



U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson joined local dignitaries, BancorpSouth Bank, the city of Vicksburg and FHLB Dallas at a home dedication ceremony today in the Marcus Bottom neighborhood of Vicksburg, Mississippi. An \$180,000 Affordable Housing Program grant helped repair 25 homes in the neighborhood.

## Congressman Bennie Thompson announces \$180K in grant funds

BancorpSouth Bank and FHLB Dallas Provide Funds for 25 Home Renovations in Marcus Bottom

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson (MS-2) joined local dignitaries, the city of Vicksburg, BancorpSouth Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas)

at a home dedication ceremony in the Marcus Bottom neighborhood of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

BancorpSouth Bank and FHLB Dallas awarded \$180,000 in Affordable Housing Program (AHP) funds

to the city of Vicksburg for the repair and rehabilitation of 25 homes in the Marcus Bottom neighborhood. Twen-

*Thompson*  
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# Banks wins runoff race

Becomes Democratic nominee for city council Ward 6

By Othor Cain  
Editor

In what was billed as ‘the battle of the pastors,’ Aaron Banks, pastor of Glory Empowerment Center located at 3874 I-55 South Frontage Rd in South Jackson, was victorious in his quest to become the Democratic nominee for councilperson in Ward 6.

Banks defeated Ernest Slaughter, pastor of New Canney Creek MB Church located at 815 McCluer Rd., also in South Jackson, by garnering 675 votes or 59 percent. Slaughter received 465 votes or 40 percent.

This was the first political race for both candidates.

While voter turnout was low, it was higher than most expected with a little more than one thousand people returning to make a decision.

South Jackson encompasses four wards with the largest portion belonging to Ward 6.

In recent years Ward 6, and south Jackson as a whole, has been plagued with an onslaught of dilapidated housing, an influx of crime and changing demographics. “I recognize that the greatest resource in south Jackson after its citizens, is its real estate,” Banks said. “I want to be able to utilize all of these vacant building and create some new activity in Ward 6.”

Banks recently held a press conference at AppleRidge Shopping Center which was once home to a skating rink, bowling alley and many other retail shops. Today, it sits empty and abandoned. “I want to help find ways to restore this center,” said Banks. “I remember the glory days of south Jackson.”

Banks is proposing a program for churches to get involved in the process by offering a payment in lieu of taxes. “We believe whole heartedly that there are many churches and other non profits willing to invest in south Jackson,” Banks said. “If we are successful in bringing this initiative online, we will re-



Banks

*Banks*

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## House votes to limit powers of first black Librarian of Congress

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In a vote of 378 to 48, the House passed legislation to take power away from the current Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden.

The legislation, H.R. 1695, authored by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (D-Va.) and ranking member John Conyers (D-Mich.), would limit the powers of the librarian. It is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law by President Trump.

The bill makes the head of the Copyright Office, the Register of Copyrights, a presidential appointment that would have to be confirmed by the Senate, rather than an appointment by the Librarian of Congress, as it has been since 1870. The bill also limits the position of Librarian of Congress to a ten-year term.

The previous Librarian of Congress, James Billington, served in the position for 28 years.

President Obama appointed Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress, February 24, 2016. She is the first African American to hold the position, as well as the first woman to be the Librarian of Congress, in the agency’s history.

On March 23, legislation was introduced to block Hayden



Carla Hayden was appointed the 14th Librarian of Congress by President Barack Obama on February 24, 2016. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

from appointing the next Register of Copyrights. That legislation passed the House April 26.

Supporters of the bill argued that the legislation would help to modernize the Copyright Office and make it more accountable to Congress. Attempts to contact the office of Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) for details on why he authored H.R. 1695, were not answered.

“This bill serves no purpose other than to take power away from the Librarian of Congress and give it to powerful lobby-

*Hayden*

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# Chambliss wants to re-open Ayers case

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
Contributing Writer

May 17 was the 63rd anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Concerned citizens met in Room 113 of the Capitol with original civil rights lawyer of the Jake Ayers Case – Alvin Chambliss, Jr. who quoted President Donald Trump as saying that he would not enforce Title III funding for black colleges because they are vestiges of the past and violate the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

In refutation, Chambliss explained that the systematic approach to marginalizing Histori-



Alvin Chambliss, first civil rights lawyer of Jake Ayers case, holds press conference for re-opening the case. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

*Ayers*

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## An Open Letter to IHL

Dr. Glenn Boyce, Commissioner of Higher Education  
gboyce@ihl.state.ms.us  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mr. C. D. Smith Jr., President & Chair of IEO Search Committee  
board@ihl.state.ms.us  
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Board of Trustees

Poised on the advent of the announcement of the preferred candidate for Jackson State University president, I sincerely request that the Board of Trustees respect the recommendations made by the individuals chosen to represent the administration, faculty, staff, students, foundation, community and alumni of Jackson State University.

On May 8, in executive session, the Board of Trustees conducted second-round interviews with finalists. The JSU constituents selected to serve on the Interview Search Advisory Committee (IASC) also participated. At the conclusion of the interviews, the Board of Trustees met to hear candidate assessments from the JSU constituents.

Within strict guidelines, each of the eight JSU representatives was given the opportunity to express his or her opinion regarding the finalists. The JSU constituents provided feedback based on the resumes, interviews,

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Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area and Lowe’s partner for 2017 National Women Build



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The “Underground” Interview with Amirah Vann



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