 33 percent more likely to refuse treatment than white patients – even though, when treated, both groups have similar success.

“Our Task Force has been focused on changing this narrative,” says Dr. Aaron Horne Jr., co-chair of the ABC Structural Heart Disease Task Force. “So far, our efforts have helped to create awareness and action in government, academia and industry, but we know it’s equally critical to enhance our work with community outreach.”

Heart valve disease occurs when one or more of the heart’s four valves do not work properly – allowing leakage or not letting enough blood to pass through. The disease can form at birth, or develop from damage later in life. An estimated 11 million Americans have HVD and each year, more than 25,000 people in the United States die from the disease. Fortunately, it can often be successfully treated with valve repair and replacement in patients of all ages.

*Learn more about the events and awareness activities by following the #ValveDisease-Day hashtag.*

*Find more information about the campaign at [www.ValveDiseaseDay.org](http://www.ValveDiseaseDay.org).*





LEGAL

**NOTICE  
THE JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WILL RECEIVE  
PROPOSALS  
UNTIL 2:00 O'CLOCK P.M., MARCH 27, 2020,  
FOR SPACE AVAILABLE TO BE LEASED  
IN UNION STATION MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER**

Proposals to lease space in the Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") at the offices of the Authority, 3rd floor, Richard J. Porter Municipal Building, 218 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 o'clock P.M., March 27, 2020, for any space available to be leased in Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center (the "Facility").

The Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center is located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, on the north side of Capitol Street between Mill and Gallatin Streets, approximately bisected by the Illinois Central Railroad line, and space available for lease is located on the first and second floors of the Facility.

All proposals shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Request for Proposals, copies of which are available for review at the offices of the Authority and will be furnished upon request. Proposals shall be made by those interested on or before 2:00 o'clock P.M., March 27, 2020.

Thereafter, Notice of Request for Proposals by the Authority to lease any remaining available space in the Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center may be published bi-monthly until all space in the Facility is leased, with the last Submission Deadline being 2:00 p.m. on November 20, 2020. Interested parties may submit proposals to the Authority for any unleased available space pursuant to the RFP issued and dated February 19, 2020, or subsequently.

Such further information as is available regarding lease space in the Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center may be obtained at the offices of the Authority.

DATED: FEBRUARY 19, 2020  
/s/ Mary Ealey  
Manager

2-20-2020, 2-27-2020, 3-5-2020

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
A. NEW BUSINESS

\* CASE NO. 2020-05, REQUESTED BY: JEFF SEABOLD, TO CONSTRUCT CUSTOM DESIGNED FENCE ALONG SIDE AND BACK YARD OF THE PROPERTY AT 1320 ST. ANN ST, LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

\* ADJOURN  
DUE TO A CONFLICT IN HIS/HER SCHEDULE, COMMISSIONERS MAY UTILIZE CONFERENCE CALLING TO HEAR CASES & VOTE IN THE EVENT OF THEIR ABSENCE.

DATES OF PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 20, 2020 & FEBRUARY 27, 2020.  
PLEASE SEND PROOF OF PUBLICATION TO: BIQI ZHAO (P.O. BOX 17, 200 S PRESIDENT ST. JACKSON, MS 39205-0017) HISTORIC PRESERVATION (601) 960-2006 OR EMAIL IT TO BZHAO@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US

2-20-2020, 2-27-2020

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

LEGAL

**Advertisement for Electronic Bid  
Bid 3122 Callaway High School Roof, HVAC, and Gym**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Callaway High School Roof, HVAC and gymnasium will be held at Callaway High School, 601 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS on March 6, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. 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.dalebaileyplans.com. A \$300.00 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 Wanda Elliott at Dale Partners, Associates, Phone: 601-352-5411 or Email: WandaElliott@dalepartners.com.

2-20-2020, 2-27-2020

LEGAL

**Section 901  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi  
Woodrow Wilson Avenue Improvements Project  
Federal Aid Project No. STP-7281-00(004) LPA/ 107549-701000**

The CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI will receive bids for the Woodrow Wilson Avenue Improvement Project from Mill Street to just west of the I-55 ramps, Federal Aid Project No. STP-7281-00(004)LPA/ 107549-701000 no later than 3:30 p.m., local time, Tuesday, March 24, 2020 , in the City Clerk's office of Jackson, at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the City Hall located 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Mill and overlay of existing lanes of Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Mill Street to just west of the I-55 ramps, repair existing underlying concrete pavement where indicated in the plans and as determined by the Engineer, construct a shared use path and related curb and gutter and storm drain system improvements from State Street to the Peachtree Street, and construct a third westbound lane from Peachtree Street to just west of the I-55 ramps for a total project length of 1.18 miles.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements. The DBE goal will be 6%.

The contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following

LEGAL

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

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed and electronic 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, 03/31/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 379-002 Record Center - PH II  
Naval Reserve Building (Office of Capitol Facilities)  
(Department of Finance and Administration)  
RFx #: 3160003486

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

2-27-2020, 3-5-2020

Office  
Space  
for Rent

Garrett  
Enterprises  
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199

locations:

- City of Jackson, Department of Public Works, 219 S. President St Jackson, MS, 39205
- Michael Baker International, Inc., 310 New Pointe Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157
- Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralauctionhouse.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.

Copies of the Proposal and Contract Documents may be obtained at Michael Baker International, Inc. upon payment of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for each set, none of which is refundable.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson Board of Aldermen as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date above designated. Stripped Proposals will be rejected. Bidders may not withdraw their bid within sixty (60) days after the date of the actual bid opening without consent of the City of Jackson.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017 Edition", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The attention of bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

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

Robert K. Miller  
Director  
Department of Public Works

2-20-2020, 2-27-2020

LEGAL

**NOTICE  
THE JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WILL RECEIVE  
PROPOSALS  
UNTIL 3:00 O'CLOCK P.M., MARCH 27, 2020,  
FOR SPACE AVAILABLE TO BE LEASED  
IN THE MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY NO. 2**

Proposals to lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") at the offices of the Authority, 3rd floor, Richard J. Porter Municipal Building, 218 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:00 o'clock P.M., March 27, 2020, for any space available to be leased in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 (the "Facility").

The Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 is located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, on the south side of Capitol Street, between Congress and President Streets, and space available for lease is located on the first floor of the Facility.

All proposals shall be in accordance with all of the requirements of the Request for Proposals, copies of which are available for review at the offices of the Authority and will be furnished upon request. Proposals shall be made by those interested on or before 3:00 o'clock P.M., March 27, 2020.

Thereafter, Notice of Request for Proposals by the Authority to lease any remaining available space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 may be published bi-monthly until all space in the Facility is leased, with the last Submission Deadline being 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2020. Interested parties may submit proposals to the Authority for any unleased available space pursuant to the RFP issued and dated February 19, 2020, or subsequently. Such further information as is available regarding lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 may be obtained at the offices of the Authority.

DATED: FEBRUARY 19, 2020  
/s/ Mary Ealey  
Manager

2-20-2020, 2-27-2020, 3-5-2020



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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  
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**K & K ONE STOP**  
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS  
**LACY'S INSURANCE**  
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**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**  
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120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS  
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Mississippi Hwy 18  
**PITT STOP**  
101 Hwy 18 & 27  
  
**BOLTON**  
**BOLTON LIBRARY**  
**BOLTON CITY HALL**

## Crossword Puzzle

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

- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Mongolian desert

5. Capital of Norway

9. Eve's garden

10. Capital of Senegala

11. Lading

12. Aflame

13. Factuality

15. Self-esteem

16. Country Island group in Indian ocean

18. Put in the middle

21. Hoopla

22. Decrees

26. Riot

28. Tropical island

29. Nail filing board

30. Old

31. Fib

32. Perceives with eye
1. Money

2. Smell

3. Swain

4. Charge formally

5. Lout

6. Snow slider

7. Slow

8. Sandwich cookies brand

10. Stopped up

14. Resentfully

17. Abominable

18. Insertion mark

19. Water retention

20. New

23. Court suit

24. Biblical "you"

25. Lager

27. Before, poetically

© Feature Exchange

## Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

AKETWO SNT KLAX RKIDT DBHBGAT

FKR SIBLORKIMWLY BL TLTMX

WLSK B RIWTL C



© Feature Exchange

## Crossword Solution

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

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## Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

BGDCTRYNWFPA MLKHQIOSZEJ V XU

LOVE IS THE ONLY FORCE CAPABLE

AKETWO SNT KLAX RKIDT DBHBGAT

OF TRANSFORMING AN ENEMY

KR SIBLORKIMWLY BL TLTMX

INTO A FRIEND.

