

# Convening of the JXN People's Assembly

2024 kicks off with the voice of the people heard and documented for Jackson priorities

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Nearly two hundred gathered at our Mississippi Civil Rights Museum January 13, 2023, to participate in developing priorities for Jackson in the new year. Numerous speakers weighed in as participants were encouraged to contribute to a visioning exercise which later served as the focus for breakout groups to help refine ideas, suggestions and demands. A delicious lunch was provided by Sugar's Place, which is located at 168 E. Griffith Street, downtown Jackson.

Rukia Lumumba, co-founder and executive director of People's Advocacy Institute and Brooke Floyd, co-director of People's Advocacy Institute, shared mistress of ceremonies duties throughout the event. Dr. Ameen Abdur-Rashied, an Imam at Masjid Muhammad in Jackson, and Pastor Maurice Clifton, each offered prayer before Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade was introduced.

Chief Wade promised to reduce crime. "We will reduce crime in Jackson. We will do this because crime affects everyone in this room directly and indirectly, causes trauma, affects economic development for our city and affects our quality of life. I will not allow this behavior to be normal-



Rukia Lumumba  
PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

ized in our community," Wade said. He spoke of rebuilding JPD. The city now has 265 police officers.

The newly elected Central District Public Service Commissioner De'Keither Stamps spoke briefly before rushing to Humphries County to help address power outages. He said his office regulates the electrical, water/sewer, telecommunications, and natural gas industries.

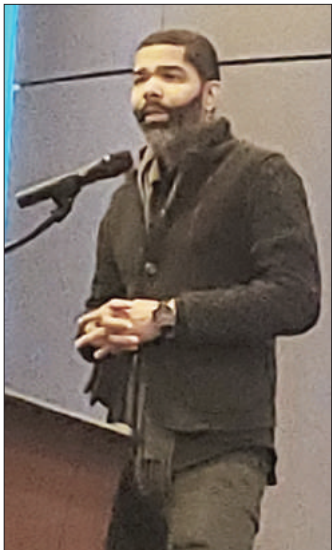
"The water is critically important...we don't move Mississippi forward without moving Jackson forward. The leadership of this event is going to come to our of-



Brooke Floyd – People's Advocacy Institute and organizers for this event

fice and sit down and take the work product that you produce today, and we'll put it into our work program and see to it that your work and your voice move forward," Stamps said.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba began his remarks with call and response, Free the Land, Free the Land, Free the Land – by any means necessary. "If you could see yourself right now, it is amazing. I am so happy to see this room filled with community members, filled with people from various walks of life in our city. This is the essence of where work gets done." He went on to discuss community



City of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba

policing, infrastructure, education and then reinforced that "JXN People's Assembly becomes a pressure mechanism to tell elected officials at City Hall – this is why we sent you, this is what we expect, and if you aren't doing it, we want to let you know that we are going to pull you out."

Before stepping down he brought up misinformation, and the recent national news story that he called "patently false and ridiculous," referring to headlines about the gruesome discovery of 215 bodies found behind the Jack-

Convening  
Continued on page 3

## Jackson Indie Music Week: A resounding success in celebrating Mississippi's music



Icon honoree WJMI's Alice Marie with her daughter and son  
PHOTOS BY EDELIA J. CARTHAN

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D  
Contributing Writer

Jackson Indie Music Week, a dynamic celebration of Central Mississippi's independent music scene, recently concluded its ninth edition with unprecedented success. This week-long festival, held from January 7 to January 14, has grown into a significant event on the entertainment calendar of Mississippi, a state often hailed as the "Birthplace of America's Music."

Featuring a diverse lineup of concerts, showcases, panels and parties, the festival highlights creatives from all genres including Rock, Hip Hop, Blues, Singer-Songwriter, and Independent Film & Video.

Brad "Kamikaze" Franklin, the founder of Jackson Indie Music Week, expressed immense satisfaction with the turnout of the festival's ninth year. "I feel very very encouraged, and I feel very satisfied with the turnout," Franklin stated.

He was particularly pleased with the growth in attendance and participation. "This was our ninth year and probably our most attended. The numbers continue to grow. We had the most artists that we have ever had. We had 9 artists that traveled from outside of Mississippi, from the east coast to California to Florida. The attendance has been great, and we are looking forward to even better in year 10."

When asked about his aspirations for those who attend Jackson Indie Music Week, Franklin's vision was clear and ambitious. "I want people to know that Jackson is the epicenter for music in the South," he said. Emphasizing the city's pivotal role in the musical landscape, he added,

"Jackson is the crossroad. Our music history and our musical talent is our greatest export outside of the great people here. We are not who they think we are. Jackson Indie Music Week is a part of changing and controlling the narrative. We are excited about it. Year 10 is coming up in January 2025, and it's going to be a big one."

The festival's program was as diverse as its vision. Events included a kick-off party, blues Monday, a self-care dialogue for artists, an all woman showcase, icon awards, culture concert, panel discussions, a day party, a film and video showcase, and the official wrap party.

The event also honored various icons for their contributions, including Alice Marie of WJMI, Visit Jackson, Visit Mississippi and The Central MS Blues Society.

The range of artists performing during the week was a testament to the festival's commitment to diversity in music. Notable performers included Columbus Toy from Belzoni, MS, Suave C, Will April and ZVN from Jackson, MS, Elsie from Hattiesburg, MS, Big JD from Raymond, MS, NU from Birmingham, AL, The III Relatives from Baton Rouge, LA and Chicago, and Crash

G from Aurora, Colorado. This lineup showcased the rich tapestry of talent that the South, and particularly Mississippi, has to offer.

Jackson Indie Music Week not only celebrates the vibrant independent music scene in Mississippi but also serves as a beacon for narrative change about the state's cultural and musical heritage.

As it approaches its tenth year, the festival continues to grow, drawing artists and audiences from across the na-

# We're 99% genetically alike, yet focused on differences

Despite gains over time, White supremacy is immersed in American society

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

In a January 8, 2022, episode of Bonnie Boswell Presents, recently rebroadcast on PBS, the acclaimed producer/reporter and graduate of Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, hosted a conversation with Reverend James Lawson and attorney Bryan Stevenson. To watch and listen to the interplay between these three giants in their respective fields felt like a gift, buoying me in a period of melancholy. (Take 30 minutes to see the entire episode at <https://weta.org/watch/shows/bonnie-boswell-presents-conversation-pastor-james-lawson-and-attorney-bryan-stevenson>.)

Their discourse encapsulated this country's ongoing struggle with racism and poverty, and how fixated we become on little things to disagree on, rather than embracing each other in our humanness and love. It was utter truth, without a morsel of anger or hatefulness, from deeply knowledgeable professionals who breathe justice and equity for all.

Boswell framed the period following George Floyd's murder as



L-R: Reverend James Lawson, Bonnie Boswell, Attorney Bryan Stevenson. PHOTO: COURTESY OF [HTTPS://WWW.PBSSOCAL.ORG](https://www.pbssocal.org)

a time in our country when people said, "enough, what can I do?"

