



Nickens pursued medicine due to childhood doctor

By Judy Willis
Contributing Writer

Medicine is the focus of part three of this series. Dr. Myrna Ellen Alexander Nickens, associate professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is featured. She has chosen noted physician and



Mason
civil rights icon, Dr. Gilbert Rutledge Mason as her "hero."

"I was about 7 or 8 when I came down with chicken pox. I was really sick and couldn't walk," Dr. Myrna Alexander Nickens says. "Around that time, my parents (Woodrow and Mary Alexander) took me to Dr. Gilbert Mason who was the only physician in Biloxi. He got me up, encouraged me and soon I was walking again. He was the person who inspired me to pursue medicine."

Mason was anchored by a strong extended family and a committed and loving community who trained him to manhood and nurtured his dream of

becoming a doctor. More than a physician, he was a brilliant strategist, a community leader and civil rights activist who led "the Biloxi Wade-in," a protest that ignited a firestorm of white



Women's History
Continued on page 3

Mulholland to share story at Jackson State



Joan Mulholland was arrested at age 19, in 1961 for civil rights work in Jackson.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, winner of a 2015 Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, will deliver the keynote address during the 10th Annual Creative Arts Festival: Ordinary Heroes ~ The (Un)Examined Life at the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University.

Featuring student performances and panel presentations, the Creative Arts Festival will take place April 15-16. The keynote address will be at 3 p.m. April 16, in the JSU Student Center Theater.

By the time she was 19 years old, Mulholland had participated in over three dozen sit-ins and protests, and she had been put on death row in Mississippi's notorious Parchman Penitentiary with other Free-

Mulholland
Continued on page 3

Report reveals costs of deficient roadways in state

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Roads and bridges that are deficient, congested or lack desirable safety features cost Mississippi motorists a total of \$2.25 billion statewide annually – nearly \$1,900 per driver in the Jackson urban area – due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.



Increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal levels could relieve traffic congestion, improve road, bridge and transit conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in Mississippi, according to a new report released Wednesday by TRIP, a Washington, D.C. based national transportation organization.

The TRIP report, "Mississippi Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and

Roadways
Continued on page 3

Campus politics



Jackson City Council's regular meeting on March 22 was held at the historic Woodworth Chapel on the campus of Tougaloo College. Occasionally City Council meetings are held on college campuses as a way of engaging students and giving them the opportunity to see government in action. All council members were present. Pictured are Mayor Tony Yarber (from left), Ashby Foote, Ward 1; Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3; De'Keither Stamps, Ward 4; Melvin Priester Jr., Ward 2 and council president; Charles Tillman, Ward 5; Tyrone Hendrix, Ward 6; and Margaret Barrett-Simon, Ward 7. The next regular city council meeting is set for 6 p.m. April 5, at City Hall. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Obama: U.S. will go after Islamic State

By Josh Lederman and Kathleen Hennessey
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – A day after bombs ripped through Brussels, President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that fighting the Islamic State is his "No. 1 priority" and blasted Republican calls for surveillance of Muslim neighborhoods as counterproductive and contrary to U.S. values.

Obama took on presidential candidate Ted Cruz directly, comparing his proposal for a crackdown on Muslims to the restrictions on religion and free speech in communist Cuba, the nation Cruz's father fled and Obama visited Tuesday.

"I just left a country that engages in that kind of neighborhood surveillance, which by the way the father of Sen. Cruz escaped for America, the land of the free," Obama said. "The notion that we would start down that slippery slope makes absolutely no sense. It's contrary to who we are."

Obama showed no signs of altering his policies in the battle against the Islamic State group, which has claimed credit for the Brussels bombings. He described calls for more aggressive action as ill-conceived and said Republican talk of carpet bombing in Iraq and Syria is "inhumane."

"That would likely be an extra-

ordinary mechanism for ISIL to recruit more people willing to die and explode bombs in an airport or in a metro station. That's not a smart strategy," Obama said.

The president spoke at a news conference in Buenos Aires, where he flew from Havana to meet with Argentina's new president, Mauricio Macri. Obama's historic trip, the first for a sitting president to Cuba in 90 years, was jarred but not interrupted by the bombings that killed at least 34 people and left some 270 injured. The president didn't change his schedule, attending a baseball game Tuesday and continuing on to the second leg of this trip.

Obama argued that shifting his plans would show weakness to the terrorists, and he sought to show he was unfazed by the campaign-season blitz of criticism at home. He vowed to stick to the strategy in Iraq and Syria.

"I've got a lot of things on my plate, but my top priority is to defeat ISIL and to eliminate the scourge of this barbaric terrorism that's been taking place around the world," Obama said. "There's no more important item on my agenda than going after them and defeating them. The issue is, how do we do it in an intelligent way?"

Bombing
Continued on page 3

Miss. flag removed from Oregon's Capitol

By Christen McCurdy
The Skanner News

OREGON – When Bree Newsome – an activist and filmmaker associated with the national Black Lives Matter movement – scaled a flag pole at the South Carolina state house last June and removed the Confederate battle flag, she sparked a national conversation.



bol and was embraced by Dylann Roof, who killed nine people during a prayer meeting at a black church last summer.

In Oregon, the conversation zeroed in on the presence of the Mississippi flag – which includes a Con-

federate battle emblem as part of its design – in the "Walk of Flags" display on the capitol grounds in Salem. That display included flags from all 50 states as well as Oregon's nine federally recognized Native American tribes.

Now it's down one. Mississippi's flag was removed at the beginning of last week.

Last October lawmakers decided to give Mississippi the chance to change the design of its own flag. According to a letter dated March 7, and co-signed by Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker

Tina Kotek and sent to their Mississippi counterparts – Terry Burton, president pro tempore of the Mississippi Senate and Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn – it was only after Mississippi failed to act that Oregon decided to take down that state's flag.

"We respectfully disagree with the confederate symbol in your state flag," the letter reads. "Out of respect for the great state of Mississippi, we chose to give the Mississippi Legislature a chance to act first. With the

Flag
Continued on page 3

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority prepares for Jabberwock pageant

Page 5

Hinds Utica campus gala nears to honor alumni, raise funds

Page 9

High school students across nation attend Disney Dreamers Academy

Page 19



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Biloxi, ACLU settle lawsuit over jailing of indigent people

The Mississippi Link Newswire

BILOXI – The American Civil Liberties Union and the city of Biloxi have settled a federal lawsuit that alleged the jailing of people unable to pay court-ordered fines and fees in traffic and other misdemeanor cases. As part of the settlement, Biloxi has initiated policies that both parties agree are a model for courts in Mississippi and across the country. Under the settlement, Biloxi and the other defendants denied all liability.

Biloxi has agreed to adopt sweeping reforms to protect the rights of people who cannot afford to pay fines and fees imposed by Biloxi's municipal court for minor offenses. They include:

- Private probation companies will not be used to collect fines and fees after June 1.
- A full-time public defender has been hired to represent indigent people charged with nonpayment.
- No additional fees will be imposed on people who enter payment plans or are required to perform community service.
- A "bench card" detailing municipal court procedures will be used to protect constitutional rights in the fine/fee collections process. The card explains how the municipal court will conduct additional ability-to-pay hearings and lists

the legal alternatives to jail.

"Being poor is not a crime, and these reforms will help ensure that people's freedom will not rest on their ability to pay court fines and fees they cannot afford," said ACLU attorney Nusrat Choudhury. "Biloxi's reforms serve as a critically important model for courts across Mississippi and in other states to help ensure that our poorest and richest citizens are treated equally and fairly. Biloxi has set an example other cities should follow."

"Biloxi's old procedures should have required ability-to-pay hearings not just at the first appearance, but at each stage of the process," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "The biggest change that the city court is making is to guarantee indigent defendants will have a public defender and receive follow-up hearings on ability to pay if the defendant fails to comply with the sentence. We will continue these and other court reforms that we had already begun making since I became mayor 10 months ago."

"We know that other courts across this state are penalizing the poor with similar practices," said ACLU of Mississippi Legal Director Charles Irvin. "These reforms are steps that courts all over Mississippi should implement. It is our hope that the courts will help

us educate the Bar regarding the rights of the poor."

The federal court has dismissed the lawsuit without ruling on liability or wrongdoing on the part of defendants Biloxi, Police Chief John Miller and Judge James Steele. The settlement also provides for a one-time monetary payment of \$75,000 for damages and legal expenses associated with the case.

The lawsuit was filed last October on behalf of indigent people, including Qumotria Kennedy and Joseph Anderson, who were arrested and jailed on warrants charging them with nonpayment of fines and fees. The ACLU charged that the plaintiffs' constitutional rights to counsel, an indigency hearing and freedom from unreasonable seizures were violated by Biloxi, Chief Miller, Judge Steele and Judicial Corrections Services, Inc., a for-profit company that handled fine collections for Biloxi prior to the current Biloxi administration.

The plaintiffs' claims against JCS have also been mutually resolved.

The case, Kennedy v. City of Biloxi, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi in Gulfport. The ACLU of Mississippi and Simon & Teuwissen PLLC are co-counsel for the plaintiffs.

Judge Wingate honored by Senate

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Senate on March 8, honored Southern District U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate for being the first African American in state history appointed to the post. Wingate has a stellar career and a lengthy record of achievements.

Judge Wingate was appointed by the President in October 1985, after confirmation by the United State Senate. At 38 years of age when appointed, Wingate became Mississippi's youngest federal judge ever appointed.



Standing with Wingate, (seventh from left) are, (from left), Tammy Witherspoon, Barbara Blackmon, Chad McMahan, Hillman T. Frazier, Sollie B. Norwood and Derrick T. Simmons, John Horhn, Albert Butler,

Horn sponsors pages at Capitol



Sean Fleming of Clinton, Tori Avant of Terry and Gene Harrison of Jackson recently served as a pages for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Sean, Tori and Gene are pictured with Sen. John Horhn who sponsored their visit and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves. Sean is the son of Sharon Moman and attends Clinton Junior High. Tori is the daughter of Tommy and Anastasia Avant and attends Terry High School. Gene is the son of Alvin and Tangela Harrison and attends Northwest IB Middle School. When asked about the week, they agreed saying, "Paging at the Capitol has been a memorable experience. It has enhanced our knowledge regarding the legislative process as well as granted us the opportunity to meet new people and make long lasting friendships."

Correction: An article in the March 17, edition of The Mississippi Link titled Meet the Bishop: Vashti M. McKenzie was not written by Rev. Alvin C. Carter. The information was retrieved from the Tenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

LIVE HEALTHY BLUE

BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi

It's good to be Blue.

www.bcbsms.com

BlueCross & BlueShield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. © Registered Member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

Bombing

Continued from page 1

As Obama traveled, Republican candidates put forward their own alternatives. Cruz said Tuesday that law enforcement should be empowered to “patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized.”

He also echoed similar statements from GOP front-runner Donald Trump, calling for an end to the flow of refugees from countries where the Islamic State militant group has a significant presence.

Obama said the strategy of a U.S.-led air campaign and special operations missions was evolving, but only in response to results on the ground, not GOP rhetoric.

“We are approaching this in a way that has a chance of working. And it will work,” he said. “And we’re not going to do things that are counter-productive simply because it’s political season. We’re going to be steady. We’re going to be resolute, and ultimately we’re going to be successful.”



People mourn for the victims of the bombings at the Place de la Bourse in the center of Brussels, Wednesday. Bombs exploded Tuesday at the Brussels airport and one of the city’s metro stations, killing and wounding scores of people, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats. AP PHOTO/MARTIN MEISSNER

Mulholland

Continued from page 1

Freedom Riders. She was involved in one of the most famous and violent sit-ins of the civil rights movement at the Jackson Woolworth’s lunch counter in 1963, and she helped plan and organize the March on Washington.

For her actions as a white southern woman, she was disowned by her family, attacked, shot at, cursed at, and hunted down by the Klan for execution. She has been written about in several books and has appeared on television and news programs like Oprah and the CBS Nightly News. And, her story and experiences have been highlighted in award-winning documentaries including *An Ordinary Hero*, *PBS’s Freedom Riders*, and the groundbreaking film *Eyes on the Prize*.

Mulholland has received numerous awards for her activism including recognition, along with other female Freedom

Riders, by President Barack Obama; the Anti-Defamation League Annual Heroes Against Hate Award; and a 2015 Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum.

The Creative Arts Festival will kick off with a screening of the documentary “An Ordinary Hero” about Mulholland’s life at 2 p.m. April 15, in room 166/266 of the Dollye M.E. Robinson College of Liberal Arts. The film will be immediately followed by a discussion with Mulholland; her son and filmmaker Loki Mulholland; Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthony, dean of the School of Journalism at JSU; and Dr. Rickey Hill, chair of JSU’s Department of Political Science. A reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. April 15, at the Margaret Walker Center in Ayer Hall for the opening of the exhibition *An Ordinary Hero*.

On April 16, student presentations will take place over the

course of the day during concurrent sessions in the JSU Student Center and a luncheon and poetry reading with the JSU ensemble Outspoken will be held at 12 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom B.

The keynote address by Joan Mulholland and an awards ceremony, including the annual \$1,000 Margaret Walker Award for the best essay by a JSU student, will conclude the Festival at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.

All events are free and open to the public.

This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, visit the center’s website at www.jsums.edu/margaretwalker-center or contact the Center’s staff at (601) 979-3935 or mwa@jsums.edu.

Flag

Continued from page 1

Understanding that all of the bills related to the state flag died in the Mississippi Legislature last month, we have now taken action to remove the flag.”

Mississippi lawmakers drafted 12 different bills to alter the state’s logo design but none of them made it out of committee by the Legislature’s February deadline.

In response to a query about the flag’s removal, Courtney’s office issued a statement containing some of the same language as the letter to the Mississippi Legislature, but also noting Oregon lawmakers are not alone in their objection to the continued display of Confederate insignia.

“Across the country, other government entities removed the Mississippi flag from dis-

plays. In the state of Mississippi, universities, counties and cities – including the capital city of Jackson – refused to fly the official flag of the state,” the statement said.

Last fall, Kotek said she supported the effort to remove the flag from Capitol grounds.

“The Confederate insignia on the flag is widely seen as a symbol of racist intolerance, which is in direct conflict with Oregon values of fairness and equality. I support removing it from our Capitol grounds and leaving the flagpole unadorned until Mississippi adopts another flag, one that honors the dignity of all people,” Kotek said, last October.

Rep. Lew Frederick (D-North/Northeast Portland) told reporters last summer he wanted

to see the flag come down.

“I grew up with this flag, and it was used around me for the same reasons it even exists,” Rep. Lew Frederick, D-Portland, said in June. “To taunt African Americans, to remind us of our status in the historical South, and to remind us of exactly what it symbolizes to those who carry or display it: racism and their attachment to racism.”

Both that statement and the letter to Burton and Gunn close with the hope that Oregon will be able to hoist a redesigned flag in the future: “It had been our sincere hope that Mississippi would always be represented in our Walk of Flags. We now look forward to the day when Oregon can raise a new flag representing the great state of Mississippi and her people.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Recommendation suggested for a new Mississippi flag

“Come now, let us reason together...”

We believe that music offers us a universal language. Since Mississippi claims national and international fame for the birth of various genres of music, let us design a new state flag, which displays symbols for music. If one cannot sing or play an instrument, perhaps one can clap hands, pat feet, keep a beat.

Historical records reflect: The North won the Civil War. The South lost the war. When a war is won, the winner’s flag goes up. The loser’s flag comes down, including the Confeder-

ate emblem. The current flag needs to be reserved and archived in a museum for posterity.

Some claim an allegiance to the old way because their family members fought in the Civil War. My family member who fought in the Civil War reflects two school of thought.

On the one hand, my great uncle Ned Harris of Carroll County fought in the Civil War on the side of the Union. Uncle Ned was 110 years old when a census was conducted. He died several years later.

On the other hand, my great grandfather, John R. McGaw,

also of Carroll County was a commanding officer who fought on the side of the South.

Both Civil War warriors are resting in eternity. The question remains: Do we need to repeat a struggle, which should have ended with the South’s defeat?

Reasoning together: Let Mississippi proudly proclaim its musical legacy on a flag. We did it with a guitar on a tag. Now, let us use musical symbols on our state flag. Music, our universal language, will embrace all races and cultures.

Doretha Draine is a Jackson resident.

Women’s History

Continued from page 1

rioting – the bloodiest in the state’s history.

Mason helped the NAACP join with CORE, SNCC and SCLC to form the Council of Federated Organizations and served as president of the NAACP’s Mississippi chapter for 33 years until his death in 2006. Known as the “civil rights doctor” and the “drum major for freedom,” Mason was a trail blazer who risked life and limb in service to others.

Nickens has made her own distinctive mark as the first interventional cardiologist in Mississippi, a specialty she has practiced for nearly 18 years. Born in Laurel and raised in Biloxi, she is a 1978 graduate of Tougaloo College and received a medical degree from Meharry Medical College in 1982.

Nickens served as a clinical clerkship mentor for residents and students at University of Mississippi Medical Center before joining the faculty as an associate professor of medicine. “It’s important that physicians stay involved in the training of others,” she says.

While Mason inspired her

calling, it was her grandmother’s death from congestive heart failure that led her to pursue cardiology. “My grandmother and everyone on the paternal side of my family had heart problems. As a child, I was touched by their suffering,” Nickens says.

Although there were no female physicians around her, Nickens was undaunted. Her parents, church family, and even men working in the field encouraged her. “When I was at Tougaloo, we were always told that we could do whatever we wanted, if we put our minds to it, so as far as I was concerned there wasn’t any problem with my becoming a doctor.”

Nickens’ still sees patients and has a special interest in heart disease among women, valvular heart disease and preventive cardiology for those older than age 15. Although Mississippi’s rate of cardiovascular disease remains the highest in the nation, it has decreased as education and awareness has increased.

“We are more educated than we’ve ever been about health, more so than at any other time. Nevertheless, we’ve still got to

make the right choices. A healthier lifestyle is the key,” Nickens says.

She says that a good physician should be compassionate, personable, unselfish, altruistic, investigative and scientific with leadership skills that should be acquired if they don’t occur naturally. “Doctors have to be good listeners and willing to uncover whatever problems our patients may have. Most of us persevere in this profession because we eat, sleep and live what we’re doing. It’s so much more than a job.”

A member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Nickens welcomes the opportunity to talk to her patients about being a Christian and says that, “doctors should not be afraid to talk about faith or religion.”