WLSK B RIWTL C

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Week of February 23, 2020



# Annual Links Day at the Capitol

## Capitol Building • Jackson, MS • February 19, 2020

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





## Julius Lanier “J.L.” Sanders

October 25, 1920 - February 18, 2020

Julius Lanier Sanders was born October 25, 1920 in Utica, Mississippi to Lewis L. Sanders and Oda Mae Garner Sanders.

Julius (J.L.) was educated in the Madison County and Utica Institute School Systems. This is where he first met the late Bessie Mae Griffin-Sanders; the rest is history; they met, married and raised a family in Madison County (the Sharon Community).

In 1941, Brother Julius was called to the United States Navy and was deferred until November, 1944. He was called back to the United States Navy; during this time the war ended and he received an honorary discharge.

Julius was first baptized at the age of fourteen at Stoke Chapel Church in Flora, Mississippi. Later, he was saved and baptized at Cross-

roads Church of God, Farmhaven, Mississippi, where he was a solider for the Lord.

At Crossroads he served as treasurer for twenty-six (26) years, worship leader, Sunday School superintendent, president of the Men Ministry, choir member, choir president and chairman of the Board of Trustees. At the General Assembly of the Church of God in Mississippi (Farmhaven Association), he served as campground manager for six years, and helped the late Sister Bessie in the kitchen cooking three meals per day for the campers.

He enjoyed singing and playing his harmonica to the glory of God.

Julius was the owner and operator of the Sanders' ALD Clean Laundry in Canton, he was also a farmer, and anything he planted produced abundantly.

In 1959, he and the late Bessie M. Sanders received the Most Progressive Negro Family Award in Madison County, presented by the *Madison County Herald*, along with many other awards and recognitions. In 1970-1980, he was elected as the first co-chairman with Attorney Bob Montgomery of Canton for the Democratic Party Madison County, District 3.

Julius entered into eternal rest Tuesday, February 18, 2020. He is preceded in death by his wife, Bessie M. Sanders, parents Lewis and Oda Mae Sanders and one brother, James Sanders.

Julius leaves loving memories and a grand legacy to his children and one adopted grandson, Sallie (Reverend Robert Hamilton), Calvin (Ann) Sanders, Jackson, Mississippi, Ethel M. Sanders, Canton,

Mississippi, Lewis L. (Evelyn) Sanders, Flora, Mississippi, Jettie (Lucky) Sanders, Atlanta, Georgia, Patricia (Jewel) Ford, Byram, Mississippi, Lee A. (Bettie) Sanders, Madison, Mississippi, Janice F. Moorehead, Jackson/Atlanta, Georgia, Velma (David) Ewing, Madison, Mississippi, Marcus V. Sanders, Atlanta, Georgia; one brother Willie Watts, Harvey, Alabama; twenty-nine grandchildren, thirty-five great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, two nieces, one nephew, many cousins and friends.

The celebration of life service for Julius L. Sanders was held at Lees Chapel AME Zion Church, Canton, MS, February 22, 2020 with interment in Garrett Memorial Garden, Crossroads Church of God, Farmhaven, MS.



Sanders

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## HCSD celebrates School Board Recognition Month



Carolyn Samuel, Secretary - District 5



Robbie Anderson - District 2



Tim Barnett - District 1

Thank you to our Board of Education for your leadership and commitment to our students, staff and communities. We appreciate your efforts in leading us into the future. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work for our school district. We appreciate all the time you spend serving our board.

Dr. Delesicia Martin,  
Superintendent of Education



Dr. Linda Laws, President - District 3



Kayla Banger - District 4



### MAKE AN IMPACT.

Join our team of caring and compassionate educators making a huge impact in the classroom and the community.

**Hinds County School District**

## JOB FAIR




**FEB 29, 2020**  
9AM-12PM

**BYRAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd, Terry, MS 39170

Apply online at [hinds.k12.ms.us](https://hinds.k12.ms.us).  
Questions? Contact HCSD Human Resources Department at 601-857-5222.