Reverend Lawson, activist, university professor and pastor, shared, "We have millions of people who think that white civilization is the hope of the human family and that it is being threatened now by the increasing visibility of the Asian, Hispanic and Black people, in many ways, have allowed their humanity to be deformed. I maintain that there are four historic streams in America that have taught many many people the spiritual poisons that hurt

us today: racism, sexism, violence and plantation capitalism. All four of these have a common theme – that I'm superior and you are worthy of my mistreatment."

Attorney Stevenson – founder of Equal Justice Institute – said in part, "I believe that the opposite of poverty isn't wealth. I believe the opposite of poverty is justice. We don't want to just see banks do better with regard to diversity, equity and inclusion – we want to see banks actually repair the damage that has been done by denying equity and loans and resources to

poor and minority communities. I don't know why every African American isn't automatically registered to vote in Alabama when they become of age. It's a thing that we could do that would show a commitment to repairing a century and a half of disenfranchisement. And instead of making that commitment we have just found new ways to create barriers to voter registration for Black folks, and then we say, oh, it's not about racism. We act as if it's not connected to history...we haven't had the discussion of what we need to do to repair the damage created by systems of impoverishment and devaluation."

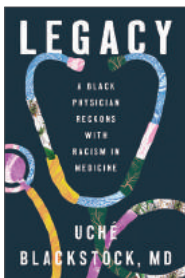
Host Bonnie Boswell spoke of the importance of the preamble of the Declaration of Independence, "We the people, need to stop falling for the distractions, the divide and conquer okay doke. It starts by appreciating how much we humans have in common with each other. 99% of our DNA is literally the same as the person sitting in front of us or across town from us. The 1% difference is to be celebrated."

Genetics  
Continued on page 3



Icon honoree The Central MS Blues Society

Music  
Continued on page 3





# Health and Wellness Fair aims to revitalize 2024 resolutions

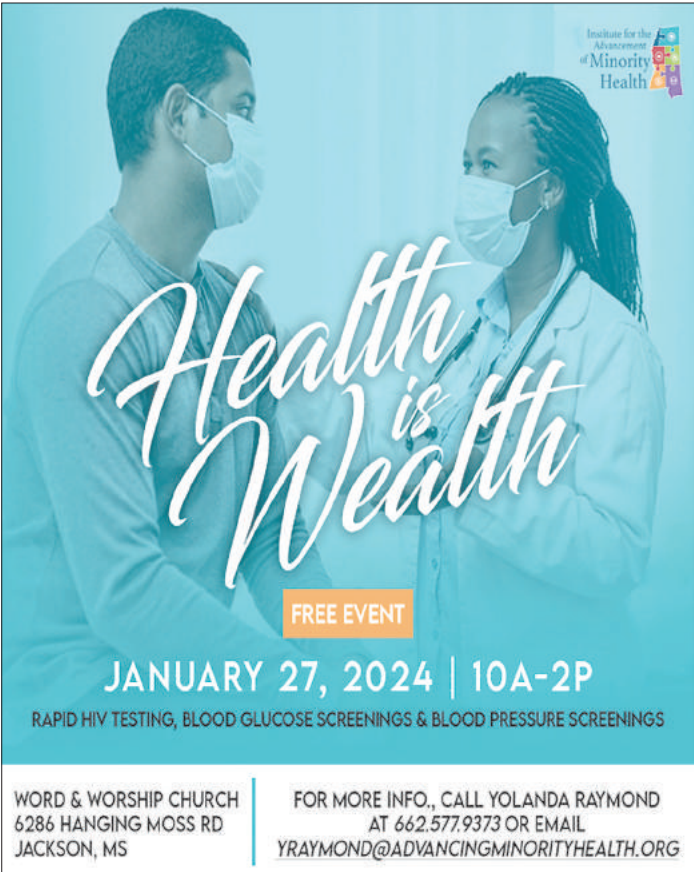
*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health will hold a free Health and Wellness Fair at Word and Worship Church, 6285 Hanging Moss Rd. in Jackson, Sat. January 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to undergo blood pressure, glucose and mental health screenings. Additionally, resources on COVID-19, tobacco cessation and chiropractic services will be provided. Free HIV tests (in-person and self-test kits) and massage therapy will also be available.

Dr. Sandra C. Melvin, CEO of the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health stressed the significance of residents knowing their vital health statistics. “These complimentary health screenings serve as a crucial, initial step towards achieving positive wellness outcomes,” she stated.

The event is made possible



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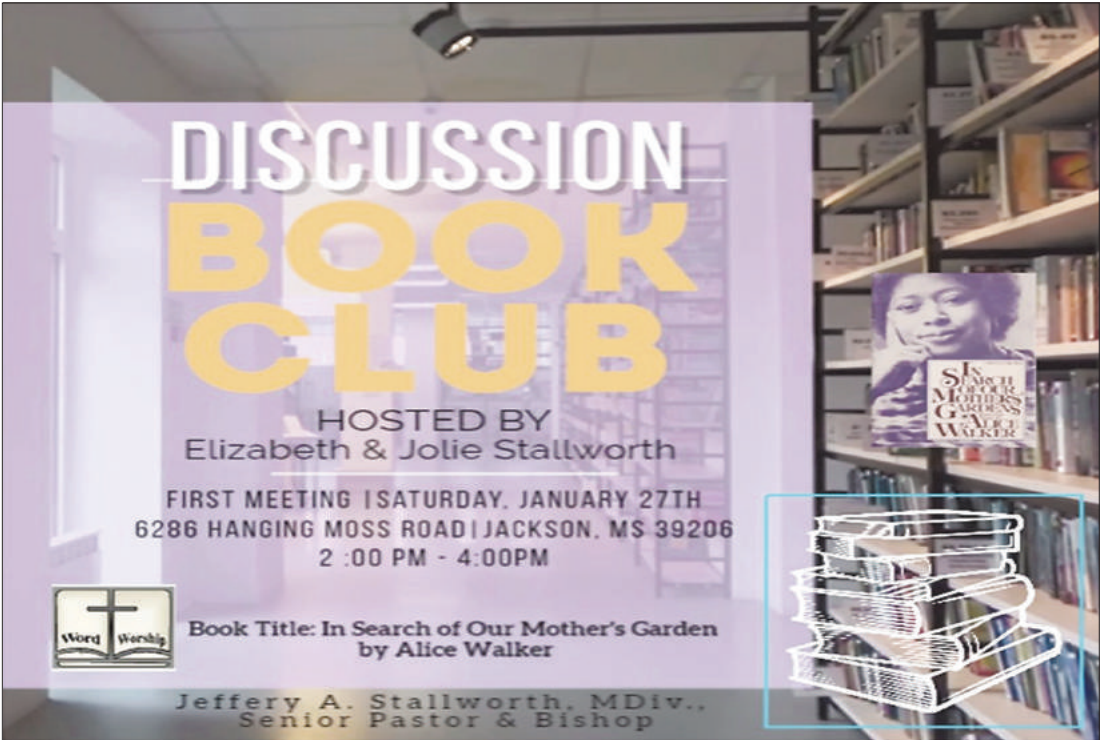
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through collaboration with the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, Jackson Free Clinic, Body in Balance Healthcare, the Tobacco Coalition, Southern Health Alliance, CLM and Word and Worship Church.