Touching hearts and saving lives has been her passion for nearly two decades.

“I joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center because ultimately I wanted to be an academic. I want to play my part in educating our future doctors, not just leave it for someone else to do.”

Roadways

Continued from page 1

Cost per motorist

A breakdown of the costs per motorist in each area along with a statewide total is below.

Location	VOC	Safety	Congestion	TOTAL
Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula	\$453	\$197	\$411	\$1,061
Hattiesburg	\$595	\$187	\$298	\$1,080
Jackson	\$818	\$183	\$878	\$1,879
Mississippi Statewide	\$1.14 Billion	\$577 Million	\$529 Million	\$2.25 Billion

Efficient Mobility,” finds that throughout Mississippi, 22 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor condition and another 42 percent are in mediocre or fair condition. Twenty percent of Mississippi’s bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The state’s major urban roads are becoming increasingly congested, with drivers wasting significant amounts of time and fuel each year. And an average of 615 people were killed annually in crashes on Mississippi’s roads from 2010 to 2014.

Driving on deficient roads costs each Jackson area driver \$1,879 per year in the form of extra vehicle operating costs as a result of driving on roads in need of repair, lost time and fuel due to congestion-related delays, and the costs of traffic crashes in which roadway features likely were a contributing factor. The TRIP report calculated the cost to motorists of insufficient roads in the Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula, Hattiesburg and Jackson urban areas.

The TRIP report finds that 63 percent of major roads in the Jackson urban area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$818 each year in extra vehicle operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

“The TRIP report once again demonstrates the importance of investing in Mississippi’s transportation infrastructure,” said Scott Waller, executive vice president and COO of the Mississippi Economic Council. “It provides additional details regarding the enormous costs Mississippians already face, and the consequences of failing to act. More importantly, it amplifies the safety issues that exist as a result of poor road and bridge conditions and the importance of protecting our citizens.”

Traffic congestion in the Jack-

son area is worsening, causing 38 hours of delay a year for the average motorist and costing each driver \$878 annually in lost time and wasted fuel.

A total of 20 percent of Mississippi’s bridges show significant deterioration or do not meet modern design standards. Thirteen percent of Mississippi’s bridges are structurally deficient, with significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports or other major components. An additional seven percent of the state’s bridges are functionally obsolete, which means they no longer meet modern design standards, often because of narrow lanes, inadequate clearances or poor alignment. In the Jackson urban area, seven percent of bridges are structurally deficient and 15 percent are functionally obsolete.

Traffic crashes in Mississippi claimed the lives of 3,073 people between 2010 and 2014. Mississippi’s overall traffic fatality rate of 1.54 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel is significantly higher than the national average of 1.08. Mississippi’s overall traffic fatality rate is the fourth highest in the nation. The state’s rural roads have a traffic fatality rate that is nearly four and a half times higher than the rate on all other roads in the state (2.58 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel versus 0.58). TRIP estimates that roadway features may be a contributing factor in approximately one-third of fatal traffic crashes.

Mississippi faces a significant shortfall in funds needed to maintain and improve its transportation system. The state currently faces a backlog of \$6.6 billion in funds needed to address needed repairs and improvements to Mississippi’s transportation system. A recent report by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) found that Mississippi will need \$375 million annually in new revenue to address immediate transportation needs. Of the \$375 million,

\$300 million is needed for improvements to the state-maintained system, and \$75 million is needed to address the local system. The MEC report found that an additional \$375 million in annual transportation investment would generate nearly 4,000 new direct and indirect jobs in the construction industry, additional state and local tax revenue of \$15 million annually, and an overall annual economic benefit of more than \$440 million.

The federal surface transportation program is a critical source of funding in Mississippi. From 2009 to 2013, the federal government provided \$1.24 for road improvements in Mississippi for every dollar the state paid in federal motor fuel fees. Signed into law in December 2015, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, provides modest increases in federal highway and transit spending, allows states greater long-term funding certainty and streamlines the federal project approval process. But the FAST Act does not provide adequate funding to meet the nation’s need for highway and transit improvements and does not include a long-term and sustainable funding source.

The efficiency and condition of Mississippi’s transportation system, particularly its highways, is critical to the health of the state’s economy. Annually, \$91 billion in goods are shipped from sites in Mississippi and another \$104 billion in goods are shipped to sites in Mississippi, mostly by truck.

“These conditions are only going to get worse if greater funding is not made available at the local, state and federal levels,” said Will Wilkins, TRIP’s executive director. “Without additional transportation funding Mississippi’s transportation system will become increasingly deteriorated and congested, the state will miss out on opportunities for economic growth and quality of life will suffer.”

A N Y T I M E O N L I N E

Breaking News

Streaming Videos

Interactive Blogs

Visit our newly designed website:
www.mississippilink.com

Judge Coleman sworn in at Capitol before former Legislative colleagues

Mississippi Link Newswire

Newly appointed Circuit Court Judge Linda F. Coleman of Mound Bayou took the oath of office at the Capitol before her former colleagues in the Mississippi House of Representatives March 22.

Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. administered the ceremonial oath. Judge Coleman was sworn in a few days ago in Cleveland so that she could assume her judicial duties. An investiture ceremony will be scheduled in Cleveland at a later date.

Gov. Phil Bryant appointed Coleman on March 9, to a vacancy on the 11th District Circuit Court after Judge Johnnie E. Walls Jr. retired. The governor told the assembled lawmakers and guests that Coleman will serve with grace, dignity and honor.

Coleman thanked the governor for the appointment.

House Speaker Philip Gunn handed Coleman a check to purchase a judicial robe. House members personally paid for the robe as a parting gift. "We are proud of you and wish you well in your endeavors," Gunn said.

Coleman said that the counties of the 11th district will provide robes, but this one will be special.



Circuit Judge Linda Coleman takes the oath of office at the Capitol March 22. Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr., (right) administers the oath of office while House Speaker Philip Gunn (center) holds the Bible.

"On the days I know will be the toughest days, I'm going to wear it because I'm going to bring all of you along with me," she said.

Coleman compared the exuberance she felt with that she felt as a freshman legislator helping escort Rep. Robert G. Clark into the chamber when he became Speaker Pro Tempore in 1992.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life. Today I love all of you and I love this state," she said.

The House unanimously adopted a resolution commending

their former colleague's service as "a visionary leader, friend, lawmaker and respected attorney," from House District 29 of Bolivar and Sunflower counties, and congratulating her on her appointment to the 11th District Circuit Court of Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman and Tunica counties.

House Resolution 55, introduced by Gunn, called her "the distinguished gentlelady from Bolivar County...revered for her legal expertise and credible public service."

The resolution said that as a

legislator, she was "a guardian of this democratic institution during a time in Mississippi's history when the diversity of the House membership expanded to include meaningful participation by women, African Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike, who equally hold a lion's share in the stake of advancing the direction of the state's economic, educational and political climate."

"Widely considered to be one of the most influential state leaders and skillful tacticians of Mississippi's evolving political atmo-

sphere, Representative Coleman maintained a strong leadership role in every meaningful initiative addressed by the Mississippi Legislature during her tenure, including economic development, fiscal affairs, education, gaming, public health, transportation, agriculture and election reform initiatives and programs," the resolution said.

The resolution noted her service as vice-chair of the former House Penitentiary Committee, vice-chair of the Tourism Committee, chair of the House Committee on Fees and Salaries of Public Officers, and most recently, vice-chair of the House Corrections Committee. Other committees on which she served included Appropriations, County Affairs, Education, Investigate State Offices, Judiciary A, Judiciary En Banc, Management, Municipalities, Ports, Harbors and Airports, Public Property, Select Committee on Poverty, Transportation and Ways and Means.

Reflecting on 25 years of service in the House of Representatives, Coleman said, "I am really grateful to God that He allowed me to serve in this esteemed chamber...To have the privilege to shape policy for this state is a deep honor."

She asked her former legislative colleagues to think of her when they discuss education and other policies which affect the state's most vulnerable.

She came from the poorest school district in the state. "I am from the most vulnerable part of this state, the Mississippi Delta. Even though something is vulnerable, it is still viable," she said.

Coleman earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Mississippi and a law degree from Mississippi College School of Law. She was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1987 and went to work serving poor clients of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services that same year. She was managing attorney for NMRLS from 1989 to 1994.

In private law practice, she represented the towns of Mound Bayou, Clarksdale and Friars Point and served as attorney for the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors and the Mound Bayou School Board.

She is a member of The Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Council of State Governments and the Mississippi Association of Board Attorneys.

JMAA responds to committee action of airport takeover legislation

By Sen. David Blount

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority issued the following statement regarding the vote March 22, by a Mississippi House of Representatives committee to transfer governance of JMAA to state control with tri-

county oversight:

The House Ports, Harbors, and Airports Committee voted 7-3, approving a bill that would create a nine-member regional airport commission and dissolve the five-member board appointed by Jackson's mayor. Both the full House and Senate must pass

the bill before it can become a law.

Board of Commissioners Chairman, Dr. Rosie L.T. Pridgen, stands firm with the full support of the JMAA Board of Commissioners and continues opposition to any attempts to alter the makeup of the Board

of Commissioners and its powers to oversee and govern the JMAA.

"We are disappointed by today's committee action taken by the Ports, Harbors and Airports Committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives regarding Senate Bill 2162," said

Pridgen.

"We are hopeful that the full Legislature recognizes the fact that Jackson's airport system is working and that there is no need for change. More importantly, we will remain committed to the continuous innovations to the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority as Mississippi's number one air passenger and transport center."

Pridgen encourages all citizens across the state to contact their representatives in the state House of Representatives today and tell them to vote "no" on Senate Bill 2162.

Legislative session enters final month

By Sen. David Blount

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Legislature is entering its final month, with the session scheduled to end April 21. A few of the bills I am working on that are still alive include:

- Improved student housing at Jackson State University and Mississippi State University. Some students at JSU are housed in hotels, which are expensive and far from campus.

- On-line voter registration. It will save money and reduce errors. Mississippi has had mail-in voter registration for more than twenty years. State law requires all voters to show ID in order to cast a ballot.

- New space for the Hinds County medical examiner in the former state crime lab building. It will help our coroner and county.

- Prohibit the use of campaign funds for personal use by political candidates.

- Direct state funds to assist with maintenance of streets and infrastructure around state-owned buildings in Jackson, and to assist the Jackson police and fire departments. The state has a major investment in buildings in Jackson and needs good streets, reliable water, etc.

I sponsored an amendment that has passed the Senate to end the so-called "cultural re-



Blount

tail attraction" tax rebate, the misguided state program that used public money to subsidize private shopping centers like the outlet mall in Pearl. If my amendment is ultimately passed, taxpayers will save \$175 million that would have been spent to build three shopping malls in Rankin, Madison and Harrison counties.

The state budget is likely to remain flat as a result of declining tax collections. This is due to slow economic growth in our state and ill-considered tax breaks passed in recent years. In spite of this reality, the Senate voted to pass an approximately \$775 million tax cut (assuming two percent annual growth), about half of which is the corporate franchise tax. Most of the corporate tax breaks go to out of

state companies, despite the fact that 2/3rds of the largest companies in the state pay NO income tax (due to tax shifts to other jurisdictions). This proposed tax cut represents about ten percent of the entire state budget (which funds schools and colleges, public safety, highways, etc.). I believe this massive tax cut is financially irresponsible and I voted against it.

Another issue that has garnered headlines is the bill for the state to take over control of the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority. The airport was bought and paid for by the citizens of Jackson, it is owned by the city of Jackson, and it is located within the city of Jackson (land annexed 65 years ago).

I am opposed to a state taking of Jackson property. We need to work together to bring a low-cost airline back to Jackson and promote economic growth in the area. A protracted fight about the airport board will only harm those efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to work for you in the State Senate.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me by email (dblount@senate.ms.gov) or by calling my office at the Capitol (601-359-3232). I am also on Facebook and Twitter (@sendavidblount).

Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. Cordially Invite You To The

VETERANS LEGACY Awards Banquet

April 2, 2016 | 7 PM
The Masonic Temple | 1072 John R. Lynch Street | Jackson, MS

- 2016 HONOREES -

 REV. EDDIE CARTHAN A Mover in Politics	 DR. DORIS DERBY A Mover in the Arts	 AUNJANUE ELLIS A Mover in Television	 JOHN GARNER A Mover in Education
 MARGARET KIBBEE A Mover in Service	 REV. JAMES MCREE A Mover in Activism	 STANLEY NELSON A Mover in Film	 DR. AARON SHIRLEY A Mover in Leadership (posthumously)

ENTERTAINMENT
- The Jessie Primer Jazz Trio -

Adult Tickets \$35 | Student Tickets \$15 | Table of 10 \$375
To purchase tickets/tables, advertise in the commemorative souvenir book or for sponsor information: Contact Hollis Watkins, Chairman or Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Executive Director, (601) 977-7914 or MississippiCivilRightsVeterans@gmail.com.

You may also purchase tickets directly on our website:
www.MsCivilRightsVeterans.com

Mississippi Civil Rights Veterans @ms.veterans

For information about advertising in
The Mississippi Link
please call: 601-896-0084

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents Jabberwock pageant

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Mississippi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., will present its Jabberwock Pageant at 4 p.m. May 1, in the Clyde E. Muse Auditorium in Pearl.

Jabberwock 2016: Essence of Beauty and Grace, will present 12 of the metro area's most promising young ladies, as they vie for the titles of Little Miss Jabberwock, Junior Miss Jabberwock and Miss Jabberwock during the afternoon pageant and production.

Since 1925, Jabberwock has been presented nationally by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, to raise scholarship funds. Jackson Alumnae Chapter has a consistent history of supporting higher education in the metro Jackson area. The Jabberwock Gala is being held in conjunction with Jackson Alumnae Delta Enterprise, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) organization which engages in educational activities that focus on tutorial services and scholarships for students.

The chapter annually awards book stipends to high school seniors in Jackson Public Schools and Rankin County High Schools, and the chapter also awards annual scholarships at Jackson State University and Tougaloo College. Additionally, contributions are made each year to the United Negro College Fund to benefit

Mississippi's two UNCF institutions. Funds contributed by the sorority have significantly impacted the lives of hundreds of students in the metro Jackson area.

The idea of the Jabberwock comes from the poem told by Lewis Carroll in his famous book, Alice in Wonderland. The Jabberwock, a mythical character, called together the members of his kingdom at least once a year to put on a show. In a like manner, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated calls its members and friends together to enjoy an evening of pageantry and entertainment.

Jabberwock 2016: Essence of Beauty and Grace holds as much promise for the community as it does for this year's contestants. The production of this event is a connector of families and communities uniting in the celebration of academic achievement, citizenship and the positive character of all contestants.

The public is invited to attend Jabberwock 2016: Essence of Beauty and Grace.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

For tickets and additional information, contact Julia Crockett, president of the Jackson chapter, at (601) 966-8668, or Winna Hyche, chair of the Special Projects Committee, at (601) 672-0682.



Zoie Chambers



Renesia Clark



Zakyla Fuller



Destiny Granderson



Jakhia Gray



Alexandria Horn



Kyla Manning



Morgan Mason



Jenea Owens



Ja'Kavlen Phillips



Mary Sampson



Ariel Spencer



Public Notice

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

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

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

JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF NET POSITION September 30, 2015 (With Comparative Amounts for September 30, 2014)

	Business-Type Activities	
	2015	2014 Restated
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 4,117,641	\$ 1,777,944
Prepaid expenses	2,732	4,474
Rent receivable	231,340	218,840
Due from other governments	135,457	143,003
Interest receivable	28,954	34,111
Restricted cash	30,287	120,544
Notes receivable:		
Current portion	374,918	372,114
Noncurrent portion	3,566,290	3,302,379
Capital assets:		
Capital assets not being depreciated	10,782,737	11,171,262
Other capital assets net of depreciation	26,504,044	27,789,244
Total Assets	45,772,380	44,913,915
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	192,670	123,401
Due to other governments	339,890	303,864
Interest payable	157,392	150,162
Matured bonds and interest payable	22,682	22,682
Long-term debt:		
Current portion	514,959	492,154
Noncurrent portion	14,225,696	14,740,918
Total Liabilities	15,453,249	15,833,181
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	24,961,115	26,249,588
Restricted for:		
Debt service	7,585	97,862
Unrestricted	5,350,431	2,733,284
Total Net Position	\$ 30,319,131	\$ 29,080,734

JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended September 30, 2015 (With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2014)

	Business-Type Activities				Totals	
	Administration	Urban Renewal Projects	Rehabilitation Loan Services	Parking Facilities	2015	2014 Restated
EXPENSES AND LOSSES:						
Salaries and fringe benefits	\$ 159,991	\$ 40,335	\$ 65,593	\$ 136,695	\$ 402,614	\$ 299,639
Repairs and maintenance	4,685	85,257	-	21,981	111,923	94,260
Security services	-	7,800	-	57,246	64,846	44,508
Utilities and telephone	4,537	2,201	-	33,107	39,845	37,184
Supplies	3,618	1,331	-	3,289	8,238	5,312
Legal and professional fees	338,115	141,700	-	9,697	489,512	772,849
Depreciation	-	825,318	1,816	446,842	1,273,976	1,285,197
Interest	-	536,155	-	-	536,155	964,720
Insurance	47,747	81,131	1,341	14,353	124,572	181,481
Management fees	-	6,000	-	22,596	28,596	27,981
Sales tax	-	3,167	-	19,223	22,390	22,712
Paying agent and bank fees	85,168	22,808	5,076	-	112,852	85,606
Consultant fees	5,737	628	2,101	744	11,209	14,096
Miscellaneous	-	119,361	-	-	119,361	691,259
Loss on disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	691,259
Total Expenses and Losses	649,598	1,853,370	75,927	798,554	3,347,448	4,102,351
PROGRAM REVENUES:						
Charges for services:						
Lease rentals	-	318,077	-	765,608	1,083,685	1,102,842
Interest on developer project notes	-	143,334	-	-	143,334	20,226
Other income	-	8,057	3	-	8,060	13,094
Contributions and grants:						
Operating	649,598	118,072	-	-	767,670	904,496
Other income	-	2,141,963	-	-	2,141,963	-
Capital	-	440,000	-	-	440,000	485,000
Total Program Revenues	649,598	3,187,503	3	765,608	4,582,712	2,525,658
Net Program Revenues (Expense)	\$ -	\$ 1,314,133	\$ (75,924)	\$ (2,946)	1,235,263	(1,576,693)
GENERAL REVENUE:						
Investment earnings	-	-	-	-	3,124	2,853
Change in Net Position					1,238,397	(1,573,840)
NET POSITION - BEGINNING, as previously reported					29,080,734	29,684,407
Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	975,167
NET POSITION - BEGINNING, as restated					29,080,734	30,659,574
NET POSITION - ENDING					\$ 30,319,131	\$ 29,080,734

Mississippi Burn Foundation honors state's top firefighters

By Flonzie Brown-Wright
Special to The Mississippi Link

The Mississippi Burn Foundation recently honored outstanding firefighters for exemplary job performance in 2015-2016.