## Highlights from Board Recognition Night





## ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

### Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

### SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

### Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

### Office Hours:

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

### Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

### VOTER INFORMATION

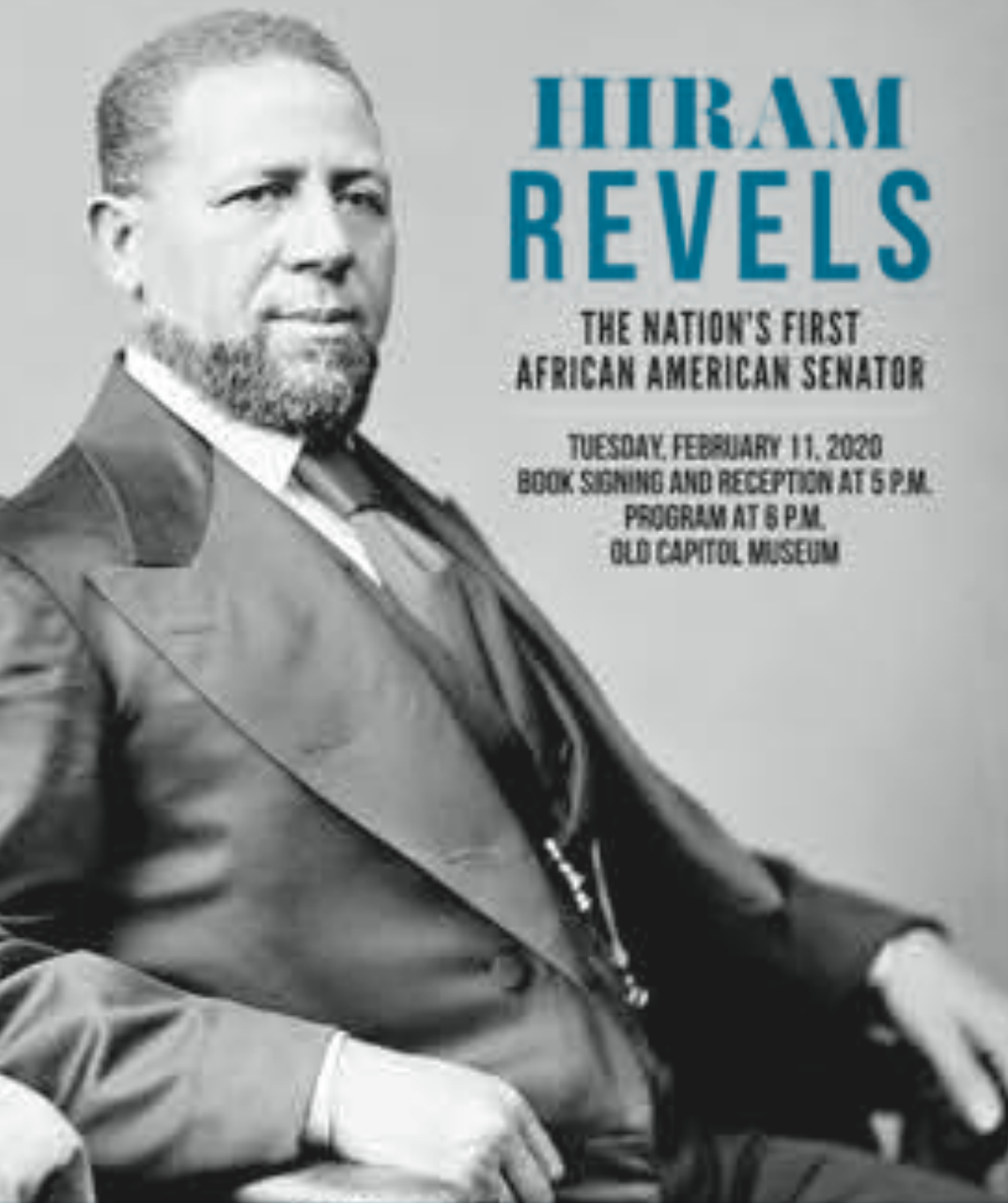
[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

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

### MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
  - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
  - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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



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# Alpha Kappa Alpha Founders Day

New Hope Baptist Church • Jackson, MS • February 16, 2020

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





# The Jackson Five

Motown’s celebrated icons started churning out hits in 1965

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

COMMENTARY

Fifty-five years ago, music changed forever.