# High school students host a book discussion on work by Alice Walker



**DISCUSSION BOOK CLUB**

HOSTED BY  
Elizabeth & Jolie Stallworth

FIRST MEETING | SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH  
6286 HANGING MOSS ROAD | JACKSON, MS 39206  
2 :00 PM - 4:00PM

Book Title: *In Search of Our Mother's Garden*  
by Alice Walker

Jeffery A. Stallworth, MDiv.,  
Senior Pastor & Bishop

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The public is invited to attend a book club discussion centered around the acclaimed literary work “In Search of Our Mother’s Garden” by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker. The event, hosted by ninth-grade stu-

dents Elizabeth Stallworth and Jolie Stallworth, is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Word and Worship Church, located at 6286 Hanging Moss Road, Jackson, MS.

The Stallworths will guide participants through an exploration of

the lives and artistic achievements of African-American women, shedding light on the intersectionality of race and gender. The event is designed to create an inclusive space for diverse perspectives and is open to all, including those who have not read the book.



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## Genetics

Continued from page 1

So, what is it that makes our society, that is so genetically alike, focus on differences? Is it greed, insecurity, hatred, constantly comparing ourselves to others on a spectrum of achievement, need for some form of validation? Is it fear? It's a poison that continues to cause irreparable harm, pain, devastation, erosion of the human spirit and death. As Reverend Lawson said, there is a common theme – I'm superior and you are worthy of my mistreatment.

Just a few days ago, speaking at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, where the white supremacist Dylan Roof murdered nine members at a Bible study on June 17, 2015, President Biden labeled the poison. "On that day the Word of God was pierced by bullets of hate and rage, propelled by not just gunpowder, but by poison, poison that has for too long haunted this nation." What is that poison, he

asked – "white supremacy – a poison throughout our history..."

What can we do? Despite being and feeling rightfully worn down, battered and tired from lifetimes of maltreatment, we must continue to stand. We can continue to pray, focus on providing for our families, teach our children what has helped us and what hasn't, reach out to our neighbors and civil rights organizations for support and contribute, resolve to do something each week that lifts up a sister or brother – never find fault with each other, run for an elected office – help us improve representation, call out inequity at every opportunity and enlist others to help call it out, and embody, in your own way, aligning your path with the Lord's path.

We must keep the dialogue open and participate in the dialogue of change and the pursuit of justice.

## Convening

Continued from page 1



Attorneys Emily Early and Sarah C. Tallman  
PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

son jail.

"The first thing, if you live in Jackson, you know that we don't have a jail in Jackson...next, every county in the United States has a paupers field, and the one they are referring to is in Raymond, Mississippi. The Hinds County coroner and Hinds County officials have authority over this. It is dangerous when people develop a narrative for your community. It creates disharmony, friction and an atmosphere of not wanting to be a part of that. The only thing that we have in Jackson is a holding cell that can hold maybe ten people and behind that is the Westin Hotel...inaccuracies of that nature are dangerous to our mission...it feeds those who don't share our resolve to have a better vision of public safety," the mayor said.

## Music

Continued from page 1

tion, solidifying Jackson's position as a central hub for music in the South.

Jackson Indie Music Week is more than just a festival; it's a movement. It's a beacon of artistic expression, a gathering of talent, and a celebration of Mississippi's enduring impact on the music world.

As Brad Kamikaze" Franklin envisioned, it's a fitting tribute to the state's rich musical heritage, a heritage that continues to resonate and inspire across the globe.



Icon honoree Visit Jackson, Visit Mississippi



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# Mississippi Basketball Native Audie Norris in Jackson for filming of his documentary

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Mississippi native legendary basketball player and coach Audie Norris, who now resides in Barcelona, Spain, was in Jackson several days this week with a team from Spain that is filming a documentary of his life.

Norris and the filming crew visited his former high school, Jim Hill, where he was a star basketball player. He also visited his childhood church, St. James Baptist Church, where he worshipped with Jim Hill alumni and former church members. They visited Two Museums in Jackson and spent time at Jackson State University, where he played basketball from 1978-1982 and was drafted in 1982 by NBA's Portland Trail Blazers. He spent three seasons with the Trail Blazers prior to moving to Europe where he continued playing basketball.

Norris was given special recognition Monday when he and the crew attended both the girls and boys basketball games between JSU and Texas Southern. Both JSU teams were victorious.

He visited several other sights in Jackson and hooked up with family members and former friends and basketball players prior to leaving Jackson Tuesday.

Norris was inducted into the Jackson State University Hall of fame in 1998.