Top firefighters and fire departments were recognized during "Hearts for Heroes," a special awards gala presented by the Joseph M. Still Burn Centers, Inc. Event sponsors included Merit Health Central, Southern Pine Electric Power Association, McClain Lodge, Capital City Beverages, Southern Beverage Company, E&J Gallo Winery, and Soirée, LLC ~ Event Planning & Public Relations.

Held at McClain Lodge in Brandon, the event featured cocktails, a seated dinner and live music by songwriter and firefighter Shannon Sandridge accompanied by Matt Ellis and Rob Lehman.

Finalists and winners received awards sponsored by Colonial Pipeline and Emergency Equipment Professionals.

Nominations were received from across the state in the following categories – Fire Chief of the Year, Fire Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Fire Department of the Year. Firefighter of the Year nominees in this category must have demonstrated heroic services beyond the call of duty.

Firefighter Ben Haskins of the Monterey Fire Department was selected as finalist. The 2015-2016 Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Lieutenant Elliot Benson, RDO Kory Haggard and Captain Corey Landrum of the Jackson Fire Department.

With four years of service at Monterey, Haskins is also certified as an emergency medical



Pictured are Jeff Kuntz of Emergency Equipment Professionals (from left), Dr. William C. Lineaweaver of JMS Burn Center, Amanda Fontaine of Mississippi Burn Foundation, Firefighter Ben Haskins, Ann Lott of Colonial Pipeline, Jon-Paul Croom of Merit Health and Reggie Bell of the Mississippi Fire Academy.



Pictured are Jeff Kuntz of Emergency Equipment Professionals (from left), Dr. William C. Lineaweaver of JMS Burn Center, Amanda Fontaine of Mississippi Burn Foundation, Lt. Elliot Benson, RDO Kory Haggard, Chief Craig Odemas, Captain Corey Landrum, Division Chief Schall Bradley, Ann Lott of Colonial Pipeline, Jon-Paul Croom of Merit Health and Reggie Bell of the Mississippi Fire Academy.

responder, a firefighter-I, II; and trained in hazardous materials awareness and ops. While on duty in March 2015, Haskins was responding to an emergency call in a fire apparatus. A white four door vehicle crossed into his lane forcing the fire apparatus off the road. He was trapped in the fire truck. Once he was extricated from the vehicle, he was airlifted with life-threatening injuries to University of Mississippi Medical Center. He was later flown to Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Ga., a hospital that specializes in traumatic brain injuries. Haskins recovered quickly in only a few

short months. Haskins is also a serviceman and serves our country in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Every fire deserves a quick and professional response and on Oct. 24, 2015, that is just what happened. Jackson Fire Department Rescue 14 was dispatched to an apartment fire on Robinson Road. Upon arrival, Rescue 14 reported heavy smoke coming from the lower unit of the building and advanced the door. Neighbors advised Rescue 14 that the occupant of the apartment was still inside, so Captain Landrum and RDO Haggard

made the initial push into the front door, knocking down the fire while a primary search began. During the search Landrum located a patient asleep on the couch. The patient was lethargic when found and Landrum and Haggard worked together to remove the patient from the house safely. Once removed from the house, Benson placed the patient on oxygen. Landrum and Haggard went back to finish the interior attack of the apartment fire while Benson and AMR provided care for the patient on the scene until he became responsive and was later released.

Jazzy Jeans Brunch set for April 2

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Coleman Alexander Prosser Foundation, Inc. along with the ladies of Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will host the third annual Jazzy Jeans Brunch from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. April 2 at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson.

Attendees will be entertained by local musicians, including Henry Rhodes band, who will provide Jazz/RB sounds. Then DJ Java Chatman will play the latest hits for attendees to participate in line dancing. There will also be a silent auction that includes items donated by local merchants. Some of the items include jewelry, handbags, restaurant gift cards and many more things you would love to have.

Tickets for the event are \$50. Men and women are welcome to attend and wear their jazzy

jeans. Prizes will go to the top three jazziest men and women based on the audience's round of applause.

All proceeds from this event will support the community service efforts conducted by the organization throughout the year. Some of the programs include providing an annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Bethlehem Center Community, as well as cleaning up its playground and providing after school tutoring for its children. In addition, the organization hosts financial education seminars, health fairs and visits the nursing homes on an annual basis.

For more information, contact Stephanie Chatman at Stephanie.i.chatman@gmail.com or (601) 291-4974; Karla Smith at kbyrd79@gmail.com or (601) 862-0477. The chapter website is www.akabeta-delta-omega.org

Jim Hill's Hilliard serves as page at Mississippi Senate



Zariyah Hilliard of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Zariyah is pictured with Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves who sponsored her visit. Zariyah is the daughter of Valknekah Bullie and attends Jim Hill High School. When asked about the week, Zariyah said, "I enjoyed my experience in the Senate. It was fun making new friends and learning firsthand about government."

NEWS BRIEFS

Educational Workshops on Neighbors First Program set in Jackson

The city of Jackson has launched the educational campaign for the Neighbors First program.

The program is designed to address blight and revitalize underutilized residential properties in Jackson by allowing the city to transfer city-owned lots in a pre-determined planning area to the neighbors of those properties for a designated amount that starts at \$10. The program requires the resident to own property in the neighborhood, street or block.

The educational campaign consists of a series of workshops across the community to show residents how to navigate land rolls and inform them of what is expected of those who purchase the property. The informational workshops will be held:

- April 2 from 9-11 a.m. at the Metrocenter Mall Event Room, 3645 U.S. 80.
- April 16 from 9-11 a.m. at the Jackson Police Training Academy, 3000 St. Charles St.

• April 23 from 9-11 a.m. at the Jackson Police Training Academy, 3000 St. Charles St.

The program supports city efforts to help citizens reclaim their communities, and will also help increase revenue for the city as residents continue to pay their property taxes after obtaining the new property. For more information, visit www.jacksonms.gov.

Hinds County Board allocates funds for roads

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$4 million for the paving of roads recently. The allocation was approved March 7, in a 4-1 vote with Supervisor Robert Graham (District 1) making the motion and a second coming from Supervisor Bobbie McGowan (District 5).

The vote earmarked \$3 million to be equally divided and designated for road work in Districts 2, 4, and 5 and \$500,000 each for Districts 1 and 3.

Bryant requests federal disaster declaration

Gov. Phil Bryant has requested President Barack

Obama issue a major disaster declaration for severe weather and flooding that first struck March 9, and has plagued the state since.

Based on joint preliminary damage assessments by local officials, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Bryant has asked the declaration cover Bolivar, Coahoma and Washington counties.

If the president grants the request, more counties could be added after additional damage assessments.

"This March flooding event has been historic throughout the state, and most people will need federal assistance to help them rebuild and recover," Gov. Bryant said. "These first three counties I've requested were among the hardest hit, and much of the water has receded. I am prepared to request other counties as the joint MEMA and FEMA damage assessment teams are able to access flooded areas."

Initial damage estimates showed more than 650 homes sustained major damage; in total, more than 1,800 were affected. Several state agencies, along with numerous nonprofits and faith-based groups, have been assisting with recovery and rebuilding since the storms began.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Set for March 26

The city of Jackson Annual Easter Egg Hunt is set for March 26, at the VA Legion Softball Complex, located at 4500 Thomas Catchings Sr. Dr.

The hunt, which begins at noon, is free and open to children ages 4 to 8. The event will feature candy and prizes. Participants are asked to bring a bag, basket or bucket.

The annual hunt is co-sponsored by WJMI/WKXI radio stations.

NCBW scholarship deadline nears

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central Mississippi Chapter is accepting scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors. The deadline to submit an application is March 28.

Applications should be available at high school counselors' offices.

For additional information contact Dr. Dovie Reed at (601) 260-1824 or Dr. LaVerne Gentry at (601) 613-8977 or email ncbwcms.scholars2016@gmail.com.

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 22 • Number 22

March 24 - 30, 2016

© copyright 2016. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Shandera K. Posey
Online Editor.....Lonnie Ross
Religion Editor.....Daphne Higgins
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson
Contributing Writers.....Stephanie R. Jones
Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Aysha K. Mustafaa



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

CHECK ONE r 1 year

r 2 year

r 3 year

\$32
1 year
subscription

\$64
2 year
subscription

\$96
3 year
subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

Happy sixth anniversary to the Affordable Care Act

By Pamela Roshell
Special to The Mississippi Link



In terms of significance, the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, is often compared to the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The ACA grew out of advances in coverage provided by Medicare and Medicaid – in fact, President Teddy Roosevelt first proposed a national health insurance program in 1912. We celebrate over 100 years of healthcare progress in 2016.

The ACA turned six on March 23, and its elder sibling, Medicare, turns 51 a few months later. Both programs continue to evolve, enhancing the lives and health of Americans.

More states continue to expand Medicaid. Thirty-one states, as well as Washington, D.C., have expanded Medicaid, and it is under discussion in others.

Since the ACA took effect, 20 million uninsured adults aged 18 to 64 gained health coverage. This figure does not include children or adults aged 65 or older. The uninsured rate has decreased substantially across all races and ethnicities throughout the country.

Here in Mississippi, nearly 108,000 opted for health insurance through HealthCare.gov during the recent open enrollment period, including 93 percent who qualified for financial assistance. Fifty-six percent of those were new enrollees.

Healthcare.gov CEO Kevin Counihan visited Gulfport, Biloxi and Hattiesburg in January to meet with enrollment assisters, thank them and hear their concerns. Our staff, working in conjunction with the Mississippi Health Advocacy Program and the primary care association, also held debriefing sessions with assisters in Oxford and Greenville this month. In addition to dedicated work by compensated enrollment assisters that included navigators and federally qualified health center outreach workers, many others worked to boost enrollment.

However, the ACA hasn't impacted only those who have recently gained coverage. Virtually every American has benefitted in some way from the ACA, whether they realize it or not. Here are a few of the benefits we all enjoy:

- Young adults can stay on their parent's plans until age 26.
- You can appeal your plan's denial of pay-

COMMENTARY

ment decision.

- Lifetime limits are banned.
- Insurance companies must justify unreasonable rate hikes.
- Many preventive care services are covered at no cost with Qualified Health Plans and with Medicare.
- The Medicare "donut hole" is closing and will be closed by 2020, saving seniors on prescription drug costs.
- Health plans must spend at least 80 percent of your premiums on health care instead of administrative costs.
- Insurance companies can't deny coverage based upon preexisting conditions.
- Medicare payments to hospitals and physicians are now linked to quality instead of quantity of services provided.
- States are incentivized to come up with innovative plans to improve the health of their citizens.

These are just a few improvements that the ACA has brought to the entire healthcare landscape. Changes continue to be phased in, bettering healthcare and health in America.

We are working now to improve care, by encouraging better coordination and prioritizing wellness and prevention. We've already begun to see success in programs like the Diabetes Prevention Program, which help at-risk individuals turn their health around before they develop diabetes. By preventing illnesses before they happen, we can save lives and save money.

And finally, we are unlocking health care data and putting it to work. Private businesses are building creative apps that help patients and doctors better access electronic health records and be active participants in their own care.

Visionary Americans fought for the right for all Americans to have affordable, quality healthcare. The ACA will continue to bring those visions to fruition this year and for years to come.

Happy anniversary to us all.

Dr. Pamela Roshell was appointed by the Obama Administration as regional director of Region 4 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in July 2012, bringing nearly 20 years of experience in health care policy, public administration, and gerontology. She is the first African-American woman to hold this position in Region 4.

Special week draws attention to symptoms of diabetes

By Rick Carlton
Special to The Mississippi Link

A neighbor. A colleague. A child, cousin or parent . . .

The numbers say you probably know someone with diabetes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2 out of 5 Americans will develop type 2 diabetes, and that's not counting the 1.25 million with type 1 – most of whom were diagnosed at a young age.

Consider the numbers by which one of our Kandu kids has lived:

- 5: the age when Bella was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes
- 7,304: the number of times she has checked her blood sugar (or, as of a second ago, 7,305)
- 525: how many shots of insulin she has been given or given herself
- 187: how many times she has had to change her insulin pump site

• And, perhaps most importantly, 742. That is the number of days Bella has spent not only overcoming diabetes but thriving with it.

Bella's regimen may be measured in numbers, but she has not let those numbers tyrannize her life. Bella lives 24/7 with a chronic disease. But she has also learned to read, grown into a caring big sister, and, by the way, become the best defender on her soccer team. She has one killer slide tackle. Bella was fortunate to have her type 1 diabetes discovered early because her family recognized the warning signs. But 25 percent of children with type 1 diabetes present at diagnosis in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a potentially life-threatening condition.

Diabetes Discovery Week is a statewide initiative sponsored by the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi during the week of March

20-26. The goal is to raise awareness of the warning signs of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in an effort to save lives. Early diagnosis is vitally important.

Call the DFM to request free information including our "Wake Up, Mississippi!" bookmark and "You're Never Too Young for Diabetes" flyer to learn more about warning signs and risk factors for both types of diabetes.

For over 50 years, the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi has been the state's premier diabetes organization, caring for thousands of children and adults.

Call 1-877-DFM-CURE or visit www.msdiabetes.org to take a risk test and learn more about how you can join the DFM in the fight against diabetes!

Dr. Rick Carlton is president of the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi.

Employees honored for service at state hospital



Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with March anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Service awards are given to MSH employees in the month of their date of hire, beginning with one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc. Mississippi State Hospital March service award recipients include: (first row, from left) Brianna Beverly of Pearl, one year; Maria Putman of Brandon, 10 years; Debra Willis of Brandon, one year; Sue Hancock of Brandon, 10 years; Billy McAlpin of Mendenhall, one year; (second row, from left) Lorraine Jones of Jackson, 10 years; Denesha Evans of Forest, 10 years; Regina Shaheed of Jackson, five years; Helen Brown of Clinton, 20 years; Michael Creager of Raymond, 25 years; Melinda Staples of Jackson, one year; Darrell M. Robinson of Jackson, 10 years; Harold Wayne Mack of Jackson, one year; Dr. Sheila Holmes of Pearl, 25 years.

Sixth National Civil Rights Conference heads to Meridian

Deadline to submit papers, proposals is April 1

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Sixth Annual National Civil Rights Conference with a theme of Rise, Advocate, Educate and Cooperate: Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future is set for June 19-22 in Meridian.

The conference is designed to generate intellectual dialogue and debate as well as create opportunities to strengthen existing networks and forge new ones.

The National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc. and the cities of Philadelphia and Meridian are co-sponsors of the event.

The National Civil Rights Conference will coincide with the Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Memorial Service: an annual event remembering and honoring the three slain civil rights workers – James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner – and other Mississippi civil rights movement participants; memorial activities on the grounds of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church; and memorial activities on the grounds of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

The National Civil Rights Conference is soliciting papers, panel sessions and workshops for the June conference. Although the program committee wel-

comes papers, panels and artistic productions on any aspect of human and civil rights, priority will be given to submissions directly related to the conference theme.

The deadline for submission of paper, panel and artistic production proposals is April 1. Proposals should be submitted electronically and must include: title of paper or panel, author (s) name and affiliation (s), 200 to 250 word abstract of the paper or panel, and contact information. Proposals should be submitted to: kdarker@civilrightsconference.com.

Conference attendees and program participants are required to register for the conference. Registration includes admission to all sessions, and exhibit halls and daily keynotes. Service-learning training/registration (10 to 20 instructional hours or 1.0 to 2.0 CEUs) will be offered for a fee to registered participants and specific audiences such as teachers, principals and education leaders. Registration information and materials will be posted on <http://civilrightsconference.com>.

Contact the planning committee chair kdarker@civilrightsconference.com or visit the conference web site for additional conference information.

Have You or a Loved One
been diagnosed with or died from
Ovarian Cancer

and used

Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder,
Shower to Shower or other
Talc-based powders?

You may be entitled to a
recovery!

Millions of women have been unknowingly exposed to talc which is a proven carcinogen. Some companies sold the product, increasing the risk of ovarian cancer for those women, yet they failed to place a warning on those products.

Talc Litigation

wants to get you everything you're
entitled to.

Call 800 518 5610
for more information.

Mississippi 4-H and UnitedHealthcare help fight hunger

Mississippi Link Newswire

UnitedHealthcare and the 4-H Youth Development Program at Alcorn State University are expanding their partnership to help fight hunger and food insecurity by promoting budgeting and nutrition education in underserved communities with the “4-H Food Smart Families” program.

UnitedHealthcare has donated \$55,000 to Alcorn State University Extension, which administers 4-H programs throughout the state, to support the 4-H Food Smart Families program. The program empowers families with nutrition education, and cooking and food-budgeting skills to bring more affordable, nutritious foods into their households, and connects families with nutrition assistance through SNAP benefits.

The program was featured at Wilkins Elementary School in Jackson, where more than 200 fourth and fifth graders joined 4-H’ers, community leaders and UnitedHealthcare mascot Dr. Health E. Hound in training sessions to learn more about food – how to buy it, use it and cook it, and make choices that enhance their health and well-being.

4-H youth participated in the 4-H Food Smart Shopping Experience, during which they were asked to shop and make choices based on budget, nutrition, price per unit and meal preparation.

“4-H and UnitedHealthcare are sharing best practices for healthy eating and smart budgeting choices that will help support families throughout our community,” said Manola Erby, Alcorn State University 4-H Youth Development specialist. “Through the 4-H Food Smart Families



Pictured are (from left) from Alcorn State University Ralph Arrington, Dr. Jonathan Sutton, principal Wilkin Elementary School; Michelle King, chief academic officer of Jackson Public Schools; Jocelyn Chisholm Carter, CEO UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Mississippi; 4-H youth leaders Kristen Brown, Christina Washington and Youth Specialist at Alcorn State University Extension Program Manola Erby. The group kicked off the “4-H Food Smart Families” at Wilkins Elementary School in Jackson. At the event UnitedHealthcare presented a \$55,000 grant to Alcorn State University, which administers 4-H programs throughout the state. PHOTO BY AMANDA PATTERSON



Aaronise Walker from Wilkins Elementary School is joined by UnitedHealthcare mascot Dr. Health E. Hound and fellow students Christina Washington, Kristen Brown at the kick-off for the “4-H Food Smart Families” program to make healthy living a greater part of 4-H’ers everyday lives. At the event students and community leaders participated in multiple training sessions to learn about food – how to secure it, use it and cook it, and make choices that enhance their health and well-being.