In 1965, pop music’s most celebrated and dynamic dynasty was born when five brothers from Gary, Indiana, formed The Jackson 5.

With hits like “I’ll Be There,” “The Love You Save” and “I Want You Back,” the brothers Jackson took the world by storm. Their trailblazing act set the stage for music’s single most influential artist – the King of Pop: Michael Jackson.

While the Jackson 5 never won a Grammy, Michael would eventually dominate all awards and shatter every record known to music.

With hits too numerous to recite and including “Off the Wall,” “Thriller,” “Billie Jean,” “Bad” and “Man in the Mirror,” Michael’s solo accomplishments remain unchallenged, for he was not only idolized by fans but considered a star among all other celebrities.

To put it in perspective, the praise heaped upon Michael,



think Beyoncé, and add 100 times or more to that.

However, it should not be mistaken, whatever the Jackson 5 – who were later rebranded as The Jacksons – lacked in awards, they more than made up for it in record sales and concert receipts.

As far as talent, it wasn’t all Michael.

On stage, Jackie, Jermaine, Tito, Marlon and even Randy proved as talented as any pop star. That’s far from hyperbole.

Anyone who shared the stage with Michael that often – and more than held their own – had

to possess similar talent.

The only thing better than a Michael Jackson concert was a show featuring Michael AND his brothers.

“Nobody worked harder than Michael,” family patriarch, the late Joseph Jackson, once told this reporter. “But nobody ex-

cept my boys could run with him,” Jackson stated.

Jermaine, perhaps the best-known group member not named Michael, also was ticketed for superstardom. It was no mistake that Jermaine was seen as the glue to hold the brothers together.

He also possessed a string of hits including, “Let’s Get Serious,” “Dynamite” and “When the Rain Begins to Fall.”

Tito would go on to front a Blues band, while Jackie found success producing other artists.

The Jackson Five earned induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, while Michael was inducted as a solo artist four years later.

Michael Jackson died in 2009, but his music continues to top the charts routinely.

Michael’s legacy has eclipsed Elvis Presley, John Lennon and all other superstars.

His estate continues to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and fans are as loyal as ever.

The Jacksons have since resumed touring, wowing a new generation of fans, and remains a top concert draw.

“There was always magic in Michael and something special in all of them,” Motown Records founder Berry Gordy stated.

Stated Motown Legend Stevie Wonder: “There will never be another Michael nor another Jackson Five.”

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## TV-film actor Yohance Myles gives ‘JSU Perspective’ during Black History keynote address

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Educator and TV-film actor Yohance Myles brought a message of hope and of tearing down walls and limitations in a recent keynote address at Jackson State University’s Black History Convocation in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium.

Myles encouraged the audience to discover and share unheard stories and voices throughout the world and, most importantly, in its local community. The event was organized by the Department of Music, Department of Art and Theatre, and the Student Government Association.

“If we fail at doing this, there are negative forces forever present that will continue to perpetuate the stereotypes that define those limitations often placed on the African-American experience; we cannot afford that,” said Myles, a married father of four boys and a girl.

Failing to carefully observe and responsibly share those stories can mistakenly and inappropriately contribute to the miseducation and understanding of a global group of people, he said.

Pulling from his expertise as an educator, Myles explained that exercised within the walls of higher learning are interdisciplinary studies, cross-cultural opportunities, multiracial diversity and learning abroad programs to further the goal of global interaction.

Myles called for continued sensitivity and an open mind in acknowledging and embracing the tribal call from ancestors, saying it still resounds from Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, the Diaspora, the bloody and sacrificial soil and a mirror in the ghettos.

“The voices of my ancestors still resound in our upscale neighborhoods as we sometimes become far too removed spiritually and mentally from where we come from,” he said.

The tribal call, he said, is heard from the mountains of Alabama, the swampy terrain of Louisiana, the fertile Delta of Mississippi from Florida to Georgia, the Carolinas, and the deep South. He then requested that gratitude be given for those who fought and died as a sacrifice for equality, freedom, love and a purposeful life.

“To our surviving veterans – those of pageant wars, those from the civil rights movement – we say thank you; and, we give honor to you,” Myles said.

The Birmingham, Alabama, native expressed gratitude for the fortitude of Jackson State University and its leadership. Myles then called for reflection while asking what separates individuals as a group and what connects them.