Classmates and Friends

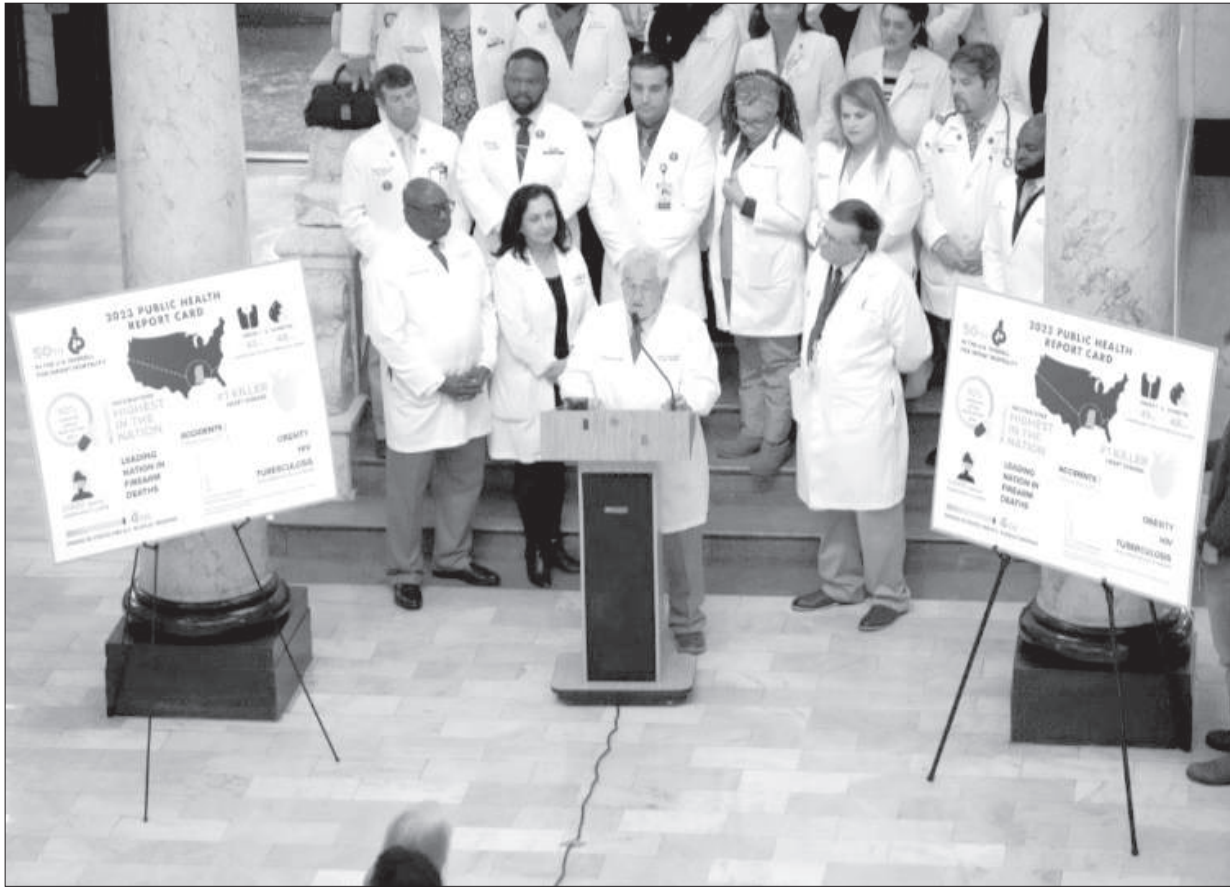


The Siblings





# Mississippi has the highest rate of preventable deaths in the US, health official says



At a news conference inside the Mississippi Capitol, Dr. John Mitchell, president of the Mississippi State Medical Association, at podium, and Mississippi State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney called for state leaders to work with health officials to improve Mississippi’s status as the nation’s unhealthiest state across several metrics, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, in Jackson, Miss. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

By Michael Goldberg  
Associated Press/Report for America

Mississippi has improved some of its poor health outcomes, but its people are more likely to die unnecessarily than residents of any other state, the state’s top health official said Thursday.

State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney urged legislators who just began this year’s session to work with health officials to improve Mississippi’s status as the nation’s unhealthiest state, ranking at the bottom of virtually every health care indicator and at the top of every health disparity.

“If we choose the right policies for our people, we will see us move off the radar of having the highest rate of preventable death,” Edney said at a news conference inside the Mississippi Capitol.

Mississippi ranks worst for infant mortality, with Black infants nearly twice as likely as whites to die over the past decade, according to a report unveiled Thursday by the Mississippi State Medical Association.

While Mississippi managed to lower its opioid death rate by 10% in 2022, it still leads the nation in firearm deaths. And while the state’s obesity and diabetes rates have declined recently, they remain

among the nation’s highest, with heart disease still the state’s leading cause of death, the report says.

Increasing access to health care coverage for working-class Mississippians is key to improving outcomes, Edney said.

Mississippi is one of 10 states that have not expanded Medicaid coverage to people working in jobs that provide modest wages but no private health insurance. The debate has stalled because of opposition from Republican leaders, including Gov. Tate Reeves, who refers to Medicaid as “welfare,” but new Republican House Speaker Jason White says he wants legislators to consider Medicaid expansion as a way to bring up to \$1 billion of federal money each year to the state, where some hospitals are struggling to remain open.

White has not come out in full support of expansion.

As the new chairwoman of the House Medicaid Committee, Republican Rep. Missy McGee would play a big role in any push for expansion. She helped lead a successful effort last year to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from two months to a full year.

Dr. John Mitchell, president of the Mississippi State Medical Association, said he supports any

policy that would increase access to care, whether it’s Medicaid expansion or some alternative.

“Every improvement made towards better public health outcomes in our state pays dividends for a healthier Mississippi, a more productive Mississippi and a future Mississippi abounding with opportunity,” Mitchell said.

Mississippi’s high unnecessary death toll comes even though it has some of the highest rates of childhood vaccination against diseases such as polio, measles and mumps – the legacy of a state judge’s ruling in 1979 that vaccinated schoolchildren have a constitutional right to be free from associating with unvaccinated peers.

Vaccination data for 2023 is not available yet, so the impact of a federal judge’s April ruling ordering Mississippi to join most other states in allowing religious exemptions from childhood vaccinations is still unclear.

*Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow him at @mikergoldberg.*

# Online rumors partially to blame for drop in water pressure in capital, manager says

By Michael Goldberg  
Associated Press/Report for America

Law enforcement agencies are investigating whether social media rumors about a potential water outage prompted people to quickly fill bathtubs with tap water in Mississippi’s capital during a cold snap and cause a drop in pressure that temporarily made faucets run dry for thousands of customers of the city’s long-troubled system.

Taps ran dry Wednesday and Thursday for almost a quarter of Jackson’s 52,000 water customers as icy conditions strained local infrastructure. Officials for JXN Water, the private corporation that has been under a federal order to run Jackson’s system since late 2022, said a “deliberate misinformation campaign” was partially to blame. People responded to social media posts by filling bathtubs with water in a short period, causing demand to spike beyond what the water system could support, water manager Ted Henifin said.

JXN Water said in a statement Friday that U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate authorized the release of information about the investigation and advised the corporation on what to communicate to the public.

The organization did not specify which law enforcement agencies are involved or what charges might be brought if people are found to have spread false information on social media.

JXN Water identified one specific social media post, but Palacios said the organization had not traced its origin.

“Just got word they are about to shut off water in Jackson,” the post said. “If you’re in Jackson, fill up your tubs and jugs! Get prepared for not having water.”

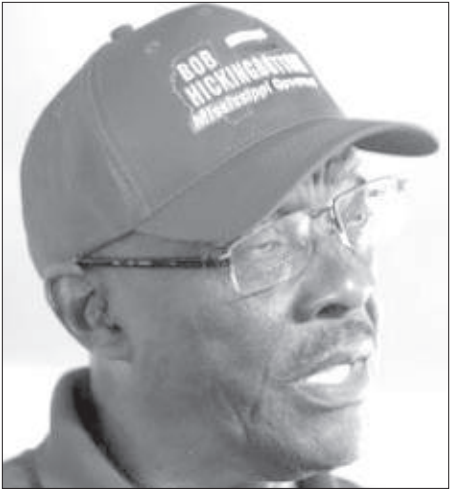
The water woes began as an arctic blast kept temperatures below freezing in Jackson for nearly three days. The temperature rose Thursday, but the National Weather Service warned that dangerously cold air would return this weekend.

Jackson residents and officials were already concerned that frigid conditions could disrupt the water system. Cold snaps in 2021 and 2022 caused frozen pipes and drops in water pressure across the city of nearly 150,000 residents. People had been told to prepare for past disasters by keeping jugs or bathtubs full of water.

Maintenance crews had restored water to all but about 1,000 customers Friday.

Ameerah Palacios, a spokesperson for JXN Water, said the news release about an investigation was partially written by Wingate, who is overseeing a federal intervention to improve the water system.

“Judge Wingate, that’s a man who chooses his words very carefully,” Pala-



Hickingbottom

cios told The Associated Press in an interview. “The way that he worded it was, all of ‘the appropriate law enforcement agencies,’ so definitely more than one at play.”

A court clerk took a phone message for Wingate on Friday, but the judge did not immediately return a call to the AP.

It was unclear how many Jackson residents saw the social media posts or were influenced by them.