Program, we are helping young people establish sustainable and healthy habits for their families.”

Throughout Mississippi, the 4-H Food Smart Families Program will engage 4-H teen leaders to serve as ambassadors and mentors to teach youth, peers, families and communities how to prepare healthy meals on a budget.

4-H Food Smart Families is expected to engage nearly 6,000 Mississippians, including more than 1,600 kids and 4,200 of their family members that are eligible for or receiving SNAP (food stamps) benefits. Goals include educating youth on the importance of eating more vegetables and fruit; drinking more water; choosing healthier snacks; eating breakfast; teaching their families how to buy and prepare healthier, affordable foods on a budget; and practicing food-safety principles for food



Valerie Wright with UnitedHealthcare speaks to a group of fourth and fifth graders from Wilkins Elementary School during the kick-off for the “4-H Food Smart Families” program to make healthy living a greater part of 4-H’ers everyday lives.

preparation and preservation. “UnitedHealthcare is grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting 4-H and the 4-H Food Smart Families program. We look forward to working together to achieve the goals of this program by providing a sustainable solution to childhood hunger,” said Jocelyn Chisholm

Carter, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Mississippi. UnitedHealthcare employees will help organize and host many of the 4-H Food Smart Families events and help implement projects that lead to positive, sustainable change at the community and individual level. UnitedHealthcare’s \$55,000

grant is part of a \$1 million program funded by UnitedHealthcare in 2015 to support youth healthy-living programs. UnitedHealthcare serves more than 580,000 people in Mississippi with a network of 101 hospitals.



Wilkins Elementary School student Caccosah (left) is joined by Dr. Health E. Hound and UnitedHealthcare representative Tonya Smith and fellow student Patryce during the Mississippi 4-H and UnitedHealthcare kick-off for the “4-H Food Smart Families” program to make healthy living a greater part of 4-H’ers everyday lives.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL ♦ POWERLIFTING ♦ BOXING ♦ HORSESHOE PITCHING

2016 LOUISIANA STATE GAMES

MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS INVITED TO COMPETE!

Don't SPECTATE... PARTICIPATE!

For deadlines and information on registration, please visit our website:
LouisianaStateGames.com

BRING YOUR GAME!
Initial Games Begin May 2016

Hosted By:
MONROE West MONROE LOUISIANA
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Sponsored By:
CenturyLink

LOUISIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL ♦ AAU BOYS BASKETBALL

TRACK & FIELD ♦ USSSA JUV GOLF ♦ DISC GOLF ♦ BASEBALL ♦ SOFTBALL ♦ LOUISIANA YOUTH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

CROSS COUNTRY ♦ PICKLEBALL ♦ ARCHERY ♦ RACQUETBALL ♦ BMX

Does radon pose a risk to you and your loved ones?

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas. It is undetectable by the human senses and is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Could it be in your home?

Order a radon detection kit from the Mississippi State Department of Health by calling 1-800-626-7739.
Free while supplies last

To learn more, visit us online at www.HealthyMS.com/radon

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Environmental Health

WJSU-FM features pioneers in arts, letters during Women's History Month

By Lucas Watson
jsumsnews.com

Jackson State University's WJSU-FM kicks off a 15-part modular series to celebrate Women's History Month, spotlighting filmmakers, opera singers and others.

Written and narrated by WJSU general manager Gina Carter-Simmers, the venture is distributed by the African-American Public Radio Consortium.

The series is comprised of three-minute audio vignettes that showcase achievements in the arts and literature, as well as educate listeners about accomplishments during the 20th century.

For example, they highlight talented individuals from the early 1900s who endured and overcame the double jeopardy of being black and female. Being in just one of those categories relegated women to second-class citizenship in early America. Despite the challenges, the brilliance of these women inspired generations. Their strength, endurance and commitment to mastering their craft stir creative energies that have enabled HBCUs to thrive.

Loretta Rucker, executive director of AAPRC, commended Carter-Simmers for bringing the project to fruition.

"Gina feels passionately that these stories should be told. She decided to roll up her sleeves



WJSU-FM general manager Gina Carter-Simmers narrates "Profiles in Women's History."

and do it herself. ... Our listeners are the beneficiaries, and we all become a little more human by hearing these noble stories."

"Profiles in Women's History" also includes stories of actresses, prima ballerinas, authors, bandleaders, sculptors and symphonic composers.

The entertaining vignettes were produced by Peabody Award winner Jim Luce of New York City.

Luce describes storytelling via public radio as one of the most powerful aspects of "the theater of the mind" and said the content of these women profiles are worthy to be archived in a museum.

"When humanity is preserved through digital storytelling, public radio offers its producers the opportunity to become cultural anthropologists," said Luce, whose career spans from radio to assisting jazz and clas-

sical musicians to concerts. He acknowledged there are many stories to go around, given the "chaotic conditions that make up today's America."

Throughout March, tune in to WJSU to hear profiles of the women listed below three times daily at 11:50 a.m., 3:50 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.

The audio clips include narratives and music.

Featured women

- Lil Hardin Armstrong – singer, pianist, composer, bandleader

- Louise Beavers – actress
- Margaret Bonds – composer, pianist

- Marita Bonner – writer, essayist, playwright

- Carol Brice – contralto singer

- Janet Collins – prima ballerina, choreographer

- Carmen De Lavallade – dancer, choreographer, actress

- Kristin Hunter – novelist
- Dr. Lois Mailou Jones – painter

- Valerie Maynard – sculptor, printmaker, designer

- Audra McDonald – actress, singer

- Euzhan Palcy – film, director

- Leontyne Price – soprano, opera singer

- Florence Smith – symphonic composer

- Iyanla Vanzant – author, inspirational speaker, TV personality

Gala celebration to raise funds for Hinds CC Utica Campus scholarships



Bennie Thompson



Beverly Wade Hogan



Bobby Cooper



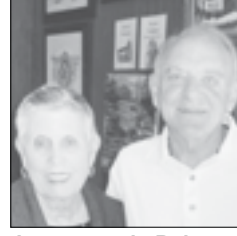
Delmer Stamps



George Barnes



Gregory Davis



James and Rebecca Drake



Jimmy Harris



Lacey Reynolds



Paul and Dorothea Willis



Phillip Burks

Mississippi Link Newswire

UTICA – Among those to be honored at the March 25 Hinds Community College Utica Campus Vice President's Scholarship and Hall of Honors Gala are Congressman Bennie Thompson and U.S. Attorney Greg Davis. The gala will honor distinguished graduates and supporters as well as raise money for student scholarships.

The gala is 7 p.m. March 25 at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson. An individual ticket is \$100 with opportunities for sponsorship packages that include multiple tickets.

"Throughout our history, we have relied on partnerships and community leaders to build effective programs to serve our students. We ask that you consider partnering with us to help send a student to college. A higher education prepares our students for today's careers," said Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson, vice president for the Utica Campus. Mays-Jackson is an alumna of the campus.

The honorees include:

Retired Utica Campus Vice President Dr. George Barnes: Barnes, a native of Collins, served as a professional educator and administrator for 50 plus years at Hinds Agricultural High School, Utica Junior College and Hinds Community College before retiring in June 2013. When he retired, he was vice president for Utica/Vicksburg-Warren Campuses and for Administrative and Student Services.

Pastor Phillip A. Burks, alumnus: Burks began his education at Hubbard's Elementary School in Edwards and later Mixon Elementary School in Utica. He graduated from Hinds AHS in May 1974. He later attended Utica Junior College, majoring in auto body repair. He played in the concert band and marching band. He also ran track.

After graduating, he established Burks Body Repair Shop in Vicksburg. He furthered his studies at Jackson State University and received a state teacher's license for auto body repair. This certification allowed Burks to teach at Oakley Training School in Raymond. He retired from Oakley in 2006 after 28 years of service.

Dr. Bobby G. Cooper, the director of the renowned Jubilee Singers on the Utica Campus: Cooper, a Bolton native, is currently chairman of the Humanities Division for Hinds Community College-Utica Campus and is also director of Choral Activities. He also teaches voice, piano and courses in music theory. He is director of the Wesley Foundation, a ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Alumnus Gregory Davis, U.S. attorney for the Southern District: Davis is a native of

Hinds Utica Campus history

In 1903, William Henry Holtzclaw founded the Utica Campus as the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, later transitioning to Hinds County Agricultural High School / Utica Junior College. As a student of Thurgood Marshall, Holtzclaw was challenged to go into a rural area and educate the underprivileged while also providing meaningful services. He opened the doors of UNII to local farmers and their families.

From its humble beginnings through the court-ordered merger with Hinds Community College in 1982, the Utica Campus of Hinds Community College continues to serve the community 113 years later in a Historically Black College & University status.

Utica where he attended Utica Junior College from 1980 to 1981. He attended Mississippi State University and received a degree in chemical engineering in 1984. He continued his studies at Tulane Law School, where he graduated cum laude in 1987. He was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in October 1987.

Community supporters James Drake and alumna and former instructor Rebecca Drake: Rebecca Drake, a native of Ellisville, is a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Music with a master's degree in piano performance. She arrived at Hinds Junior College in 1965, pursuing a teaching and performing career. She chose to stay connected to Hinds and taught at her alma mater for 20 years.

The couple married in 1969 and has lived in Raymond since that time. The Drakes created a scholarship in honor of Dr. Bobby G. Cooper, choral director at Hinds Community College Utica Campus and director of the famed Jubilee Singers.

Alumnus and supporter Jimmy Harris, who is being honored posthumously: Harris, who died in 2014, was a native of Lauderdale County who moved to Edwards at a young age. He attended Hinds AHS from 1966 to 1969 where he was active in band and played football.

He then attended Alcorn State University where he also played in the band. He and his wife LeeVella met at Alcorn.

Alumna Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan, Tougaloo College president: Hogan has served as president at Tougaloo College since May 2002.

She is the first woman and the 13th president to lead this historic institution.

A native Mississippian, Hogan attended high school at Hinds AHS. Hogan earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Tougaloo College and master's in public policy and administration from Jackson State University.

Dr. William H. Holtzclaw, the founder of Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, who is being honored posthumously: Holtzclaw founded the Utica Normal and Industrial Insti-

tute for the Training of Colored Young Men and Women in 1903 in a rented log cabin.

Alumnus and former athlete Dr. Lacey Reynolds, assistant professor for health and kinesiology at Texas Southern University: Reynolds attended Utica Junior College from 1970 to 1972 and has been a member of the Friends of the College since he graduated.

He is now an associate professor in the College of Education at Texas Southern University after receiving his doctorate in education from TSU in 2007.

Alumnus Delmer Stamps, state resource conservationist and member of the Hinds Community College Foundation board: Stamps of Jackson attended Hinds AHS from 1970 to 1973 and Utica Junior College from 1973 to 1974. He has been a member of the Friends of the College since 1970.

He is currently a member of the Hinds Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

Congressman Bennie Thompson, alumnus: Thompson is the U.S. Representative for Mississippi's Second Congressional District, serving since 1993. In 2006 he became the first Democratic chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, and he has been the ranking member of the committee since 2011. He has also served on the Agriculture, Budget and Small Business committees.

He is the longest serving African-American elected official in the state of Mississippi.

Alumnus Col. (retired) Paul Willis and alumna Dorothea Torry-Willis, are owners/operators of Gazebo Lake Ranch in Utica.

Col. Paul L. Willis hails from Edwards. He graduated from Hinds AHS in 1975 and Utica Junior College in 1977 where he was Mr. UJC and co-valedictorian. He assumed his current position as director of Army Instruction in Jackson Public Schools in July 2004.

Torry-Willis is a 1975 graduate Hinds AHS and a 1978 Utica Junior College graduate. Most recently she worked as the Regional Family Support coordinator for the Mississippi Valley Division Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg.

POTENTIAL LAWSUIT

HAVE YOU OR A LOVED ONE SUFFERED:

PERMANENT HAIR LOSS

FOLLOWING CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT FOR BREAST CANCER?

Please Contact Us for a

FREE CONSULTATION

601-957-3101

Danks, Miller & Cory

213 S. Lamar Street

Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Please visit our website:

www.danksmillercory.com

N E W S F R O M T H E W O R D

Learning to Love God

By Rev. Leon Collier
Special to The Mississippi Link



There is only one more selection that will follow this sermon of the Learning to Love God series.

We have looked at many scriptures throughout the Bible that relate to this subject and it has indeed been a blessing. Since this is the next to the last sermon of this series, let's review one last time. We saw how Enoch walked closely and consistently with God and we saw how King David was a man after God's own heart.

We also talked about the five benefits or the five P's we get if we love God with all of our hearts: 1. Protection Psalms 145:20 2. Promotion Psalms 91:14 3. Prosperity Proverbs 8:21 4. Personal John 14:21b, and 5. Providence Romans 8:28.

Based on David's life, we saw what it means to be a person after God's own heart, i.e. we saw what it looks like to love God with all of one's heart, soul and strength.

1. Wants to spend time with God - Psalm 42:1-2
2. Can't get God off their mind - Psalm 63:6
3. God is their all in all: Psalm - 59:16
4. Loves God's love letter (Bible) - Psalm 119:97
5. Love to sing love songs to God - (Praise) Psalm 18:1
6. Fears God for His great authority - Psalm 119:120
7. David had absolute faith in God - 1 Samuel 17:26-46
8. Refuses to remain in sin (repentance) - 2 Samuel 12:13

We later asked ourselves a question: How can we tell if we really love God with all of our hearts?

1. Do you enjoy the Lord? Psalm 5:11c, "...Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You."

2. Willing to give up everything Genesis 22:12

Then our focus turned to: I love God because - Psalm 116:1 and because I love God I will - Psalm 116:12.

In part six, we talked about teaching our children to love God and we said remembering the promises, the present and the past can encourage us to love God with all of our hearts.

Then we asked the question, "What gives God the right to demand or command us to love Him with all of our hearts, soul, mind and strength?" And we said that God has responded to all our love languages. He has met our needs and most importantly, he proved his love for us by sacrificing his only child for our sins and we were bought with a price. Therefore, God can demand that we love with all our hearts because he loved us first, now it's our turn to love him back with everything in us.

Therefore, today, we come to the final sermon of this series, and our focus today will be on, how we can help ourselves get to the point to where we love God with all our heart, soul and strength. How to get to the place where we love God with all of our heart?

Deuteronomy 30:1-6 tells us how to get to the place where we love God with all of our heart and soul:

1. Seriously consider what

is at stake: Deuteronomy 30:1, "...when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you." The Lord prophesied to Israel and told them that they would experience both curses and blessings due to their obedience and disobedience.

As we reflect on what God said to Israel, we must keep in mind that if we live in obedience to God's word, we will be blessed, but if we disobey, we will be cursed. Obviously, obedience is certainly key to learning to love God. If you are not obedient to God's word then you will not love Him with your whole heart.

Seriously, think about what's at stake. If you learn to love God with all of your heart and obey him, blessings await you. If you rebel, curses await you and you will never know what it is like to love God with your whole heart. You will never know the fellowship with God, the joy and the peace and wisdom in loving God with all of your heart.

What's at stake if we don't love God with all of our hearts? Deuteronomy 30:20 answers this question for us: "That you may love the LORD your God, and obey his voice that you may cleave unto him: for he is your life, and the length of thy days...that you may dwell in the land which the Lord promised..."

The Living Bible says, "Choose to love the Lord your God and obey Him and cling to Him, for He is your life and the

length of your days. You will then be able to live safely in the land the Lord promised..."

The BBE translation reads: "In loving the Lord your God, hearing his voice and being true to him: for he is your life and by him will your days be long: so that you may go on living in the land which the Lord gave..."

According to this verse, three things are at stake: incomparable life (he is your life), an extension of life (by him will your days be long) and given an unshakable/secure life (that you may dwell in the land).

Where does life come from? From God, so when we love him with all our hearts, we experience life, love, happiness, contentment and peace that passes all understanding. We can experience life on a level that those outside of Christ cannot.

The sad thing is, many Christians never experience life the way Deuteronomy 30:20 implies because so many church folk are not serious about their spiritual growth.

Rev. Leon Collier is the pastor of Makarios Worship Center, 464 Church Rd., Madison. He and wife, Minister Yolanda; are the proud parents of three daughters. He has received degrees from Criswell College in Dallas, Texas; Southern Methodist University - Perkins School of Theology and a Masters of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary; as well as participated in the Theological Opportunities Program at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass. He may be reached at (601) 260-3016, (601) 855-7898 or email kar-ab5@live.com.

Message from the Religion Editor

By Daphne Higgins
Religion Editor



It has been my goal throughout the month of March to highlight African-American women who may or may not have achieved national recognition for their accomplishments. As Women's History Month ends, the greatest celebration of mankind is observed on the last Sunday of the month, which happens to be the day of resurrection or Easter Sunday.

What a wonderful combination. Can you think of a better way to salute strong women than to acknowledge the faithful sisters who sat with Christ as he ended his earthly journey to begin his heavenly one?

John 19:25 - 26 tells us "... But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

As I read God's word and focused on the actions of these women, I understood their position even more. As women witnessing the physical death of their loved one, they felt pain, but as believing women, they knew that God was in control. Their tears were temporary (as tears are) but their love for Christ grew even more. These strong women are among those who witnessed death and the resurrection of Christ. Their presence and their devotion to following the path of Christ would be and will continue to be shared for centuries.

The Mississippi Link, a messenger for news in and around the state of Mississippi, would like to not only share your news of praise and good works but that of your places of worship, as well. Remember the verse that I often share with you: Isaiah 52:7 (NIV) reads: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

To share your news, contact Daphne M. Higgins at religion@mississippilink.com, fax 601-896-0091 or mail your information to The Mississippi Link, 2659 Livingston Rd., Jackson, MS 39213.

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greater Pearlie Grove M. B. Church, 1640 West County Line Road, Jackson, will observe The Easter Celebration, "The Road to Via Dolorosa - Walk to Calvary - A pedestrian display of Christ's walk to Calvary" in the church's parking lot on from 7-9 p.m. March 25. Only one Sunday worship service will be held on March 27, which will begin at 8 a.m. For more information call (601) 354-2026. Rev. Stephen Mason is the pastor.

