

## Jackson's Ward 7 could possibly get a new leader



Lindsay

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

It is that time of year again – time for another round of elections – this time municipal elections. Jan 2 marked the opening date for those interested in running for office in Jackson to sign up. The qualifying deadline is March 3.

Longtime Ward 7 resident Virgi Lindsay is the first person to publicly announce her intent to seek the office of councilperson for Ward 7.

Lindsay, a staple in the Belhaven community and former executive director of the Greater Belhaven Foundation, hosted an announcement party at her home last week. "I am running for this seat because

**Lindsay**  
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## Rod Paige: Jackson State's financial future viable; problems fixable

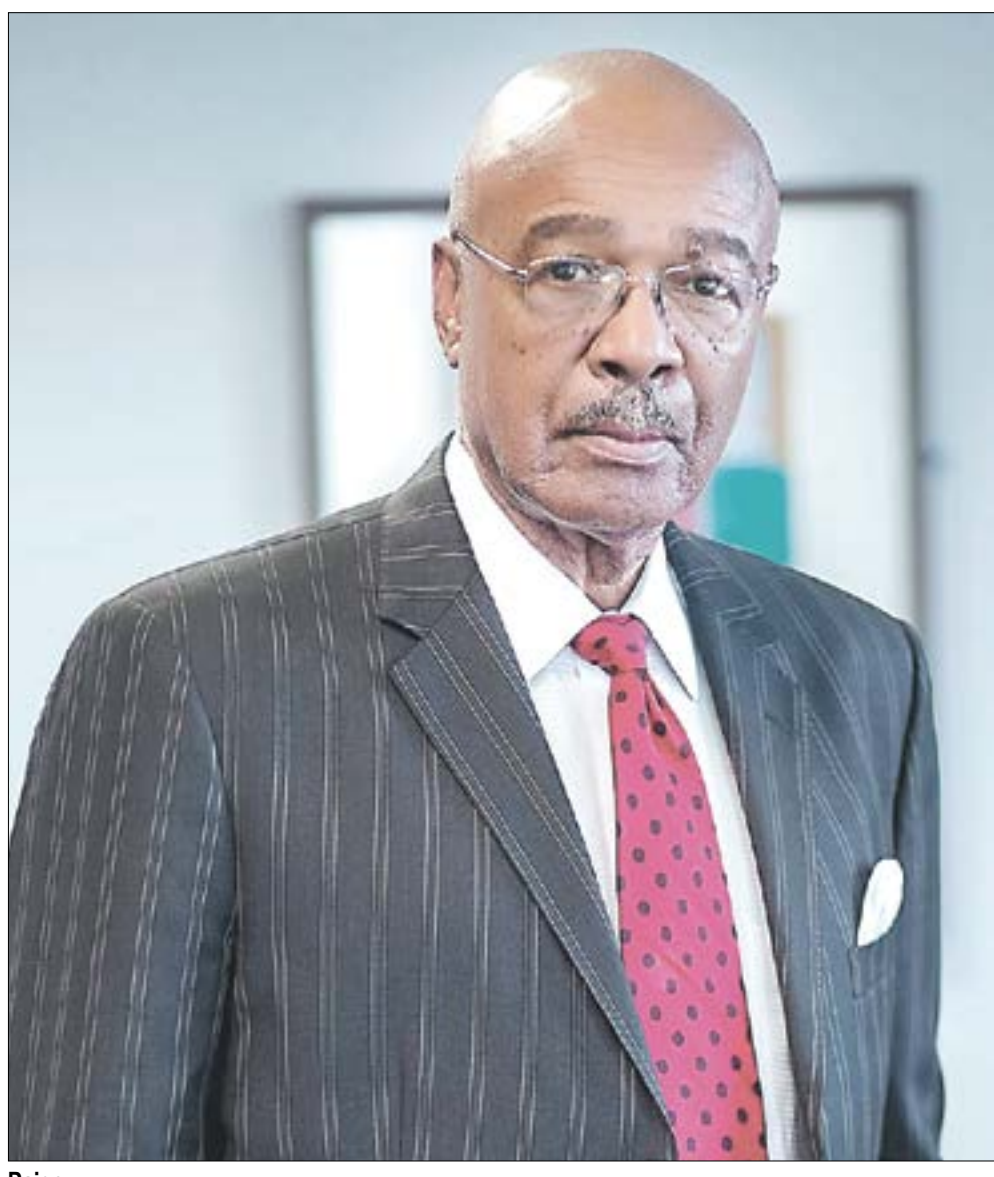
By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