“There is a visible thread



Yohance Myles, a television and film actor, recently starred as Councilmen Kent in the OWN Network show “Ambitions.” PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU



JSU student organization MADDRA gave a thought-provoking performance called “If Knees Could Talk.”



J6 student singers delivered a rousing rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

of hope used to produce the garment of human civilization. That visible thread is of language, art, music, poetry, food, writing, literature,” he continued. “Mass communication, theater, dance, fashion, science, political science, philosophy, law, business and education, all woven into the very DNA of our identity and every human being represented in this room that makes it all so special.”

He then posed, “What is the JSU perspective?” He stated that despite an individual’s physical characteristics, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, discipline or career that all people are woven together

by their “beautiful rare array” of life experience.

The former JSU theater professor asked for the fearless and robust of faith to heed the calling from their ancestors. He warned that those answering the call must be willing to give of themselves unselfishly, without the best or no reward, work long and tedious hours, sacrifice family, friends and health while having the judgment of the world on their backs.

“The JSU perspective is real,” he voiced.

For Myles, the JSU perspective is what saved a “country city boy from a functional, yet dysfunctional community called Cen-

tral Park.”

He credited one of his professors, Tonea Stewart, noted actor and JSU alum, for challenging and cultivating him. Myles said Stewart dared him to believe and discover his greatness. And, Stewart willed him to be “successful, artistically bold, to exude black excellence, to have empathy and advocate for the poor of heart and spirit.”

Myles said, “That thread of love and wisdom from her that gently poured into me to be all that I am today. It is that very fabric that I’m speaking about. That beautiful garment of the African-American experience saved my life.”

### Our Part in History By Flo

Reflections of our past  
Should in most instances outlast  
Any struggle that we're now enduring  
Overcoming where we've been should be most assuring  
That we can make it through  
As Paul told the early Christians, as much as it depends on you  
There should be no task, too great  
For us to undertake  
And victory eludes our grasp  
For we are resilient, God made us so  
As the world around us, is changing we should know  
Our strengths as well as weakness  
Building upon them until there's a completeness  
That carries us the distance  
With little or no resistance  
To families who stick together in trying times  
To neighbors who complete the circle that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love for one another  
Unafraid to reach out to a downtrodden brother  
Who have lost his way in the storm of defeat?  
Who has lost hope, in a gutter with nothing to eat?  
Though it has everything, sometimes to do with race  
Remembering our past should put it all back in place  
What if Brother Martin and others had said;  
It's not my problem? Much of our heritage would be dead  
What if the sacrificial offering hadn't been made?  
What if our elders had been too afraid?  
To take a stand for justice when there was none  
What if they'd turn around @Selma saying, I'm done?  
Giving up should never be a part of our vocabulary  
No matter the struggle, we have a God given mandate to carry  
Our nation of brotherly commitment forward in time  
Stop looking away from the problem, hindering the mind  
Let us teach where ignorance prevails  
Let us take our rightful place as heads & not the tails  
Let us lay hold of the problem, seeking a solution  
We are a people of destiny with a powerful constitution  
Who through the years, have embraced our duty;  
Making positive, contributions  
To our heritage, as well as, to this great nation  
Standing up for justice in direst situation  
Our courage for change must again be visualized  
Though we strayed farther than we realized  
It's not too late to reach our young  
It's no shame in remembering, from whence we've come  
For history has many lessons within  
Some of which, can prevent us from traveling that same road again  
However, we must get back to the basics, starting with love  
Starting with honoring our Lord & Creator above  
Having endowed us with inalienable rights  
To fully engage in the fight  
For the equality of all men, black or white  
Yes, the task is great  
My people and all people, it's not too late  
To reach this lost generation  
Who are unwittingly, destroying our unborn nation?  
I adjure us, to reflect upon our past then take heart  
And finally, let each of us acknowledge, in this play, we all have a part!

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From the desk of

MIKE BLOOMBERG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that’s true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

**Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical.** That’s why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we’ve dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country’s 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

**Fixing the System for Black Families.** When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won’t happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I’ve included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I’m President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

**Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!**

Sincerely,

  
Mike Bloomberg



For more information visit

**MikeForBlackAmerica.com**

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