Pleasant Green M. B. Church, 3920 Hwy. 43 N, Sharon, will be the location where the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi will hold its State Ushers and Nurses Workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 26. For more information call (601) 856-2731 or (601) 672-8801 or (601) 497-3322. Dr. Isiac Jackson Jr. is the president of the GMBSC of MS.

College Hill M. B. Church, 1600 Florence Ave., will observe the Easter Celebration March 27. The Children's Easter Program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and Easter Sunday Worship Celebration will begin at 10 a.m. The Deaconess Ministry of the church, in conjunction with local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, will present a Fiscal Responsibilities Forum on March 30, at the church. A youth component for ages 13 and older will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the adult component will begin at 7 p.m. For more information call (601) 355-2610. Rev. Michael T. Williams is the pastor.

Victory Family Church, 6725 I-55 South Frontage Road, Byram, will present its Easter At Victory Resurrection Service at 10 a.m. March 27. For more information call (601) 372-2122 or visit - <http://www.VFCBYRAM.org>. Pastor and co-pastor are James and Maretta Nichols.

A crucial conversation with Christ on the cross

By Rev. Alvin C. Carter
Special to The Mississippi Link



And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him saying, If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. (Luke 23:39-43, KJV)

As we approach the day celebrated as Easter, I am captured by the approach by the two thieves that were hanging on the cross with Jesus. I would like to encourage you with the thought "A Crucial Conversation with Christ on the Cross."

Luke records when Jesus was led to Calvary, there were two other malefactors, or criminals, that were led with Him to be crucified. There was one hung on the left; one on the right; and Jesus was hanging in the middle. It is recorded that before they spoke to Jesus, a title was given to Him written in Greek, Latin and Hebrew that read "This is the King of the Jews." Now everyone in that area at that time was made

to know who he was without the possibility of correction.

In this crucial conversation, there were some things that caught my attention:

1. Careful arrangement - Jesus, who was found to have done nothing wrong, was hung on the cross in between two known criminals. These two criminals received what they deserved according to the laws of that time. However, Jesus, an innocent man, was hung in the middle as if he was strategically placed among sinners in the midst of dying for the sake of still saving souls. Isaiah 53:9 KJV stated "And He made His grave with the wicked, and with rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth."

2. Cunning approach - Seemingly, one of the criminals that was hanging next to Jesus had the mental and verbal capacity of those that mocked him when he was in the courtroom. He seemed to speak as if he was a criminal and willingly accepted his punishment by making a mockery of who Jesus was. He said, "If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us." His approach to Jesus was not acknowledging that he believed in the title that was given to Him; it was to mock the title and at the same time seek self-gain in the process.

3. Concerning appeal - The other criminal observed the cunning approach and spoke out against it realizing they were

getting what they deserved. He replied, "Do you now fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Now for a criminal to take this attitude toward another criminal on behalf of Jesus shows that he recognized who Jesus was. To prove this argument, this criminal presented a concerning appeal to Jesus saying, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." By him being a criminal, he realized Jesus knew why he was also on the cross; however, he spoke up against the wrong idea and cunning approach of the other criminal and asked for Jesus to remember him.

4. Compassionate answer - Through this interaction, Jesus assured him that he would be remembered. He said, "Verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise." This was a sign of Jesus showing compassion through His answer even while He suffered on their behalf on the cross. Even when it looked as if it was all over, Luke describes how Jesus saved a known criminal. That conversation demonstrated on the cross was crucial.

As we approach Easter, let us know that each and every conversation we have with Jesus is crucial; whether it is on our personal behalf or on behalf of someone else. For those that don't know him in the pardon

of their sins, Jesus has been carefully arranged so you can have a crucial conversation with Him today. Regardless of your short coming, all you must do is confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, believe in your heart that after that crucial conversation with those criminals, He died on the cross, but God raised Him from the dead on the third day. Then, like the criminal that asked Jesus to "remember me," you can be saved today. Have a crucial conversation with Christ.

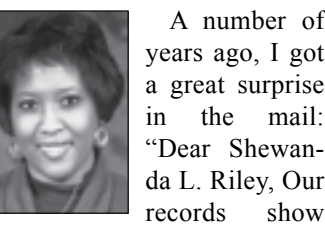
Be blessed and be a blessing to someone else.

Rev. Alvin Christopher De'Mond Carter is an associate minister and primary division director with the Sunday School at Pilgrim Rest M. B. Church - Madison. He received his education through the Madison County School District, Tougaloo College and Mississippi College. He has studied at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary College and received class training through the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Ordained on July 13, 2015 under the leadership of Matthew Canada, he is currently enrolled at Liberty University pursuing a master's in theological studies and biblical studies degree. The son of Alvin and Helen Carter; he is happily married to KaLandra M. Carter. They are the proud parents of three daughters. Presently, he is employed at Tougaloo College.

P R E S E R V E D

Taking Lent one step further

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A number of years ago, I got a great surprise in the mail: "Dear Shewanda L. Riley, Our records show that you haven't yet registered for the benefits of AARP membership, even though you are fully eligible." I re-read the first line a few times to make sure I was reading the right thing. I thought, "AARP? Isn't that for people over 50 years old?" Funny thing was that I wasn't even 40 years old yet. How in the world did I get an AARP membership card in the mail? I thought that maybe they got my name mixed up with someone else's. But how many Shewanda L. Rileys are there out there? I laughed as I then looked at the red AARP card

with my name imprinted on it. I looked through the AARP membership benefits packet and thought that it might not be a bad idea to send in the membership fee, after all they do get great discounts. Eventually, I threw away the card. Seeing the card made me think about where I wanted to be when I'm 50 years old. I'm praying that I will have grown and improved spiritually, emotionally, physically and financially. It also made me think about 1 Timothy 5:24-25 which I was led to during my personal Bible study once when I was looking for another scripture. Immediately, I was struck by its simple truth: Our reputations, good and bad, proceed us. I thought about what I wanted proceeding and following me when I was 50? During this season of Lent, many of us take similar reflec-

tive looks at our lives. In an effort to improve our spiritual and physical health, we give up social media, chocolate, cursing, smoking and alcohol, etc., hoping that by sacrificing those "fleshly" desires, we will become more like Christ. Undoubtedly, giving up those things that we love passionately for 40 days once a year is a great exercise in spiritual and physical discipline. However, the key to becoming more Christ-like is instead of just taking negative things out, we should also add positive things to our lives. For example, if you choose to give up chocolate for Lent, why not add fruits and vegetables to your diet? Instead of just giving up television, consider adding a more focused daily time of meditation and prayer. 1 Timothy 5:24 says, "The sins of some men are obvious,

reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious and even those that are not cannot be hidden." Like a perfume that fills and lingers in a room, people should recognize the sweet perfume of truth, faith and love from our lives. Regardless of whether we've given up everything or just kept some things hidden, I think God is waiting on us to make a choice to go from making temporary shifts and to making permanent transformations. Happy Resurrection Weekend. Celebrate Him because He lives! Shewanda Riley is the author of the Essence best-seller "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose after a Relationship Ends." She may be reached at lovehangover@juno.com.

Abiding in Christ

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



We find in John 15:1-10 these words, "I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this my father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples. "As the father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in His love." (NKJV).

The world is full of people who attempt to be good, nice, clean and friendly. Some attend workshops, conferences and seminars. Many attend church services and activities. However, they are not embracing the great commission or making disciples. True discipleship leads to fruit bearing. We have the power to bear fruit while we are connected to Jesus. By abiding in Jesus, we receive spiritual strength to go and produce fruit and make disciples of all nations. If we are not bearing fruit, we are not a disciple. If we desire the

character of Jesus, then we as disciples will display the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23). The fruit of the Spirit will grow in us as our lives become connected to Jesus. If we abide in Christ, we learn to know Him, love Him and imitate Him. To abide in Christ is to be connected to the Vine and to be counted among the people belonging to Jesus. I believe we need each other if we are going to share the love of Christ with others and grow as mature Christ-like followers. We have the opportunity every day to read God's Word and to obey His instructions and to help make a difference in our communities, neighborhoods and cities.

My friends, let us take time to worship God and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to us. We must be reverent before Him while He is in our presence. Again, the only way for Christ followers to produce fruit is to be connected to Jesus. As we continue to exhibit our faith and prayers, then we will produce Godly fruit. We abide in Christ by obeying His Word and leaving the world of sin.

If we desire the power for fruit bearing, we must abide in Christ. We find in the following scripture, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." (John 6:56 NKJV). "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." (1 John 2:28).

Rev. Simeon Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is married to Velma L. Green. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind. He serves as chairman of the Southeastern Association of The Church of God, Inc.

The Top 10 Gospel Songs from the Billboard Gospel Charts for the week of March 24

SONGS	ARTISTS	ALBUM
1. Wanna Be Happy?	Kirk Franklin	
2. Worth	Anthony Brown & group therAPy	
3. Intentional	Travis Greene	
4. 123 Victory	Kirk Franklin	
5. I'm Yours	Casey J	
6. I'm Good	Tim Bowman Jr.	
7. Put A Praise On It	Tasha Cobbs Featuring Kierra Sheard	
8. I Luh God	Erica Campbell Featuring Big Shizz	
9. Better	Hezekiah Walker	
10. The Anthem	Todd Dulaney	

To listen to snippets of these songs, please visit billboard.com/charts/gospel-song

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-3552670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chc@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
Worship Services
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 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

New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhems.org

SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

ANYTIME ONLINE

Breaking News
Streaming Videos
Interactive Blogs

Visit our newly designed website:
www.mississippilink.com

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

"A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man"

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others

Sunday Morning
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship
Services: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday
Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

Holy Temple M.B. Church
9077 Cabarrus Circle - Jackson, MS 39209
(601) 922-6588; holytemplmchurch@yahoo.com

Worship Services:
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Rev. Anthony L. Williams, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ann D. Williams, Co-pastor

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI REGULATING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson wishes to oversee transportation network companies in a manner that establishes safety and consumer protections and ensures marketplace fairness, therefore it is hereby resolved as follows.

SECTION 1. Chapter 126 of the General Laws of the City of Jackson, Mississippi is hereby amended by inserting after ARTICLE IX an "Article X" entitled "Transportation Network Companies."

SECTION 2. Chapter 126 of the General Laws of the City of Jackson is hereby amended by inserting into "Article X — Transportation Network Companies" the following sections:

Section 126-501. —Definitions.

The following words and phrases used in Article X of this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. To the extent that the vehicle, passenger, driver, company, or matter being addressed pertains to a Transportation Network Company as defined in this Section 126-501, the definition provided in this Section 126-501 supersedes any conflicting definition contained elsewhere in this Chapter unless expressly specified in this Article X:

"Committee" means the Transportation Permit and Review Committee as defined in Chapter 126 Article 1, Sec. 126-3 of the General Laws of the City of Jackson.

"Department," means the Police Department of the City of Jackson.

"Prearranged Ride," a period of time that begins when a transportation network driver accepts a requested ride through a digital network, continues while said driver transports the transportation network company rider, and ends when said rider departs from the vehicle.

"Transportation Network Company," a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or other entity, operating in the City of Jackson that uses a digital network to connect riders to drivers for the purposes of pre-arranging and providing transportation.

"Transportation Network Company Permit" or "Permit," a document that may be issued by the Committee to a qualifying transportation network company under section 126-504 of this chapter, effective for a period of two years. A Transportation Network Company shall not be deemed to control, direct or manage the Vehicles or Transportation Network Drivers that connect to its digital network, except where agreed to by written contract.

"Transportation Network Driver," a driver certified by a transportation network company pursuant to section 126-505.

"Transportation Network Driver Certificate," a certificate issued by a transportation network company pursuant to section 126-503, effective for a period of one year, and which may be provided in an electronic form.

"Transportation Network Rider" or "Rider," a passenger in a pre-arranged ride provided by a transportation network driver, provided that the passenger personally arranged the ride or an arrangement was made on his or her behalf.

"Transportation Network Services" or "Services," the offering or providing of pre-arranged rides for compensation or on a promotional basis to riders or prospective riders through the transportation network company's digital network, covering the period beginning when a transportation network driver is logged onto the transportation network company's digital network and is available to receive a prearranged ride or while in the course of providing a prearranged ride.

"Vehicle," a vehicle that is used by a transportation network driver to provide transportation network services.

Section 126-502. Administration.

The Committee shall have general supervision of all transportation network companies and the manner in which transportation network services are provided with reference to the safety and convenience of the public, as expressly set forth in sections 126-501 through 126-512 of this chapter. Transportation network companies are not subject to the department or committee's rate, certificate of necessity, or common carrier requirements, other than those expressly set forth in sections 126-501 through 126-512 of this Chapter, nor are transportation network companies subject to any other provision of this chapter, other than those expressly set forth in sections 126-501 through 126-512.

Section 126-503. City Permit Required.

(a) No transportation network company shall operate in the City of Jackson without a permit issued to it by the Committee. Unless the Committee can show good cause for delay, such as the failure to submit information required in this Article or failure to comply with this article, the Committee shall issue permits to transportation network companies who apply within 30 days of the applicant submitting a completed application. Any transportation network company operating in the City of Jackson at the time of the enactment of this ordinance may continue operating so long as it submits a completed application within 30 days of the effective date of this ordinance. If it completes the application within 30 days, said company may operate unless/until its application is reviewed and rejected.

(b) No transportation network driver shall provide transportation network services unless, said driver: (i) is affiliated with a transportation network company that holds a permit issued to it by the committee or is otherwise authorized to operate on an interim basis under section 126-503(a); (ii) holds a current and valid transportation network driver certificate issued to him by a transportation network company identifying him as a transportation network driver; (iii) uses a vehicle that is listed on his transportation network driver certificate and bears the recognizable external marker required by subsection (f) of section 126-505; and (iv) carries the proof of insurance required by section 126-506.

Section 126-504. Application.

(a) A transportation network company shall apply for a permit to be issued by the committee. The applicant must pay a \$5000 registration fee. The registration must include:

1. The transportation network company's name, business address, and phone number;

2. If the transportation network company is registered in another state, the name, address, and phone number of the transportation network company's agent for service of process (said agent must be in Mississippi);

3. The name, address, email address and phone number of the transportation network company's main contact person for communications with the committee;

4. A certification that the applicant has a company policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of destination, age, race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, intellectual disability, or physical disability with respect to all passengers and potential passengers.

(b) Each applicant for a transportation network company permit must meet the following requirements:

(1) Adequate insurance as set forth in section 126-506 of this chapter.

(2) Agree to driver background checks as described herein.

(i) The transportation network company shall not allow the provision of transportation network services by any driver who has not been determined to be suitable to provide transportation network services through the process set forth in this chapter.

(ii) The transportation network company shall submit a verification setting forth, in detail, its background check process under this chapter.

(3) Agree to Vehicle safety The vehicle used by a TNC driver to provide TNC services shall be inspected by a qualified garage or mechanic within 60 days of the driver being authorized to drive on the TNC's platform.

(4) Transparent pricing. The digital network used by the transportation network company to pre-arrange rides must have a straightforward explanation of the total cost or pricing structure applicable to each pre-arranged ride before such ride begins. The company agrees to disclose this pricing structure to each passenger via its website, app, and/or digital network before the passenger incurs any fees.

Section 126-505. Driver Requirements.

(a) Prior to permitting an individual to act as a TNC Driver on its digital platform, the TNC shall:

(1) Require the individual to submit an application to the TNC, which includes information regarding his or her address, age, driver's license, driving history, motor vehicle registration, automobile liability insurance, and other information required by the TNC and this ordinance;

(2) Conduct, or have a third party conduct, a local and national criminal background check for each applicant that shall include:

a. Multi-State/Multi-Jurisdiction Criminal Records Locator or other similar commercial nationwide database with validation (primary source search); and

b. National Sex Offender Registry database.

(b) The TNC shall not permit an individual to act as a TNC Driver on its digital platform who:

(1) Has had more than three moving violations in the prior three-year period, or one major violation in the prior three-year period (including, but not limited to, attempting to evade the police, reckless driving, or driving on a suspended or revoked license);

(2) Has been convicted, within the past seven years, of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, fraud, sexual offenses, use of a motor vehicle to commit a felony, a crime involving property damage, and/or theft, acts of violence, or acts of terror. If at any time during the application process the applicant is charged with any criminal offense that would disqualify a driver upon conviction under this ordinance, consideration of the application shall be suspended until entry of a judgment or dismissal. A plea of nolo contendere to a criminal offense shall constitute a conviction;

(3) Is a match in the National Sex Offender Registry database;

(4) Does not possess a valid driver's license;

(5) Does not possess proof of registration for the motor vehicle(s) used to provide TNC Services;

(6) Does not possess proof of automobile liability insurance for the motor vehicle(s) used to provide TNS Services; or

(7) Is not at least nineteen (19) years of age.

(c) The transportation network company shall verify that the vehicle or, where appropriate, each of the vehicles, to be used by the driver to provide transportation network services is currently registered in the State of Mississippi. The requirement that the vehicle must be currently registered in Mississippi shall not apply to drivers who, because of their status as a student or as a member of the military or as a dependent of a student or military member, are not required by Mississippi state law to register in Mississippi the vehicle they will use to provide transportation network services. If the student or military exception applies, the transportation network company shall verify that the vehicle or, where appropriate, each of the vehicles, to be used by the driver to provide transportation network services is currently registered by a state or jurisdiction of the United States of America. The transportation network company shall make sure that all vehicles pass an inspection by a qualified garage or licensed mechanic no later than 60 days after a driver is permitted to pick up passengers on the TNC's platform and annually thereafter.

(d) The certification requirements set forth herein shall apply to each renewal of a transportation network company permit.

(e) When requested, and no more frequently than on a quarterly basis, the TNC shall allow the City to visually inspect or audit the records of the TNC for purposes of verifying that the TNC is in compliance with the requirements of this Chapter including, but not limited to, vehicle inspections, proper completion of criminal background checks, and proper insurance. The audit shall take place at a mutually agreed locale in the City of Jackson. The City does not assume any responsibility for the operations of the TNC, its drivers or any actions or omissions arising in connection with its activities, which, at all times, shall remain the responsibility of the TNC.

(f) The transportation network driver certificate provided by the TNC to its authorized drivers shall contain the name of the driver and the license plate number of each vehicle used by him to provide transportation network services.