Although JXN Water did not release names of anyone who shared the post it cited, AP identified a Facebook post from Wednesday that had the exact wording. The Facebook account belongs to Bob Hickingbottom of Jackson, who ran unsuccessfully for governor as a Constitution Party candidate in 2019 and tried to run for governor in 2023 before the state Democratic Party removed him from its primary ballot.

In one phone interview with the AP, Hickingbottom said somebody might have put the post on his page.

“Something like that would be outside the realm of civilized behavior,” Hickingbottom said.

In a second phone call moments later, Hickingbottom said he put the water post on his page and he thought he was sharing information to help people.

“I’m a flamethrower when it comes to politics, but this is not politics,” Hickingbottom said of Jackson’s water system.

The latest disruption in Jackson water service came a week after Mississippi health officials issued and then quickly lifted a health advisory after tests identified E. coli in the water supplies of Jackson and a suburb. Henifin said he believed the tests were false positives caused by lab contamination, but the state health department stood by its tests.

Wingate appointed Henifin in November 2022 to oversee reforms to Jackson’s water system after infrastructure breakdowns during the late summer of that year caused many city residents to go days without safe running water.

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# Report reveals racial wealth gap widens in the United States



PHOTO COURTESY PEXELS

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

A new report from WalletHub, a personal finance website, has found that the racial wealth gap in the United States is alive and well.

The report, titled “2024’s States with the Biggest & Smallest Wealth Gaps by Race/Ethnicity,” compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 21 key metrics, ranging from the median household income gap to the unemployment rate gap.

The report found that the median household wealth for Black Americans is just \$14,100, compared to \$187,300 for non-Hispanic white households. Hispanic households also lag behind, with a median household wealth of \$31,700.

“The racial wealth gap is a persistent problem in the United States,” said Jill Gonzalez, a WalletHub analyst. “There are many factors that contribute to this gap, including unequal access to higher education and employment for minorities, as well as residential segregation.”

The report also found that the racial wealth gap is more expansive in some states than others. For example, the District of Columbia has the broadest racial wealth gap, with a median household wealth of \$281,700 for non-Hispanic white households and just \$11,100 for Black households.

“Even decades after the Civil Rights Movement, there is still a high degree of wealth inequality among racial groups in America,” WalletHub Analyst Cassandra Happe stated.

“These gaps persist not just in held wealth but also in wages, poverty rates,

homeownership rates and unemployment rates. Part of this wealth disparity is due to unequal access to education, which can put some people on a better financial footing from the start.”

Statistics show that the racial income gap grows larger and larger each year, said Irving L. Joyner, a law professor at North Carolina Central University’s School of Law.

Joyner said the growth of the gap has grown because those with more wealth have benefitted more abundantly from their investments and ability to survive the economic downturns within the economy while poorly individuals, mainly racial minorities, were forced to consume their meager resources to survive day-to-day and did not have resources which they could invest.

“For those individuals who have the financial capacity, knowledge and needed resources to engage in entrepreneurial pursuits, those programs can and do benefit them,” Joyner remarked.

“Those opportunities, however, are not readily available for the vast majority of African Americans because of the absence of the resources and business skills that are required to begin and sustain these efforts.

Hawaii has the smallest racial wealth gap, with a median household wealth of \$104,300 for non-Hispanic white households and \$87,300 for Black families.

“The racial wealth gap is a complex issue with no easy solutions,” said Gonzalez. “However, the findings of our report suggest that there are some states that are making progress in closing the gap. We hope that other states will learn from their example.”

# The Sentencing Project unveils final report in ‘One in Five’ series – reveals mass incarceration’s role in deepening inequality and harming public safety



By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

The collateral consequences of a criminal conviction often amount to a lifelong disadvantage, particularly for African Americans. According to the Sentencing Project, in 2010, one in three (33%) African-American adult men had a felony conviction on their record, compared to 13% of all adult men.

Researchers found that employers discriminate against job candidates who have criminal histories, especially against those who are Black. Further, application questions about criminal histories deter some people from applying to certain jobs and colleges, with a 2017 study finding that nearly half of unemployed men had a criminal conviction. Additionally, almost one-third of all U.S. jobs require an occupational license, and many licensing boards bar or impose cumbersome obstacles for people with criminal records.

Fee-based programs to seal criminal records also exacerbate racial disparities, and the Sentencing Project noted that these policies stand in stark contrast to a growing evidence base showing that post-incarceration employment prevents recidivism and that

tackling heightened labor market discrimination against Black people with criminal records would reduce recidivism rates.

The Sentencing Project has again highlighted a critical element causing inequalities in incarceration with “One in Five: How Mass Incarceration Deepens Inequality and Harms Public Safety.” The report highlights laws and policies that worsen inequality and unfairly burden communities of color. Initiated to provide an in-depth analysis of racial inequities within America’s criminal legal system, the series of reports covers a spectrum of topics.

From the progress made in the 21st century in reducing the U.S. prison population to disparities in crime and policing, the series also explores the key causes of racial and ethnic disparities in imprisonment. Additionally, it highlights reforms that have played a pivotal role in mitigating these sources of disparity.

“A primary driver of disparity within the U.S. criminal legal system is the multitude of laws and policies that intensify economic and social inequalities, diverting public spending from effective public safety investments,” stated Nazgol Ghandnoosh, co-director of Research with The Sentencing Project and lead author of the report. Ghandnoosh emphasized the importance of protecting and expanding promising reforms initiated by states and local jurisdictions nationwide.

The report delves into various criminal legal laws and policies, including fines, fees, predatory pricing, exploitative wages, collateral consequence and the diversion of adequate investments in public safety. The report proposes two key strategies to eliminate racial disparities in incarceration, including addressing sources of inequality by limiting socioeconomic disadvantage resulting from a criminal conviction and significantly increasing investments in effective public safety programs.

The “One in Five” series concludes with a call to action, emphasizing the need for durable investments in communities of color, a reduction in policing footprint, and ongoing efforts to tackle critical drivers of racial disparity. “Certain regulations intensify the marginalization of justice-involved people – who are disproportionately people of color – by wearing down economic and social buffers against crime and increasing the likelihood of police contact,” added Ghandnoosh.

# EarthTalk®: Electric Vehicles – Is the bloom off the rose?

By the Editors of E  
The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I’ve been hearing a lot of negative things about electric vehicles lately. Is the bloom off the rose? – H.J. Columbia, Md.

It has been a tough run for electric vehicles (EVs) in recent months, with lots of bad press about everything from shorter ranges in cold weather to consumer frustration with getting stranded to the huge carbon footprint of the newfangled cars when factoring in life cycle assessments that include manufacturing.

Whether or not these problems are enough to reduce sales in 2024 for the first time in the modern history of EVs is anybody’s guess.

Perhaps EV’s biggest Achilles heel is the precious metal mining involved. According to Hesham Bakhbakhi, an expert in the central heating and renewable energy industry, the manufacture of a single Tesla



Replacing the EV’s battery for \$15-25k when it wears out in less than eight years may jeopardize the emissions reduction gains gotten from ditching the gas-guzzler? COURTESY EARTHTALK – ©PEXELS.COM

Model Y battery requires moving some 250 tons of soil to obtain the needed metals (lithium, nickel, manganese and cobalt), not counting hundreds more pounds of aluminum, steel, graphite and plastic that are needed.