Things are far different on the campus of Jackson State University (JSU) today, than they were in 1955, when 83 year old Rod Paige graduated. "I'm just amazed everyday that I walk this campus or look out my office window; I think to myself...look at the growth, look at the changes, look at the greatness," said Paige, who was named interim president of the university in November 2016, after the highly publicized resignation of Carolyn Meyers.

Meyers, only the 10th president in the history of the university, which was founded in 1877 and its first full-time female leader, resigned in the fall of 2016, amid rumors of financial unsettlement on the campus.

In a recent discovery, it was revealed that JSU's cash reserves had plummeted nearly 90 percent in the last five years, going from an estimated \$37 million to \$4.2 million for the 2016 fiscal year that ended in the fall.

Paige, who was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the seventh U.S. Secretary of Education, says JSU's financial troubles are deep and perplexed



Paige

but fixable. "I want to paint a very clear picture, the hole we find ourselves in today is deep, in fact, I really didn't

understand the magnitude of the problems until I got here, but these problems are fixable and when we come

out of this...and we will, we will be a stronger more vibrant university than ever before," Paige said.

Paige failed to equate or give an exact dollar amount as it relates to the financial deficiencies of the university. "I don't want to give an exact number and then two-weeks later that number has changed or as we are going through this process we find that the number continues to roll," he said. "Right now, we know its a serious situation and we know that we've got to fix it."

Charged with the responsibility by the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) to improve the financial conditions of the university and to strengthen its academic performance, Paige's outlook for JSU is bright. "We are looking at everything to ensure that we are running a tight ship, he said. "All external vendor contracts are being reviewed, right now its safe to say that we've pretty much instituted a hiring freeze, we must examine everything."

Examining everything includes looking at JSU's Madison and downtown campuses. When asked if discussions about closing the Madison campus were underway, in spite of recent record enrollment and the campus doing well, Paige

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## Yes we did: Obama rallies all Americans in farewell speech

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Those were the words that Barack Hussein Obama ended his farewell speech to America Tuesday, eight years after he won the presidency, campaigning on the slogan, "Yes, we can!"

For nearly an hour, the nation's 44th Commander-In-Chief reminded everyone that history will not only show him to be the first – and perhaps only – black president, but time will reveal just how well a job Obama did after inheriting a nation at war, reeling in debt and covering in fear every time Homeland Security raised the threat level.

Passing the Commander-In-Chief baton to Donald Trump has revealed that a large swath of Americans already miss Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and the First Family.

"It's easy to lose sight of that in the blizzard of our minute-to-minute Washington news cycles. But America is a



President Barack Obama delivered his farewell address as the leader of the free world on Tuesday, January 10 in Chicago, Ill. This photo was taken during the 2011 State of the Union Address. PETE SOUZA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

story told not minute to minute, but generation to generation," Obama told the more nearly 18,000 spectators who

**Obama**  
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## 2017 Aviation Industry Day set for next week

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

Anyone who works in aviation now or wants to expand their business and get involved in the world's fastest growing economic sector, then the 2017 Aviation Industry Day is a must attend event. The event takes place Jan. 17 at the Clyde Muse Center on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College, 515 Country Place Parkway, Pearl, Miss.

Industry leaders say Mississippi's airports are a critical part of the nation's multi-billion dollar aviation industry and they want to help grow your business. If you're an architect, engineer, construction professional, attorney, real-estate professional, insurance professional, service provider, supplier, vendor, shipper or broker, at the conference you will learn how joint ventures work, the importance of partnering



Russell

with other companies, how to gain business assistance, how to sustain your business for today and beyond as well as other viable information

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