(g) A recognizable external marker shall be displayed on a vehicle at all times it is used to provide transportation network services.

Section 126-506. Insurance.

(a) On or before the effective date of this Ordinance and thereafter, TNCs and TNC Drivers shall comply with the automobile insurance requirements of this Section 126-506 and Mississippi Code § 21-27-133.

(b) The following automobile insurance requirements shall apply during the time that a TNC Driver is logged into the TNC's network and available to receive requests for transportation but is not conducting a prearranged ride:

(1) Automobile liability insurance that provides at least the minimum coverage amounts required under Mississippi Code Section 63-15-3(j).

(2) Automobile liability insurance in the amounts required in paragraph (1) Of subsection (b) shall be maintained by a TNC and provide coverage in the event of participating TNC Driver's own automobile liability policy excludes coverage according to its policy terms or does not provide coverage of at least the limits required in paragraph (1) of subsection (b).

(c) The following automobile liability insurance requirements shall apply while a TNC Driver is conducting a prearranged ride:

(1) Primary automobile liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000 for bodily injury or property damage per accident.

(2) The coverage requirements of this subsection (b)(1) may be satisfied by any of the following:

(A) Automobile liability insurance maintained by the TNC Driver; or

(B) Automobile liability insurance maintained by the TNC; or

(C) Any combination of subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(d) Each TNC shall carry general liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate for claims against the TNC arising out of its operations.

(e) In every instance where insurance maintained by a TNC Driver to fulfill the insurance requirements of this Section 7 has lapsed, failed to provide the required coverage, denied a claim for the required coverage or otherwise ceased to exist, insurance maintained by a INC shall provide the coverage required by this section beginning with the first dollar of a claim.

(f) Insurance required by this Section may be placed with an insurer authorized to do business in the state of Mississippi

(g) TNC drivers shall carry proof of the insurance required under this section 126-506 at all times that the TNC driver is in his or her vehicle and providing TNC services. If the insurance is maintained by the INC such proof of the insurance shall, at a minimum, identify the TNC's insurance company, policy number, effective dates of the policy, and instructions for filing a claim. Proof of insurance may be displayed electronically through the TNC's digital platform

Section 126-507. Right to Revoke Permit with Hearing and Notice.

The committee may, following notice and a hearing, suspend or revoke a transportation network company permit or an individual driver for due cause. The term "due cause" for the revocation or suspension of a transportation network company or driver shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. The failure of the transportation network company permit holder and/or driver to maintain any and all general qualifications applicable to the issuance of a certificate or permit;

b. Providing false information to the committee or police department or in the application to obtain a transportation network company permit;

c. Conviction, pleading guilty or nolo contendere of any disqualifying criminal offense of the city, the State of Mississippi, any other state, or of the United States, listed in section 126-505(b);

d. Refusing to accept via its network/website/software a genuine passenger who meets the requirements for service set by the transportation network company unless the passenger is obviously intoxicated, deemed to be dangerous, or other good cause.

e. If the holder of the transportation network company permit has knowledge of any disqualifying criminal offense or reasonably should have had such knowledge of the violation of a driver and nevertheless authorized the driver to provide transportation network services affiliated with the TNC;

f. Whenever it shall appear that a driver has disorders characterized by lapses of consciousness or other mental or physical disabilities affecting his or her ability to drive safely.

Section 126-508. Immediate Suspension of Drivers.

(a) The committee or the chief of police (personally or by his designee) may order a transportation network company to immediately suspend the certificate of a transportation network driver, and to report to the committee and to the police department within 24 hours upon having done so, upon receipt of information from the committee or the police department indicating that the driver is not suitable to provide transportation network services and poses a danger to the public. If the committee or the police department exercise their right to suspend a driver under this paragraph, the driver may request, in writing, addressed to the committee that the committee hold a hearing reviewing whether there is due cause to suspend the driver. The request for a hearing must be sent within 5 business days of the suspension and the committee shall hear the appeal within 10 business days of receiving the written request for a hearing or later if all involved parties agree.

Section 126-509. Penalties.

(a) The committee shall not issue a permit unless the transportation network company submits an application and registration fee in compliance with the provisions set forth herein. The committee may suspend or revoke a duly issued permit if the transportation network company fails to comply with the provisions set forth herein

(b) If a transportation network company operates without a permit issued by the committee, the transportation network company will be subject to criminal misdemeanor prosecution and be subject to punishment by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment up to but not exceeding 90 days which is the maximum allowed under state law, or both such fine and imprisonment. Every day any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(c) Any driver who is certified by transportation network company permitted under this ordinance and who provides for-hire transportation services using the vehicle authorized by a TNC without going through a digital network or app for a transportation network company he is certified with (e.g., accepting a street hail) will be subject to criminal misdemeanor prosecution and be subject to punishment by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment up to but not exceeding 90 days which is the maximum allowed under state law, or both such fine and imprisonment. Every day any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(d) Any driver who is not certified by a transportation network company permitted under this ordinance and who provides for-hire transportation services using a TNC platform or a vehicle authorized by a TNC will be subject to criminal misdemeanor prosecution and be subject to punishment by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment up to but not exceeding 90 days which is the maximum allowed under state law, or both such fine and imprisonment. Every day any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 126-510. Annual Fees.

(a) In addition to the application fee, each transportation network company shall pay an annual fee of \$500.

(b) The payment to the City of Jackson of the annual fee described in Section 126-510(a) is not a tax. The payment to the City of Jackson of the annual fee described in Section 126-510(a) does not relieve the obligation of the transportation network company or its drivers to pay any applicable taxes or fees for providing vehicle-for-hire services imposed by the State, including, but not limited to, any taxes or fees related to Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau or the Jackson Convention Complex.

Section 126-511. Miscellaneous.

(a) The committee may establish forms and procedures appropriate to effectuate sections 126-501 through 126-512 of this chapter. In so doing, it shall consider comments provided to it by transportation network companies.

(b) The committee shall monitor and examine the provision of service by transportation network companies to all citizens of Jackson, regardless of race, class, location in the city, or special needs and shall report to the City Council and Mayor on an annual basis about whether further regulation of transportation network companies is necessary to address the fair provision of service to all citizens of Jackson.

(c) Records shall be maintained by transportation network companies, including, but not limited to, records pertaining to service, accessibility, and pricing pertaining to the City of Jackson. Transportation network companies shall retain individual trip records for at least two year and driver records for at least two years after the driver's activation on the digital network or app ends.

(d) Any record furnished to the department may exclude information that would tend to identify specific drivers or passengers, unless such information is pertinent to the enforcement processes.

(e) Any driver who has a valid and current certification under this article as a transportation network company driver and who is displaying on his or her vehicle the external markings required in Section 126-505(f) shall be authorized to pick-up and drop-off passengers using the transportation network company system at any Jackson Municipal Airport subject to any geofencing regulations, rules, or fees required by the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority. While at the airport, the driver shall not be allowed to access any parking or waiting zones that are restricted to commercial vehicles and the driver shall not be allowed to pick up fares or be hailed by people who are not using the transportation network company app or website unless authorized by the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority.

LEGAL (CONTINUED)

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI REGULATING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES. (CONTINUED)

Section 126-512. Public Records.

(a) Any record furnished to the committee or the police department by a transportation network company pursuant to sections 126-501 through 126-512 of this chapter, including but not limited to information on permitted transportation network drivers required shall be considered confidential and is not subject to public disclosure to a third party without the TNC's express written permission unless required to be disclosed by applicable law or court order, including without limitation Mississippi Code Section 25-61-1 et seq., provided that the City notifies the TNC of such requirement promptly prior to disclosure, and provided further that the City makes diligent efforts to limit disclosure pursuant to any available bases set forth in Mississippi Code Section 25-61-1 et seq. or other applicable law. If the City is required to release the TNC's confidential information, it shall use any available authorities to redact personal or business confidential information from such records to the extent consistent with applicable law and the final judgment.

SECTION 3. Chapter 126-3 of the General Laws of the City of Jackson, Mississippi is hereby amended by adding the following language to the end of the definition of "Transportation permit and review committee (committee)":

Within 30 days of the enactment of this ordinance, a new Transportation Permit and Review Committee will be empaneled. This new committee and the Transportation Permit and Review Committee thereafter will be comprised of two representatives from the department of Planning and Development who will serve at the discretion of the mayor, with one serving as chairperson, one representative appointed by the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority for a term not to exceed two years; one representative appointed by the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau for a term not to exceed two years; two representatives from the police department who will serve at the discretion of the mayor; and one at-large member who represents the interests of the consumer. The at-large member will be nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council and will serve a two year term. The representatives of the Department of Planning and Development, the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority, the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Police Department, and Consumers shall be the voting members of the committee. One representative from the taxicab companies operating in the City of Jackson; one representative from limousine companies operating in the City of Jackson; one representative from the transportation network companies operating in the City of Jackson, and one representative from the City of Jackson legal department shall serve on the committee in an advisory capacity. The mayor shall be responsible for taking the steps necessary to oversee and monitor the appointment of the advisory members.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

Except as otherwise provided, this Article shall take effect 30 days from its enactment.

Council Member Priester moved adoption; Council Member Foote seconded.

Yeas- Foote, Hendrix and Priester.

Nays- Stamps.

Absent- Barrett-Simon, Stokes and Tillman.

ATTEST:

Kristi Moore, City Clerk

I, Kristi Moore, the duly appointed, qualified City Clerk and lawful custodian of records of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi and seal of said City, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance passed by the City Council at its regular meeting on the 9th day of February, 2016, and recorded in Minute Book "61", pages 458-465.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this 18th day of March, 2016.

Kristi Moore, City Clerk

3/24/2016

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2016-04 - Lead Partner for Leadership Training, Superintendent's Schools of Promise

Sealed, written formal RFP 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 11:30 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 08, 2016, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing acrossley@jackson.k12.ms.us, picked up at the above address or down loaded from JPS website at HYPERLINK "http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us" www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

3/24/2016, 3/31/2016

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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, APRIL 13, 2016, AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2015-21, REQUEST BY: ERIN GUYTON (APPLICANT: TOM ROSS) TO REPLACE EXISTING SPANISH TILE ROOF AT 1621 PEACHTREE ST. WITH ASPHALT SHINGLES IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2016-03, REQUEST BY: WERDNA B MCLURKIN REV TRUST (APPLICANT: CHRISTINA MCKINNEY) TO INSTALL AN EXTERIOR DECK ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOME WITH OTHER SITE MODIFICATIONS LOCATED AT 1344 SAINT MARY ST. IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2016-06, REQUEST BY: WAYNE PACKER (APPLICANT: WILLIAM BIRDSONG JR.) TO DEMOLISH AND REBUILD A SHED DAMAGED BY FIRE LOCATED AT 1515 RIVERSIDE DRIVE. IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2016-07, REQUEST BY: BEN PUCKETT TO DEMOLISH AND REBUILD GARAGE LOCATED AT 900 EUCLID AVE. IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

3. CASE NO. 2016-08, REQUEST BY JOHN WEAVER TO ADD A SCREENED PORCH TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE HOME LOCATED AT 1320 BELVOIR CIRCLE. IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

II. OTHER ITEMS

III. ADJOURN

3/17/2016, 3/24/2016

LEGAL

Advertisement For Bids EASTOVER DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT City Project No. 15B0100.101

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. Local Time, April 26, 2016, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for construction of Eastover Drive Water Main Replacement, City Project No. 15B0100.101.

Contract time for this contract shall be 150 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1638. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 218 South President Street, 2nd Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for Eastover Drive Water Main Replacement, City Project No. 15B0100.101." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids and EBO plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A PreBid Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016 at 10:00 AM local time in the 1st Floor Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Department of Public Works at 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Attendance by all potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties is strongly encouraged.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a nonresident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Office of the City Clerk. Copies of the Instructions for Bidders and Bidder's Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications may be procured at the office of the Engineer between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Local Time, Monday through Friday, upon payment of \$100.00, which will not be refunded. Checks are to be made payable to the Engineer.

The Engineer is Southern Consultants, Inc. (A Woman's Business Enterprise), 5740 County Cork Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39206; (601) 957-0999, Fax No. (601) 957-9332. For technical questions please contact James S. Stewart, P.E. at Southern Consultants, Inc.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

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

Kishia Powell, P. E.
Director of Public Works

Gus McCoy
Chief Administrative Officer

Terry Williamson, Esq.
Legal Counsel

3/24/2016, 3/31/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI SIGN VARIANCES FOR CAPITOL MAGNOLIA LLC AND JASCO LLC

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCES FOR CAPITOL MAGNOLIA LLC AND JASCO LLC TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

3/17/2016, 3/24/2016



2659 Livingston Road • Jackson, MS 39213
601•896•0084 • Fax: 601•896•0091



► Site Work

► Demolition

► Crushed Concrete

► Bio-Solids

► Infrastructure & Utilities

► Truck Rentals

Cryptogram Solution

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
C D V D Q F A 7 H J R X Y . I F P T W R V N S A K

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

© Feature Exchange

ANYTIME ONLINE

Breaking News
Streaming Videos
Interactive Blogs

Visit our newly designed website:
www.mississippilink.com

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Advertisement for Bid

Re-Bid 3026 - Roof Replacement at Clauseil Elementary School (Re-Bid)

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 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 19, 2016, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained from Burriss/Wagon Architects, P.A., 500L East Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-969-7543, Fax: 601-969-9374.

3/17/2016, 3/24/2016

Attention Herbicide Applicators Farm Workers & Gardeners Have you been diagnosed with Cancer after being exposed to the weed killer RoundUp®? If so, the law firm of Lundy, Lundy, Soileau & South is interested in speaking with you immediately, as you may be eligible for financial compensation.

Advertising Solutions That Make Sense! • Discounted Regional or Statewide Newspaper Ads • Customized Newspaper Ad Placement Service • Digital Ad Services 7 out of 10 Mississippians read their newspaper weekly! Your Advertising Needs To Be There! Mississippi Press Services Call Sue at 601-981-3060 www.mspress.org

REED'S METALS, INC. www.reedsmetals.com Galv-Econs 26+ colors to stock - Create your own roof, wall and trim combo - Manufactured beauty! A two-man crew can make this a weekend project! 16 STANDARD KIT SIZES

ATTENTION: PERMANENT HAIR LOSS AFTER TAKING CHEMOTHERAPY FOR BREAST CANCER Did you develop permanent alopecia (hair loss / baldness) after receiving chemotherapy to treat breast cancer? Certain chemotherapy drugs used in the treatment of breast cancer can increase your chances of developing permanent hair loss after the chemotherapy treatment.

PICK UP THE MISSISSIPPI LINK AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: JACKSON BULLY'S RESTAURANT, CASH & CARRY, CITY HALL, GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX, DOLLAR GENERAL, UPTON TIRE, MURPHY USA, REVELL ACE HARDWARE, RITE AID, CANTON A & I, B & B, BOUTIQUE STORE, BULLY'S STORE, COMMUNITY MART, FRYER LANE GROCERY, HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN, JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY, K & K ONE STOP, LACY'S INSURANCE, SOUL SET BARBER SHOP, TRAILER PARK GROCERY, BYRAM DOLLAR GENERAL, HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE, VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE, CITY HALL, CLINTON DOLLAR GENERAL, RIDGELAND RITE AID, TERRY SERVICE STATION, RAYMOND HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER, SUNFLOWER GROCERY, LOVE FOOD MART, RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY, RAYMOND CITY HALL, UTICA HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP, PITT STOP, BOLTON BOLTON LIBRARY, BOLTON CITY HALL

AMERICAN Classified Advertising Network To Place Your Statewide Classified Ad Order, Call 601-981-3060. Auctions ABSOLUTE AUCTION. For Rent PRIME OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE. Services-Medical A PLACE FOR MOM. Classes-Training CAN YOU DIG IT? Heavy Equipment Operator Career! MEDICAL BILLING SPECIALISTS NEEDED! Employment-Trucking CDL-A TRAINING. \$500 - \$1,000 Incentive Bonus. No Out of Pocket Tuition Cost! Services-Misc. AT&T U-VERSE INTERNET starting at \$15 per month or TV and Internet starting at \$49 per month for 12 months with 1 year agreement. Services-Misc. DIVORCE WITH or WITHOUT children \$125. Includes name change and property settlement agreement. SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We can help!

Take Note! Place Your Classified Ad STATEWIDE In 100 Newspapers! To order, call your local newspaper or MS Press Services at 601-981-3060. STATEWIDE RATES: Up to 25 words.....\$210 1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525 1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785 1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050 Nationwide Placement Available Call MS Press Services 601-981-3060 Week of March 20, 2016

Lebron steps away from social media, wants Cavs to follow



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (center) passes the ball over Denver Nuggets' D.J. Augustin, left to right, Will Barton and Jusuf Nurkic, from Bosnia Herzegovina, in the second half of an NBA basketball game March 21, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won 124-91. AP PHOTO/TONY DEJAK

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — LeBron's locked in already. Now he's got to get the Cavs to, ahem, follow him.

Following a personal rite of spring he began several years ago, LeBron James has begun preparing for the upcoming NBA playoffs by limiting his access to social media in order to avoid outside distractions as he and the Cavaliers make another run at an NBA title. James, who has coined his social media blackout "Zero Dark 23," took some early steps toward sharpening his focus by unfollowing the Cavaliers' account — and those of some media members — on Twitter. That click, which coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the online social networking giant's launch, caused a seismic wave on the Internet at nearly the same time James and the Cavs were clinching their second straight Central Division title.

James recorded his 41st career triple-double in Cleveland's 124-91 victory over Denver, and then fueled more speculation afterward by refusing to comment on the reason he unfollowed @cavs.

And while the four-time league MVP didn't offer any specifics Wednesday, he did acknowledge that he's shifted into playoff mode with several weeks still left in the season.

"I have, a little bit sooner than normal," he said following practice. "But you know I understand that it's right around the corner and I want to start mentally preparing myself for the distance. So mentally I'm just being a little more sharper

mindful as of late, just gearing toward it."

Although he wants to engage less often on social media, James was back on Twitter twice on Wednesday. He first told his 29 million followers that he may join Snapchat this week for "Another way for my fans to ride with me throughout my journeys."

Later, James sent out prayers to TNT sideline reporter Craig Sager, who is battling cancer.

James' social media habits have come under greater scrutiny during his second season back in Cleveland after he posted several mysterious messages, some of which seemed aimed at teammates. His Twitter cleansing also came on the same day he declined to speak to reporters following the team's morning shootaround, and James was also more subdued before the game.