“The Caterpillar 994A is used for earthmoving to obtain the essential minerals. It consumes 264 gallons of diesel

in 12 hours,” says Bakhbakhi. “Finally, you get a ‘zero emissions’ car.”

According to the International Energy Agency, manufacturing EVs requires six times the minerals and metals as an internal combustion engine vehicle. To add insult to injury, most of the minerals Tesla uses to manufacture these batteries come from China or Africa.

“Much of the labor for extracting the minerals in Africa is done by children,” adds Bakhbakhi. “If we buy electric cars, it’s China who profits most.”

A 2019 study by Ernst & Young found that it takes 65,000-80,000 miles of driving (5-7 years) to offset the carbon footprint of purchasing a new EV. But according to Carl Medlock of Seattle’s Medlock and Sons, one of the few independent Tesla repair shops in the country, you’ll have to replace that EV battery every eight years or so – at a cost of \$15,000-\$25,000.

And you would be starting the whole carbon footprint cycle all over again. Indeed, many EVs that aren’t even that old are heading for the scrapyard instead of onto a second life on the road. None of this is good news for consumers or the environment.

Perhaps this is why you can score a used EV surprisingly

cheap. Rental car company Hertz announced recently that it is selling off some 20,000 EVs from its rental fleet with prices starting at only \$20,000 for a high-mileage but well-maintained Tesla Model 3.

Hertz is also unloading Chevy Bolt EUVs starting at around \$22,500 and Tesla Model Ys for \$33,000. Hertz says it’s time to sell these cars to better balance its supply and expected demand for EVs, but analysts point to the company needing to scrap lower-margin rentals and reduce damage expenses associated with EVs. Those are much more expensive to fix after an accident or breakdown than their internal combustion counterparts.

But one can’t also wonder whether the battery replacement cost of high-mileage EVs has a bit to do with Hertz’s big sell-off now.

Nevertheless, most environmentalists remain bullish on the transition to EVs and view

these bumps in the road as opportunities to learn and improve so that someday in the not-to-distant future, we can get most of the gas-guzzling cars and trucks off the American road and power our EVs with clean, renewable energy.

**Contacts:** Minerals used in electric cars compared to conventional cars, <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/minerals-used-in-electric-cars-compared-to-conventional-cars>;

Why Tesla’s woes signal trouble for the electric car industry, <https://www.kuow.org/stories/why-tesla-s-woes-signal-trouble-for-the-electric-car-industry>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moser for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk.

See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earth-talk.org](mailto:question@earth-talk.org).



# Cold weather can still hurt

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

For a few years we only had COVID on our minds when we got sick. Now health care says it's more of a toss up now. It could be the flu, RSV, COVID or a cold. This year has brought a surge in respiratory illnesses during this winter season. The good news this year is that we have better tools to treat respiratory illnesses. We just have to use them.

More research is needed before we can fully understand the relationship between the cold weather and respiratory illnesses. But for now, there are some things you can do to help keep yourself healthy during the winter months.

- Adopt good hygiene. You can help prevent the spread of winter bugs by practicing good hygiene. Cover your hands and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the bin straightaway. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water and regularly disinfect surfaces. And avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until you've washed your hands, in case they carry any germs. If you have visitors, try to ventilate rooms before they arrive and for at least 10 minutes after you leave the room.

- Get vaccinated. You can reduce your risk of getting flu, RSV and COVID-19 if you're vaccinated against them. It's important to have the flu vaccine each year, as it changes annually to try and match the dominant type (strain) of virus for that year.

- Practice healthy habits. Living a healthy lifestyle supports your immune system and helps fight off any germs you might



come into contact with. Try to eat a healthy diet, get enough sleep, exercise regularly and don't smoke.

- Consider taking a vitamin D supplement. Your body makes most of its vitamin D from sunlight. Vitamin D is also found in oily fish, eggs, meat and fortified breakfast cereals. But during the winter months, the lack of sunlight makes it difficult for your body to make the vitamin D it needs. And not getting enough vitamin D can make your immune system more susceptible to infection. In the UK, it's recommended that all adults and children older than one should consider taking a daily supplement of 10 micrograms of vitamin D dur-

ing autumn and winter.

These viruses can cause similar symptoms, like fever and cough. It is difficult to know which infection you have. Be sure to track your symptoms so you know when to contact your doctor.

Listed below are the most common symptoms that will help you understand the similarities and the differences with these viral illnesses.

**Cold**  
Cold symptoms may come on gradually and are usually mild. Common symptoms:  
• Cough  
• Runny or stuffy nose  
• Sneezing  
• Sore throat  
Not so common:

- Chills
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever over 100 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing

**Flu**  
Flu symptoms come on suddenly and are often severe. Common symptoms:  
• Chills

- Cough
- Fatigue or weakness
- Fever over 100 degrees
- Headache
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat

Not so common:  
• Loss of taste or smell  
• Sneezing  
• Wheezing

**RSV**

RSV symptoms come on gradually. They can be severe in young children and older adults.

Common symptoms:  
• Cough  
• Fever over 100 degrees  
• Headache  
• Runny or stuffy nose  
• Sneezing  
• Sore throat  
• Wheezing

Not so common:  
• Chills

**COVID-19**  
COVID-19 symptoms come on gradually and range from mild to severe. Common symptoms:

- Chills
- Cough
- Fatigue or weakness
- Fever over 100 degrees
- Headache
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat

Not so common:  
• Wheezing

**What to do when you feel sick**

You should stay home when you feel sick to avoid spreading your infections. Cover your cough and wear a mask when you need to leave home.

If you think you have COVID-19, take a COVID-19 home antigen test when you start to feel symptoms of a respiratory infection. If you test positive, ask your doctor about COVID-19 medication.

Keep track of how you're feeling. For most healthy people, respiratory infections like the flu, RSV and COVID-19 will go away in about 7 to 10 days. If you're sick longer than 7 to 10 days, have severe symptoms, or you're at high risk for complications, contact your doctor.

Your doctor won't prescribe antibiotics for a cold or flu, as they don't work on viruses.

You can manage your or your child's symptoms by:

- Getting extra rest
- Drinking plenty of fluids
- Taking medications as prescribed

The CDC recommends isolation and quarantine guidelines for those infected with respiratory illnesses. People should be isolated from others if they test positive for a virus or if they experience symptoms without a positive test.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

## Everyday habits to help protect against illness this season

*StatePoint*

With only 8% of children and 21% of adults reporting receipt of the 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine, less than half the population reporting receipt of a flu vaccine and just 20% of adults 60 and over reporting receipt of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, it's no surprise that rates of respiratory illnesses are at elevated levels this season.

"Respiratory illness is all too common, particularly during colder months when people spend more time indoors and germs can spread more easily," says Dr. Albert Rizzo, chief medical officer, American Lung Association. "Fortunately, there are many strategies for staying healthy."

