



Prayer vigil at Tougaloo supports LGBT

By Ayesha K. Mustafa
Contributing Writer

The entire country is still reeling behind the massacre of 49 persons who were attending the Pulse Club in Orlando, Fla. in the early hours of June 12. The club was filled to capacity with about 300 persons from the LGBT community; most of them were from Latino communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Another 53 club goers were wounded. Some are still critical and hospitalized. Original reports of 50 killed was inclusive of the murderer, Omar Mateen, who committed the nation's worst terrorist attack since 9/11 using gunfire. On June 14, Mississippians gathered for an Interfaith prayer vigil and issued a statement of camaraderie with the LGBT community in Woodworth Chapel on the Tougaloo College campus, 500 W. County Line Road. The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference



James Bowley (front, center), chair of Religious Studies at Millsaps College and member of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference and Voices Against Extremism, addressed the press during the prayer vigil held at Tougaloo College Tuesday evening. PHOTO BY AYESHA K. MUSTAFA

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Gunman's job raises questions about screening

By Christina A. Cassidy
The Associated Press

ATLANTA – Omar Mateen alarmed co-workers with claims that he had ties to al-Qaeda and was a member of Hezbollah. One colleague recalled that he frequently used racial slurs and threatened violence while on the job. Despite those incidents, Mateen never lost his position as a private security guard with one of the world's largest security contractors, nor his license to carry a gun. Now his deadly attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando has raised questions about how the industry screens the guards it entrusts to protect lives and property. "It is definitely a matter of safety," said Steve Amitay with the National Association of Security Companies, an industry group that supports increased licensing and training standards. More than 1 million security guards work in the nation's businesses, hospitals, schools and government buildings as of May 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mateen, who was 29 when he was killed in a shootout with police, worked for London-based G4S. His most re-

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'Take It Down America'

Flag debate finds way to nation's capital



Duvalier J. Malone (at podium) stands next to Actress Aunjuna Ellis during the rally in front of the U.S. Capitol Tuesday.

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Before a group of Mississippians who want to see the state flag taken down took their cause to the U.S. Capitol Tuesday, they had a conversation about race in Jackson a few days before. A panel assembled at the Smith Robertson Museum. On the panel was actress Aunjuna Ellis of McComb who has been a leader nationally on the flag debate. She

has discussed where the state is now and where it needs to be and the role the state's flag bearing the Confederate emblem plays in social and racial progress. "We have to start now to make sure this isn't just a Mississippi problem, but a national problem," Ellis said. After the meeting, Ellis said

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Actress Aunjuna Ellis leads a panel discussion at the Smith Robertson Museum last week. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE JONES

Policy may prevent state's takeover of airports

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

The state's attempt to takeover Jackson's two airports – Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport and Hawkins Field Airport – has likely hit its biggest snag to date. During a press conference Tuesday, Rosie Pridgen, chair of

the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority, noted a policy published in the June 6 edition of the Federal Aviation Administration's Federal Register. The policy outlines the process for state and local governments to take when considering actions that would impact the ownership, sponsorship, governance or

operations of federally operated, publicly owned airports. According to the policy, an entity must consult with and obtain the consent of the current sponsor of an airport except for instances when mismanagement is evident. The city of Jackson is the sponsor/operator of the Jackson airports. The policy also states an entity should seek technical assistance, review and comment from the FAA early in the deliberative process. "A failure to consult may cause FAA to deny a proposed change to airport sponsorship and/or operating authority," the policy states.

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Sen. Frazier grateful for another Father's Day

Legislator promotes prostate cancer research

By Hillman Frazier
Special to The Mississippi Link

The most challenging year of my life was 2015 when in September I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which for some can be a quick death sentence. But because of a team of

health care professionals, prayer and the support of my family, friends and neighbors I am able to celebrate another Father's Day with my loved ones. I underwent two surgeries and



Frazier

overcame renal failure because of advances made possible by prostate cancer research. Just a few years ago a diagnosis of prostate cancer was a countdown of how many weeks you had left to live, but because of advances made through research, the survival rate has greatly increased. During the 2016 regular ses-

sion of the Mississippi Legislature one of my colleagues shared with me and others that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He requested prayer as he began his treatment. I was able to relate to what he felt because of my prior diagnosis and having undergone surgery in

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