James usually plays music while he dresses at his corner locker, barking out lyrics along with some of his hip-hop favorites. He's the Cavs' in-house DJ.

But before Monday's game, James kept his headphones on, prompting teammate Channing Frye to ask him why he was "hogging" the tunes.

In his 13th season, James, who has been to the Finals in each of the past five years, knows how to motivate himself and his teammates. And although the Cavs have the best record in the Eastern Conference, they've been inconsistent.

Cleveland was beaten at Utah last week and blown out Saturday night in Miami.

James' dream is to bring Cleveland its first pro sports championship since 1964.

JSU falls to Southeastern Louisiana

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson State baseball team played hard against Southeastern Louisiana. The Tigers out hit the Lions 18-to-13 but it was not enough to pull away with the win. JSU fell 12-8. Carlos Diaz led the Tiger offense going 5-for-5 at the plate.

Jackson State
(8 Runs, 18 Hits, 1 Error)

Pitcher: Miguel Yrigoyen (2-2) took the loss on the mound with 3.0 innings pitched. Yrigoyen recorded four hits against, five runs (all earned), four walks, and five strikeouts.

At the plate: Carlos Diaz led the Tiger offense with 5 at-bats, one run, five hits, and two RBIs. Other standout Tigers were Cornelius Copeland with four at-bats, two runs, and three hits, Tony Copleand with four at-bats, two runs, and two hits, and Lakon Wilson with two hits and two RBIs.

On the Field: Jesus Santana, first baseman, and Bryce Williams led the defensive effort

with five and four putouts respectively.

Carlos Diaz, catcher, recorded 10 putouts.
Southeastern Louisiana
(12 Runs, 13 Hits, 1 Errors)

Pitcher: Carlo Graffeo came in as a relief pitcher and was able to take the win. Graffeo recorded 2.0 innings with five hits against, two runs (earned), two walks, and one strikeout.

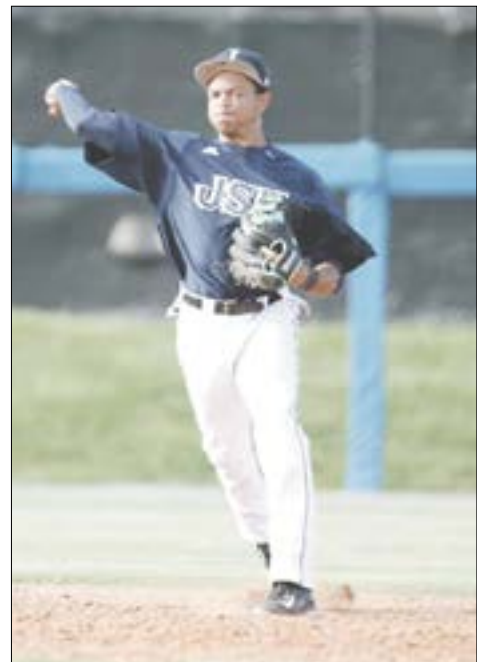
At the Plate: Sam Roberson led the Lion offense with three at-bats, three runs, three hits, and two RBIs.

On the Field: Jamerson Fisher led the SELA defense with seven putouts at first base.

Sam Roberson, catcher, was credited with 13 putouts.

UP NEXT

Jackson State will finish the week on the road when they travel Huntsville, Ala. to take on conference foe Alabama A&M. The Tigers and the Bulldogs will play a three game series beginning March 25.



Jackson State will take on Alabama A&M March 25.

Alcorn adds to football coaching staff

Mississippi Link Newswire

On March 22, Alcorn State University announced four new assistant football coaches for the upcoming season and two staff promotions.

On the defensive side of the ball, Cedric Thomas was promoted to defensive coordinator and Kenry Tolbert was promoted to football operations and outside linebackers coach. New additions include Cedric Thornton who was named the linebackers coach and Kye Stewart being named the defensive line coach.

On the offensive side of the ball, Brian Hayes was named the quarterbacks coach and Elliott Wratten was named the tight ends/full back coach.

Tolbert enters his second season with the Braves and will continue to assist the linebackers unit in his new role, while adding the duties of football operations and video coordinator.

Thomas also enters into his second season with the Braves as he takes on the new role as defensive coordinator after being promoted from defensive back coach. Last season, his unit

was ranked first in the FCS in pass defense.

Thornton comes to the Braves after spending three seasons at Texas Southern University. At TSU he was named interim defensive coordinator in 2015, Thornton coached linebackers. Prior to Texas Southern Thornton was at Alabama State University he serves as the linebackers coach, he was promoted to defensive coordinator the following season.

Stewart comes to Alcorn after spending two seasons at the University of Memphis as a gradu-

ate defensive assistant.

Hayes comes to the Braves after spending one year at Norwich University where he served in the same capacity. Prior to Norwich, he spent one year at Hunters Lane High School in Tennessee as the offensive coordinator. Hayes spent five years as an assistant coach and four years as the offensive coordinator at Anna Maria College.

Wratten comes to the Braves after spending seven years at Indiana University. In his last three years he served as a graduate offensive assistant.

Callaway Chargers win 2016 Capital City Classic Baseball Tournament



The Callaway Chargers baseball team defeated the Natchez High School Bulldogs 8-1 March 9, to capture the 2016 Capital City Classic Baseball Tournament Crown. The tournament was held at Smith-Wills Stadium March 7-9. Eleven teams participated including all seven JPS high schools along with Canton High, Natchez High, Port Gibson High, and Yazoo County High. Kevin Wright, Sr. is the associate head baseball coach for the Chargers.

WRTM

SMOOTH 100.5 FM

WRTM-FM SMOOTH 100.5 FM, IS JACKSON'S URBAN RHYTHM AND BLUES STATION PLAYING FAMILIAR FAVORITES FROM THE 70'S, 80'S AND 90'S. TUNE IN TO HEAR JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF BLUES AND TODAY'S BIGGEST HITS.

Republicans created ‘Frankentrump’ monster

By George E. Curry
George Curry Media Columnist



President Barack Obama has seen this horror movie before. His political opponents not only distorted his positions when he first ran for president, but deliberately lied about his place of birth, asserting that because he – according to their fiction – was not a U.S. citizen, he was not qualified to be president.

Donald Trump, who actually sent a private investigator to Hawaii in an attempt to prove that Obama was not born there, is now the leading Republican presidential contender. And now that he is eliminating his competitors with the irresponsible language and Demolition Derby-style tactics that he hurled at Obama, party leaders are in a panic because it might cost them this year’s election.

Meanwhile, Obama is wondering why anyone is surprised. “How can you be shocked?”

he asked in a speech to the Democratic National Committee event in Austin, Texas. “This is the guy, remember, who was sure that I was born in Kenya – who just wouldn’t let it go. And all this same Republican establishment, they weren’t saying nothing. As long as it was directed at me, they were fine with it. They thought it was a hoot, wanted to get his endorsement. And then now, suddenly, we’re shocked that there’s gambling going on in this establishment.”

He explained, “So they can’t be surprised when somebody suddenly looks and says, you know what, I can do that even better. I can make stuff up better than that. I can be more outrageous than that. I can insult people even better than that. I can be even more uncivil. I mean, conservative outlets have been feeding their base constantly the notion that everything is a disaster, that everybody else is to blame, that Obamacare is destroying the country. And it doesn’t matter whether it’s true or not. It’s not, we disagree with this pro-

gram, we think we can do it better – it’s, oh, this is a crisis!

“So if you don’t care about the facts, or the evidence, or civility, in general in making your arguments, you will end up with candidates who will say just about anything and do just about anything.”

Among those who didn’t “care about the facts” at the time were former Republican presidential nominees John McCain, Mitt Romney and Romney’s running mate, House Speaker Paul Ryan.

David Remnick, editor of the *New Yorker*, described Trump as an “American Demagogue” and said he is “the beneficiary of a long process of Republican intellectual decadence.”

He wrote, “Paul Ryan denounces Trump but not the Tea Party rhetoric that propelled his own political ascent. John McCain holds Trump in contempt, but selected as his running mate Sarah Palin, the Know-Nothing of Wasilla, one of Trump’s most vivid forerunners and supporters. Mitt Romney last week righteously slammed Trump

as a ‘phony’ and a misogynist, and yet in 2012 he embraced Trump’s endorsement and praised his ‘extraordinary’ understanding of economics.”

Trump outmaneuvered the Republican competition with outright racist appeals that would have derailed any other candidate.

The Republican front-runner has become a favorite of white supremacists, largely by insulting women, “the blacks,” Muslims, the physically disabled while delivering one simple-minded message, according to Ted Koppel: “We’re gonna be the best, we’re gonna be the greatest, I’m gonna negotiate the best deals you’ve ever seen.”

Koppel explained, “There is no substance in any of that, and nobody among his followers seems to care about that.”

As Sam Stein and Dana Liebelson reported in *The Huffington Post*, “Racial slurs, nasty rhetoric and violence at Trump rallies have become commonplace against protesters, bystanders and reporters. Assaults are com-

mitted not only by rowdy Trump fans, but by the staff he employs to keep the events safe. But rather than denounce these incidents, Trump is making them part of his brand, and uses them to rev up crowds.

“‘There may be somebody with tomatoes in the audience,’ Trump warned people at a rally in Iowa last month. ‘If you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously. Okay? Just knock the hell – I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees.’

“Trump has even threatened to personally get in on the action. ‘I’d like to punch him in the face, I’ll tell ya,’ he said of a protester on Feb. 22.”

Trump has become the Republican Party’s Frankenstein monster. In the horror movie, Victor Frankenstein creates a creature from the body parts of the deceased. He discovers his experiment has gone awry and expects the creature to die, but he doesn’t. Once the creature is rejected by society, he extracts

revenge by killing everyone Frankenstein loves.

There is no doubt that the person who has been referred to as “Frankentrump” is killing the Republican Party.

Historian Nina Turner said on CNN, “It is ironic to me that some of the same Republicans right now, some of them who are calling out Mr. Trump, did not call him out when he pushed the birther movement on our African-American President Barack Obama. They were nowhere to be found, they thought it was cute. Now that it’s plaguing their house, it’s not so cute anymore.”

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge: Black America’s Newsmagazine*, is editor-in-chief of *EmergeNews-Online.com*, an African American-oriented news website and monthly digital magazine. A popular keynote speaker, Curry can be reached through his Website, georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge. George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook, and *Periscope*.

States spending more on prisons than schools

By Marc H. Morial
NNPA Columnist



“Jails and prisons are the complement of schools; so many less as you have of the latter, so many more must you have of the former.” – Horace Mann, “Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” 1881.

America is addicted to incarceration.

No nation holds as many people behind bars as the United States of America, and the numbers tell it all. The United States imprisons 716 people for every 100,000 residents. That is more than any other country on this planet. Our nation has the largest prison population in the world both in terms of the actual number of inmates and as a percentage of the country’s population. While the United States has less than 5 percent of the world’s population, we lock up almost 25 percent of the world’s total prison population.

Well-meaning people will differ on the question of whether America’s war on crime has truly benefited the American taxpayer, but because numbers don’t lie, we cannot question the fact that our criminal justice obsession with retribution – versus rehabilitation – has profited private prison operators in our na-

tion’s sprawling prison industrial complex to the tune of billions of dollars.

The country’s two largest private prison operators, Corrections Corporation of America and GEO Group, recently posted their earnings. Combined, the two for-profit prison companies collected \$361 million in profits last year. According to *In the Public Interest*, a research and policy center, CCA made \$3,356 in profit for every person they incarcerated and GEO Group made \$2,135. Incarcerating Americans at the staggering rate of one in every 110 adults has become a profitable business that promotes the bottom lines of CEOs.

Research has shown that investing in social programs and education – resources that can help keep people out of jail in the first place – is far more effective at improving public safety than investing in incarceration. Policies that promote prison over education, incarceration over mental health services and jail over job services comes at the long-term cost of our collective well-being and safety.

Over the past four decades, state spending on corrections has outpaced funding for public education, with states spending three times as much on prisons than schools. Private prisons – which began cropping up as an alternative for cash-strapped states attempting to save money by outsourcing the building and

running of prisons to private companies – are incentivized to keep cells full at the lowest possible cost, not to keep cells empty.

When every occupied bed represents a broken family, communities torn apart, diminished future job prospects, a potential loss of voting rights and the increased risk of returning to crime, our nation’s over-reliance on jails to combat our entrenched social ills – and the taxpayer money that keeps the system thriving – should be re-routed into education and the social institutions that serve the public good and are aligned with public safety goals.

America’s incarceration addiction is devastating wide swaths of already socially and economically vulnerable communities. Statistically, African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites. Combined, African Americans and Latinos represent well over 50 percent of our national prison population.

Crime induced by a lack of opportunity cannot be solved by punishment. Our current sentencing policies and prisons have not proven themselves capable of fixing mental illness, drug addiction, homelessness or unemployment.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the *National Urban League*.

Here’s some special education for Trump

By Dr. E. Faye Williams
TriceEdneyWire.com



I was a teacher. Among other things, I taught special education. I’ve always been told “once a teacher, always a teacher,” so I decided to give Donald Trump a little instructional upgrade.

Everybody knows that when Trump was asked by a reporter if he would disavow David Duke, he indicated he didn’t know anything about the man. He also said he didn’t know anything about white supremacists. I know how busy he is fighting with his own party, so I thought I would help him a bit. He’s been criticized about not knowing a lot about many of the things that come up in the campaign, but even if the Republicans successfully take him down, he needs to know about David Duke, the KKK and white supremacists.

Being from Louisiana, I have a pretty good grasp of who David Duke is, so let’s begin with him. The smart candidate is always aware of the source of her/his endorsements and contributions. Duke notoriously stated that for a white person to vote for anyone other than Donald Trump “is really treason to your heritage.” On its face, the tone of that comment is suspect, and anyone would be wise to inquire about intent. Trump obviously didn’t.

Trump claimed no knowledge of David Duke or the KKK. After assessing the pushback from waffling the question of condemnation, Trump blamed a faulty earpiece. The question that should be asked is, “How qualified is a candidate who is unaware of the most heinous domestic terrorist group in national history or the man who held the title of its Grand Wizard?”

Trump is as crazy as his comments if he believes he can persuade anyone that his refusal to condemn Duke or the KKK was based on anything more than pandering to white racist voters. Trump supporters try to convince us that his “Ivory Tower” lifestyle prevents his exposure to the ugliness of racism, but his words and deeds belie that argument. They demonstrate a more than casual involvement with the philosophies of racial intolerance and bigotry.

An ex-wife asserts that Trump routinely kept a book of Adolf Hitler’s speeches on his night stand. Despite his evil, Hitler was considered a world-class orator who led masses of people to evaluate others in generalities/stereotypes. Is this the model for Trump’s characterization of Latinos, his treatment of women, his ridicule of the disabled and his failure to disavow a purveyor of racial hatred or his affiliated group? That Hitler claim being true, Trump’s pathway to white supremacy was self-sought and

self-taught.

In case he doesn’t know much about women and our struggle, he should know that March is Women’s History Month. We’re working hard to get the Equal Rights Amendment for Women passed. Too many people don’t know that women are not included in our Constitution, so I would understand if Trump doesn’t know that. I don’t want him to be caught off-guard as he was on the KKK, white supremacists and David Duke.

Even if he never resides in the White House, because he says he loves women and all people, he could assist in passage of the ERA. A portion of his considerable fortune would go a long way in supporting the restoration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. It could help Latino and other families stay together by securing for them a path to citizenship. It could help others to understand that Black Lives Matter. It could provide greater knowledge of all the things President Barack Obama has done to make ours a better world, learn to respect people’s right to protest – even protest against him – and learn so much more that would be helpful to him should he decide to run for president when he grows up.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is president of the *National Congress of Black Women*. The organization’s website is www.nationalcongressbw.org.

Don’t give away what parents worked so hard for

By Alma Gill
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Dear Alma, I need advice about a terrible family situation that involves me and all of my siblings, and it’s breaking us apart. I am one of nine children. We were all born and raised in the South. My parents farmed their land and taught us how to do it, too. We never liked it and couldn’t wait to leave, go up North and go to college. We all attended various colleges and

ASK ALMA

universities and never returned home...all but one of my brothers. He stayed in North Carolina and helped my parents until they died. After they died he moved into the house on the property and has been living there ever since. He has kept up the property and paid the taxes on it.

Now, my brothers and sisters want to sell the farmland and split the money. My brother who stayed says the house should be his and he doesn’t want to sell it. We are totally divided. Six of my siblings

have decided to take my brother to court and force him to sell the land. He says we shouldn’t sell, and I don’t care either way. We’re all in our 60s, distinguished folks with profitable careers. We’re active in our respected churches and ready to retire if not already retired. I love my family, and if you met us, you’d never believe what’s going on behind closed doors. I don’t understand why we can’t talk to each other and just get along. I want us to settle this before one of us dies and we never get to resolve the issue. What can I do?

Signed,
Divided Family

Divided Family,

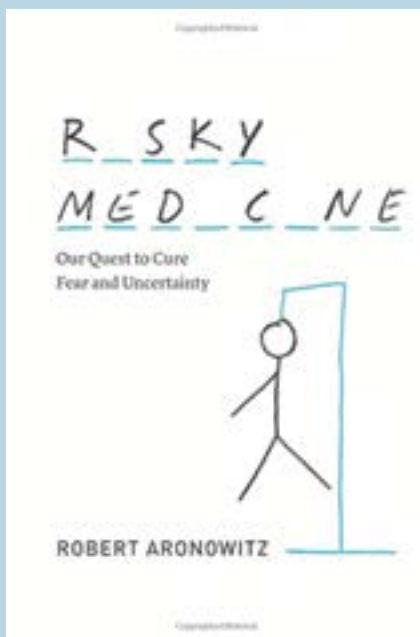
First things first. Close your eyes, think back to the time when your daddy was farming his land and mama was at the window, both of them watching their children grow – chests pressed, full of pride. Your father worked hard to tend the land and leave something to his children. Now everything he worked for is about to be jeopardized, and for what? You and your trifling brothers and sisters – yes, I said trifling – are fighting each

other like you’re on an episode of Judge Judy. That is ridiculous and just plain sad. Your mama and daddy gave all they had, and what are ya’ll doing? Trying to give it away for some coins that will be spent in a month’s time.