The American Lung Association is sharing everyday habits you can adopt to help avoid infection, along with information about available tools to help prevent severe illness:

- Wash your hands. Regularly wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water isn't available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your cough and sneeze. Stop the spread of infection by using a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. You can use your elbow if a tissue is not available.
- Keep your distance. Close contact with a person who is sick increases exposure to respiratory droplets containing a virus. Maintain your distance whenever possible.
- Stay home. In addition to staying home when you are sick, try your best to keep your distance from household members to help prevent them from getting sick.



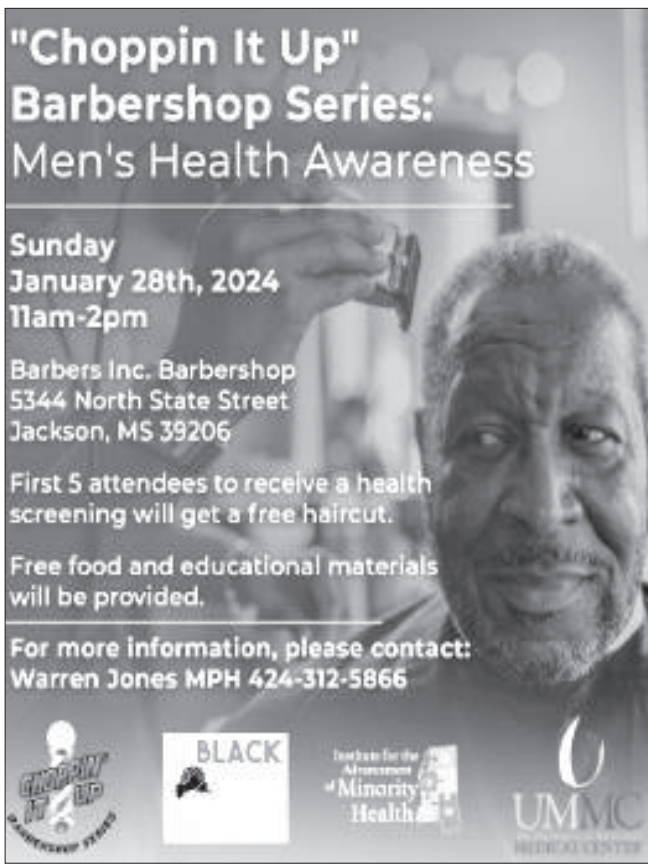
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- Clean and disinfect. When someone is sick at home, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces is especially important to help prevent the spread of illness.
- Consider wearing a mask. Wearing a mask helps provide protection against circulating viruses, and can help protect people at higher risk of serious illness. Effectiveness does vary depending on the virus and mask quality.
- Get up to date. Talk to your doctor to see if you and your family members are up to date on vaccinations. Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. RSV vaccination is recommended for adults 60 years of age and older after having a discussion with their healthcare provider. Maternal RSV vaccination is recommended as an option to help prevent babies from developing severe RSV illness and is given during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy during September through January. COVID-19 vac-

cination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older.

- Learn more about monoclonal antibodies. If you have an infant or are an expectant parent, ask your healthcare provider about a monoclonal antibody injection to help provide protection against severe RSV illness. This preventative antibody is recommended for infants under 8 months of age and babies between 8-19 months at increased risk of severe RSV.
- Get tested, if needed. If you do get sick, testing can help your healthcare provider determine which virus you have, and inform next steps such as treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider about testing right away if you get sick, especially if you are at increased risk for severe illness.
- Seek treatment. Antiviral medications available for flu and COVID-19 may lower your risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death if started early and within the recommended treatment window.

## Choppin It Up Barbershop Series prompts health awareness one cut at time



### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Choppin' It Up Barbershop Series: A Black Men's Health Awareness Event is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Barbers, Inc., Barbershop, located at 5344 North State Street, Jackson, MS.

The Choppin' It Up Barbershop Series is dedicated to promoting Black men's Health and well-being. Attendees will have access to free health screenings, informative materials, and free

food. As a special incentive, the five individuals to receive health screenings will receive a complimentary haircut.

The Choppin' It Up Barbershop Series is sponsored by the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, the Black Men's Equity Council, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

For more information, contact Warren Jones at (424) 312-5866 or via email at [wjones@advancingminorityhealth.org](mailto:wjones@advancingminorityhealth.org).





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LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development-based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on February 6, 2024.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov) and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 633 North State Street Suite 423, Jackson MS 39202

By: Pamela Scott, PhD Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services

1/11/2024 1/18/2024; 1/25/2024

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Advertisement For Bids  
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM SOLUTIONS  
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2024-01

Sealed proposal will be received by the City Clerk 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. CST, Tuesday, February 20, 2024, for Security Camera System Solutions which will function as an access control system by integrating alarm monitoring, digital video indoor and outdoor IP security cameras, ID badging, visitor badging and monitoring, and database management into a single platform for the public transportation system in the City of Jackson (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2024-01.

The term of the contract will be for three (3) years with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods by consent of both parties.

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 Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, 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.

The City of Jackson ensures that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as outlined in 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. Therefore, it is imperative that you read the DBE Section and complete the necessary paperwork in its entirety. If there is any evidence or indication that two or more bidders are in collusion to restrict competition or are otherwise engaged in anti-competitive practices, the submission of all such bidders shall be rejected, and such evidence may be cause for disqualification of the participants in any future solicitation undertaken by the City of Jackson.

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 SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM SOLUTIONS, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2024-01."

Bids, EBO and DBE 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.

Official Bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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 non-resident 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.

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.

Christine Welch, Deputy Director  
Office of Transportation

1/25/2024, 2/1/2024, 2/8/2024, 2/15/2024

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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, FEBURARY 14, 2024 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Old Business  
N/A

New Business  
CASE NO. HPNC-23-12  
LOCATION: 1442 GREYMONT ST. (PARCEL 15-143-4)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: SHARON POLLARD  
REQUEST: TO REPLACE SHAKE STYLE METAL ROOFING WITH CORRUGATED METAL ROOF.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-21  
LOCATION: 300 FARISH ST. (PARCEL 83-3-1)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH ST APPLICANT: ANDERSON ERVIN  
REQUEST: CONSTRUCT NEW TWO STORY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE AS A PERSON HOME ON PARCEL NUMBER 83-3-1. THE NEW RESIDENCE WILL MATCH THE AESTHETIC OF THE BUILDING LOCATED ON 83-3 WITH BRICK AS THE PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL FOR THE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS, ARCH WINDOWS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND A LOW SLOPED ROOF TIED TO AN INTERNAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-23  
LOCATION: 205 N LAMAR ST UNIT 15. (PARCEL 84-13-2)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH ST APPLICANT: KIMBERLY VIVERETTE  
REQUEST: INSTALL RAYNOR ALUMNA VIEW AV300 GARAGE DOOR STYLE WINDOWS ON EXISTING STRUCTURE. THIS REQUEST IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH CASE# HPNC-22-34.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-25  
LOCATION: 760 ARLINGTON ST. (PARCEL 12-67)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: LOUIS WILKINSON  
REQUEST: REBUILD SINGLE CAR GARAGE THAT WAS DESTROYED BY A FALLEN TREE.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-27  
LOCATION: 1836 LYNCREST AVE. (PARCEL 9-88)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: MARCUS SANDERS  
REQUEST: REPLACE ROTTING SIDING WITH NEW SIDING CALLED LP SMARTSIDE. IT LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE THE EXISTING MATERIAL BUT IT LASTS LONGER WITH VERY LITTLE MAINTENANCE.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-28  
LOCATION: 1746 MYRTLE ST. (PARCEL 9-210-1)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: SYLVESTER HUNTER  
REQUEST: FULL RESTORATION OF HOME AND REAR GARAGE.