Your brother didn’t take the bus up to the city and try to tell you and your siblings what to do with your space, time and dimes, so don’t try to regulate his life now. Give him the house, period. Take the rest of the land and divide it evenly. Each person can do what he or she wants with his or her portion. It’s just that simple. You

might not like it, but when your brother sacrificed, stayed home and properly maintained and cared for the house, your parents and the land, he earned extra. Your brothers and sisters are so focused on a few grains of sand that they are missing the beach in all its magnificence. There are other ways to make money. Taking your brother to court is not one of them. Grow up and act like mama and daddy are still watching, chest pressed, full of pride.

Email alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Facebook at “Ask Alma” and Twitter @almaaskalma.



BOOK REVIEW: “RISKY MEDICINE: OUR QUEST TO CURE FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY”

BY DR. ROBERT ARONOWITZ, M.D.
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
HARDCOVER, \$26.00 • 286 PAGES

By Kam Williams
Mississippi Link Newswire

“Will ever-more sensitive tests for cancer lead to longer, better lives? Will anticipating and trying to prevent the future complications of chronic disease lead to better health? Not always... In fact, it often is hurting us.

Exploring the transformation of health care over the last several decades that has led doctors to become more attentive to treating risk than treating symptoms or curing disease, [this book] shows how many aspects of... clinical practice are now aimed at risk reduction...

This transformation has been driven in part by the pharmaceutical industry, which benefits by promoting its products to the larger percentage of the population at risk for a particular illness, rather than the smaller percentage who are actually affected by it...

Risky Medicine is a timely

call for a skeptical response to medicine’s obsession with risk, as well as for higher standards of evidence for risk reducing interventions and a rebalancing of health care to restore an emphasis on the actual curing and caring for people suffering from disease.” – Excerpted from the Bookjacket

Once upon a time, doctors took the hippocratic path promising to “First, do no harm.” Of course, that was before they handed over control of the health care industry to pharmaceutical and insurance companies far more focused on profits than people. And that was also prior to the rise of defensive medicine in response to the explosion of malpractice lawsuits.

The upshot is that many physicians nowadays could care less about what’s best for their patients, since they get their marching orders from a combination of avaricious executives and litigation-fearing corporate attorneys.

Consequently, doctors are increasingly devoting less attention to healing the sick than to figuring out ways to improve their balance sheets.

Overwhelming evidence of this development can be found in the trend towards testing and anticipatory treatment. Instead of waiting for a person to fall ill or exhibit symptoms, practitioners have become advocates of increasingly early attempts to diagnose a disease, on the theory that catching it early will improve a patient’s prognosis.

But is that actually the case? That is the assumption vociferously disputed by Robert Aronowitz, M.D. in Risky Medicine. Dr. Aronowitz asserts that “overdiagnosis and overtreatment” have played a role in the “cost and quality crisis in American medicine.” He says the problem is that mere risk factors and early signs of disorders are being

treated as aggressively as if they were full-blown diseases, without regard to the patients’ quality of life and financial best interests.

Required reading for anyone at all skeptical about how the practice of medicine evolved

from simply treating symptoms and curing diseases to playing on fears and subjecting patients to a seemingly never-ending battery of expensive, invasive and often unreliable tests.

To order a copy of Risky

Medicine, visit: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/022604971X/ref%3Dnosim/thslfofire-20>.

Kam Williams can be reached at kam_williams@hotmail.com.

Womanizing playboy finally meets his match in battle-of-the-sexes comedy

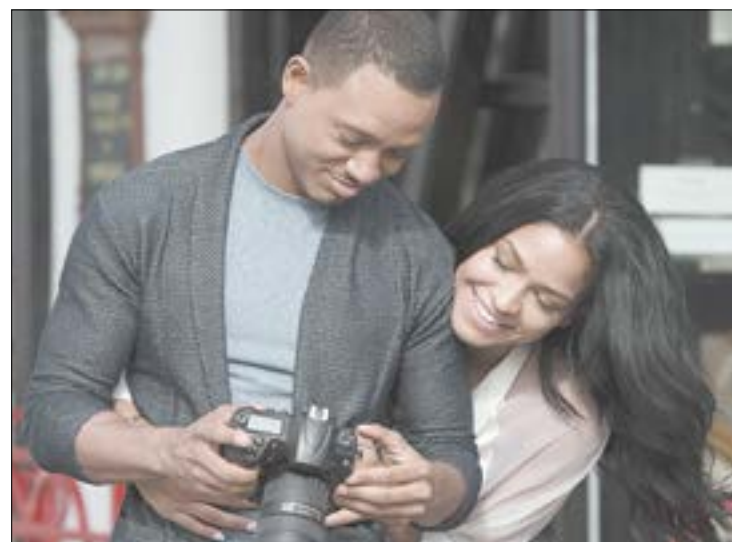
By Kam Williams
Mississippi Link Newswire

Confirmed bachelor Charlie Mack (Terrence J) is always upfront with women about his dating philosophy, simply, “I don’t do relationships.” The shameless playboy’s almost 30, and his womanizing ways have become an embarrassment to his family and friends. They feel it’s high time for him to mature, especially after he brought his latest conquest (Chantel Jeffries) along on a blind date.

Besides, his BFFs, Ricky (Donald Faison) and Victor (Robert Christopher Riley) have both already settled down. Ricky is married and doing his best to impregnate his desperate for a baby wife, Pressie (Dascha Polanco). Victor is engaged to Ginger (Lauren London) who’s worried that Charlie’s going to ruin her impending wedding by “bringing one of those floozies” to the reception.

Meanwhile, Charlie’s therapist sister Sherry (Paula Patton) is willing to see her brother as a client, if that would help him figure out why he’s such a pathetic case of arrested development, at least when it comes to romance. Otherwise, Charlie’s actually rather well-adjusted. He’s a well-paid executive at Premier Edge, a leading L.A. PR firm where he’s proven to be quite adept at attracting lucrative new accounts to the company.

The plot thickens one evening when he’s out having drinks with



In this romantic comedy, Charlie (Terrence J) is a bachelor who’s convinced that relationships are dead until he meets with the beautiful and mysterious Eva (Cassie Ventura). PHOTO COURTESY LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT

the guys and they challenge him to remain faithful to the same woman for the next month..Charlie takes the dare, and settles on Eva (Cassie Ventura), a gorgeous stranger he just met at a coffee shop, as the object of his affection.

However, he still gets involved with the express understanding that theirs will be a “no strings, no expectations” relationship. She agrees, despite the fact that she’s only used to being in committed ones. So, they’re both ostensibly operating in uncharted waters.

Will this libidinous liaison turn into love, now that Charlie has grudgingly agreed to give what would ordinarily be a one-night stand a chance to blossom? That

is the burning question at the center of The Perfect Match, an intriguing romantic romp directed by Billie Woodruff (Addicted).

Fair warning: this character-driven escapade is certainly not for the prudish, as it contains frontal nudity and some fairly frank dialogue. That being said, it’s also funny, engaging, unpredictable and visually-captivating, courtesy of a constant parade of eye candy across the screen.

Overall, this delightful ensemble dramedy is reminiscent of a couple of other great urban classics, Love Jones (1997) and The Besta Man (1999). That’s good company!

Kam Williams can be reached at kam_williams@hotmail.com.

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 Albert Einstein

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

W P G N Y J W W J B L V J X L C X C Y J Q
 T B V L T T D B W P C W A L P W P G W J
 C C N C
 B L V J X L C X C Y J Q N C H B L

© Feature Exchange

(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

High school students nationwide chosen for 2016 Disney Dreamers Academy

The Mississippi Link Newswire

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Approximately 100 students from across America recently had a fabulous, fun-filled and educational trip to Walt Disney World Resort March 3-6, as part of this year's Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and ESSENCE.

The teens, along with a parent or guardian, enjoyed an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, where they experienced a once-in-a-lifetime educational and mentoring program designed to inspire them to dream big and discover a world of possibilities to help prepare them for their future.

The students, known as "Dreamers," were taken on stage and behind the scenes, where Disney theme parks become vibrant 'classrooms' and students discover new careers and pursue their dreams while also creating fun memories.

During Disney Dreamers Academy, students participate in hands-on, immersive career-oriented workshops, ranging from animation to zoology. Each student is given important tools such as effective communication techniques, leadership skills and networking strategies.

Additionally, Dreamers are exposed to acclaimed motivational speakers and popular celebrities who share their stories and in-



Disney Dreamers from Florida pose with (from left) Tracey D. Powell, Disney executive champion of Disney's Dreamers Academy, Steve Harvey and Mikki Taylor, editor-at-large for Essence Magazine, during the 2016 Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine at Epcot in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The ninth annual event March 3-6, at Walt Disney World Resort is a career-inspiration program for distinguished high school students across the U.S. PHOTO BY DAVID ROARK

sight on achieving success and DREAMING BIG. Dreamers have the opportunity to cultivate relationships with other students from across the nation while gaining first-hand knowledge from Disney experts and renowned entrepreneurs and executives.

"Disney Dreamers Academy is a one-of-a-kind program that, since its inception, is helping more than 800 students achieve their dreams," said Tracey D. Powell, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts vice president of deluxe resorts. Powell serves as Disney Dreamers Academy executive

champion. "The greatest reward has been seeing so many of our previous Dreamers use their experience at Disney Dreamers Academy to expand their dreams and move even closer to making them a reality. After all, that is what the program is all about," said Powell.

Walt Disney World Resort, along with syndicated television and radio personality Steve Harvey and ESSENCE Communications, hosted the selected Dreamers during their magical four-day career and educational exploration.

"Disney Dreamers Academy provides an excellent learning environment to help young students with their aspirations and to dream even bigger," said Harvey.

Michelle Ebanks, president of ESSENCE Communications, added: "We are excited to once again join Disney Parks and Steve Harvey to encourage our youth to dream big. Our expectation is that this group of remarkable teens will be the leaders of tomorrow and positively impact the world for years to come. It is our honor and commitment at ESSENCE to be part of that process."

This year's students were selected from thousands of applicants who answered a series of essay questions about their personal stories and dreams for the future. The students were chosen by a judging panel that included: gospel music legend Yolanda Adams; ESSENCE magazine editor-at-large Mikki Taylor; education advocate Dr. Steve Perry; The Sister Accord founder and author Sonia Jackson Myles; award-winning motivational speaker Jonathan Sprinkles; Simply Ellis Custom Clothier CEO Dr. Alex O. Ellis; Steve and Marjorie Har-

vey Foundation executive director Brandi Harvey; Steve Harvey Products creative director Karli Harvey; and professional speaker and Disney Dreamers Academy alumnus Princeton Parker.

For a list of 2016 Dreamers and Bios, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com/dreamers/2016/. For more information, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Regular updates about Disney Dreamers Academy are also available on social media at [Facebook/DisneyDreamersAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy) or [Twitter/DreamersAcademy](https://twitter.com/DreamersAcademy).



High school students Ellxis Hinton of Summerville, S.C. (left) and Nicole Hood of Camden, N.J. (right) prepare a special dessert with Chef Adrian Mandry of Disney's Coronado Springs Resort March 4, during a culinary workshop at Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine at Epcot in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. PHOTO BY CHLOE RICE

Bookings still available for Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage

The Mississippi Link Newswire

DALLAS – Diana Ross is a featured headliner on the Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage presented by Ford cruise with a special "Evening under the Stars with Diana Ross." The original Party with a Purpose that sells out annually also features Charlie Wilson, Patti LaBelle, New Edition and Jazmine Sullivan as it sets sail to support students at historically Black Colleges and Uni-

versities. The Fantastic Voyage takes place on the Carnival Breeze, departing from Miami April 23. The customized eight-day itinerary includes visits to St Thomas, St. Maarten and Grand Turk includes guest activities, empowering seminars, theme nights and day parties.

The Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage presented by Ford is hosted by renowned radio personality and philan-

thropist Tom Joyner and is the longest-standing music themed and empowerment cruise.

Other entertainers on this year's lineup include Johnny Gill, Angie Stone, Faith Evans, Total, 112, Carl Thomas, The Bar-Kays, Con Funk Shun, Switch, Brick, Steve Arrington, Tony Terry, Glenn Jones, Michael Cooper, Jon B, Case, Christopher Williams, Bone Thugs-n-Harmony, DJ Quick, Rakim, Big Daddy Kane, Rob

Base, Black Sheep, Dana Dane, Kwame, DJ Kool, Joeski Love, Positive K, Mr. Cheeks, Whodini, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Eddie Holman, Blue Magic featuring Ted Mills and Russell Thomkins Jr. & The New Stylistics.

Returning as title sponsor is Ford. Ford's sponsorship of the Fantastic Voyage is part of Ford Motor Company's overall support of education in the African-American community. Each

year, Ford invests millions of dollars in educational programs that include scholarships, innovative elementary, middle and high school programs, STEM initiatives and other opportunities. Since the company was founded more than a century ago, Ford has remained strongly committed to providing pathways to success in the African-American community.

The Tom Joyner Foundation started its annual voyage

to raise money for HBCUs in 1999 as the first to ever charter and program an entire ship. Now in its 17th year, The Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage presented by Ford is the only charter that promotes philanthropy in a fun and uplifting environment.

For more information and a full list of entertainment, visit BlackAmericaWeb.com. Itinerary, schedule and performances subject to change.

Parker plans to open film school at Wiley college

Eurweb.com

Wiley College served as the backdrop for Nate Parker's starring role in the Denzel Washington-directed 2007 "The Great Debaters." Soon, it will house a new film and drama school in Parker's name. On Saturday, the "Birth of a Nation" director announced the Fall 2016 launch of the Nate Parker School of Film and Drama at the historically black college in East Texas.

Parker also now serves on the college's board of trustees.

Thirty high school and college students will participate in the nine-day summer program, and Wiley College seniors have already been selected to join Parker's new school as staff.

"The hope is that we cover all aspects of filmmaking, from



Parker

sound, lighting and cinematography, to just studying film specifically with the cultural component and the history of film," said Parker to KLTV. "You control the moving picture, you control the masses ...

so really getting them rallied around the idea of reclaiming the narrative of America, specifically through the eyes of people of color."

The new endeavor comes after Parker starred in, wrote and directed Sundance hit "The Birth of a Nation," which features an a capella group from Wiley College on the film's soundtrack.

"If I can create a pipeline toward filmmaking physically through developing the college, having filmmakers be nurtured and cultivated here, and then having somewhere for them to go with respect for them actually being able to engage in filmmaking here in East Texas, then it kind of serves multiple purposes," said Parker.

Sal & Mookie's
ANNUAL

STREET CARNIVAL

On the State Street green space behind Sal & Mookie's. Park in the stadium lot.

- GAMES • JUMP ZONES • PRIZES
- ACTIVITIES & SO MUCH MORE!!!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Kids, 'Tweens & Adults
Pizza & Ice Cream Eating Contests
12-2:00 PM
Win pizza & ice cream for a year!!!
Pre-register for contests at SalAndMookies.com

Don't miss this chance to clobber all your favorite Sal & Mookie's employees in the dunking booth!

SATURDAY
APRIL 2

10:00AM
-2:00PM

Friends of Children's Hospital
Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children
Jackson, Mississippi

parents & kids magazine

Zippity Doo Dah Weekend

Proceeds benefit
Batson's Children's Hospital

SalAndMookies.com

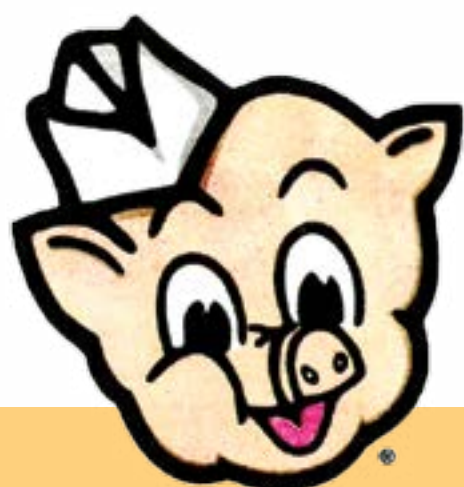
For information about advertising in

The Mississippi Link

please call: 601-896-0084
or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net
www.mississippilink.com

March 23 - 29, 2016

piggly wiggly



110 East Academy
CANTON, MS

1150 East Peace St.
CANTON, MS

STORE HOURS:

Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

225 Meadowbrook Rd.
JACKSON, MS

2875 McDowell Rd.
JACKSON, MS

STORE HOURS:

Monday - Saturday / 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

1574 West Government Blvd.
BRANDON, MS

Crossgates Shopping
Village

Down Home, Down The Street™

the price you see is the price
you pay at the register.
www.pigglywigglyms.com

No Cards Needed To Shop Our Low Prices

SIMMONS

**CATFISH
FILLETS**

4 LB. BOX

\$21⁹⁹

FRESH SMALL

**PORK
SPARE RIBS**

(SOLD IN 2 PACK) PER LB.

\$1⁹⁹

FRESH FRYER

**DRUMSTICKS
OR THIGHS**

FAMILY PACK, PER LB.

69¢

USDA CHOICE BEEF

**BONELESS
RUMP ROAST**

PER LB.

\$3⁴⁹

FRESH

**BAKING
HENS**

PER LB.

99¢

FROZEN

**BOSTON BUTT
PORK ROAST**

PER LB.

\$1¹⁹

DAIRY & FROZEN DEPARTMENTS

PIGGLY WIGGLY

MEDIUM EGGS **99¢**

DOZEN

SAVE ON

**RED DIAMOND
TEA**

GALLON JUG

\$2⁷⁹

SAVE ON

**LAND O LAKES
BUTTER**

1 LB. BOX

\$2⁹⁹

DESSERT TOPPING

REDDI WHIP

6.5 OZ.

2/\$4

KRAFT PHILADELPHIA

**CREAM
CHEESE**

8 OZ.

2/\$3

KRAFT SHREDED OR

**CHUNK
CHEESE**

8 OZ.

2/\$5

MINUTE MAID

**ORANGE
JUICE**

59 OZ.

2/\$5

SELECT VARIETES PICTSWEET /
DELUXE OR STEAMABLES

VEGETABLES

10 - 12 OZ.

2/\$3

FRESH PRODUCE

SWEET FLORIDA

STRAWBERRIES

1 LB.

2/\$4

WASHINGTON GROWN RED DELICIOUS

APPLES

PER LB.

79¢

FRESH BROCCOLI

CROWNS

PER LB.

\$1¹⁹

CALIFORNIA

CELERY

STALK

99¢

MISSISSIPPI GROWN SWEET

POTATOES

PER LB.

59¢