CASE NO. HPNC-24-1  
LOCATION: 1227 RIVERSIDE DR. (PARCEL 10-17)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: RODNEY BOYKIN  
REQUEST: RENOVATING HOME AND INSTALING A NEW WINDOW IN A NEWLY EXPANDED BATHROOM AND REPLACING AN ALUMNINUM SLIDING GLASS DOOR.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
VOTE FOR CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND SECRETARY.  
ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETING TIME FOR THE HP COMMISSION.

ADJOURNMENT

1/25/2024, 2/1/2024

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-62 OF THE JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances establishes locations and schedules of the Jackson City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the current guidelines and requirements establishing locations and schedules of the Jackson City Council meetings, as set forth in Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, is as follows:

(a) Place of meetings. Unless notice to the contrary is given, all meetings of the city council shall be held in the council chamber. Certified, sworn law enforcement officers shall be present at the public entry doors of the council chamber before, during, and after regular and special called meetings of the council to ensure the safety of all in attendance. Attendance of individuals at regular and special called meetings of the council shall be limited to 20 persons, with the exception of council members, as well as members of the administration, members of the office of the clerk of council, and/or city staff.

(b) Regular meetings. Regular meetings of the council shall be held on every other Tuesday. The regular meeting times shall be held at 10:00 a.m. At 4:00 p.m. on each Monday preceding a regular Tuesday council meeting, the council will also hold a planning session to discuss the business to be considered at the following regular Tuesday council meeting. The planning session shall be limited to one and one-half hours.

(c) Zoning meetings. Zoning cases to be considered by the city council shall be heard 42 days after the planning board makes its recommendation to the city council.

(d) Special meetings. Special meetings of the council may be called at any time by the mayor or a majority of the members of the council. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in City Hall. When possible, special meetings are to be held on those Mondays that do not precede a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday. Such notice shall include the time, place and general subject matter of such meetings. Members of the council shall be notified in the most expedient manner available, whether in writing or not; provided, however, that where possible the clerk shall give council members 24 hours' notice of such meetings. The 24-hour notice may be waived by the council when the council deems that an adequate notice has been given and when a quorum is present at the special meeting.

(e) Committee meetings. Committee meetings may be called at any time by the chair of the committee, upon 48 hours' notice of the same to all council committee members. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in city hall.

(f) Citizens' Agenda Meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the council chamber. At this time, the city council will entertain public comments unrelated to items found on the regular council agenda, proclamations, special presentations, commendations, and resolutions honoring individuals, businesses, groups, or organizations. The city council may call a Citizens' Agenda Meeting on dates and at times and locations set by a majority of the members of the council. During this Citizens' Agenda Meeting, members of the public may be permitted to give comment or input within the prescribed time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker. Prospective speakers at this special called meeting must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding the special called meeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. At any Citizens' Agenda Meeting, the city council may take such action as is appropriate under the circumstances on any matter found on the agenda for that meeting. The agenda for the Citizens' Agenda Meeting shall give notice that official action may be taken on matters found on the agenda.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall be amended to establish the locations and schedules for meetings of the Jackson City Council as follows:

(a) Place of meetings. Unless notice to the contrary is given, all meetings of the city council shall be held in the council chamber. Certified, sworn law enforcement officers shall be

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ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, DIVISION 2 OF THE JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2.63 of the Jackson Code of Ordinances, establishes the deadline for all agenda items to be submitted to the City Clerk; and WHEREAS, Section 2-63 currently states:

Matters may be placed on the agenda by:

- (1) Members of the council;
- (2) The mayor;
- (3) The city attorney; and
- (4) The directors of departments.

All matters to be considered at a regular council meeting shall be submitted to the city clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the regular meeting. Unanimous vote of the members present shall be required to consider any item not on the regular agenda. The clerk shall arrange a list of matters according to the order of business established in section 2-64 and furnish each council member, the mayor and the city attorney a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting.

All items placed on the agenda for discussion may remain on the agenda for a maximum of four consecutive council meetings. After four consecutive council meetings, the discussion item shall be removed from the agenda, and shall not be placed on the agenda again until a period of 90 [days] has passed.

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that Section 2-63 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances should be amended to change the current deadline of 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday preceding the regular council meeting and all matters shall be approved by 12:00 noon on Wednesday; and THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY the City Council of City of Jackson, Mississippi; Section 1. That Section 2-63 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson is hereby amended to read as follows:

Matters may be placed on the agenda by:

- (1) (1 Members of the council;
- (2) The mayor;
- (3) The city attorney; and
- (4) The directors of departments

All matters to be considered at a regular council meeting shall be submitted to the Clerk of Council no later than 3:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the regular meeting and shall be approved no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Unanimous vote of the members present shall be required to consider any item not on the regular agenda. The clerk shall arrange a list of matters according to the order of business established in section 2-64 and furnish each council member, the mayor and the city attorney a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting.

All items placed on the agenda for discussion may remain on the agenda for a maximum of four consecutive council meetings. After four consecutive council meetings, the discussion item shall be removed from the agenda, and shall not be placed on the agenda again until a period of 90 [days] has passed.

Section 2. That this Ordinance shall be in force and effective thirty (30) days after the adoption of this ordinance and publication.  
President Banks moved adoption; Council Member Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting January 3, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pgs. 669-670".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of January, 2024.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/25/2024

LEGAL

present at the public entry doors of the council chamber before, during, and after regular and special called meetings of the council to ensure the safety of all in attendance. Attendance of individuals at regular and special called meetings of the council shall be limited to 20 persons, with the exception of council members, as well as members of the administration, members of the office of the clerk of council, and/or city staff.

(b) Regular meetings. Regular meetings of the council shall be held on every other Tuesday. The regular meeting times shall be held at 10:00 a.m. At 4:00 p.m. on each Monday preceding a regular Tuesday council meeting, the council will also hold a planning session to discuss the business to be considered at the following regular Tuesday council meeting. The planning session shall be limited to one and one-half hours.

(c) Zoning meetings. Zoning cases to be considered by the city council shall be heard 42 days after the planning board makes its recommendation to the city council.

(d) Special meetings. Special meetings of the council may be called at any time by the mayor or a majority of the members of the council. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in City Hall. When possible, special meetings are to be held on those Mondays that do not precede a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday. Such notice shall include the time, place and general subject matter of such meetings. Members of the council shall be notified in the most expedient manner available, whether in writing or not; provided, however, that where possible the clerk shall give council members 24 hours' notice of such meetings. The 24-hour notice may be waived by the council when the council deems that an adequate notice has been given and when a quorum is present at the special meeting.

(e) Committee meetings. Committee meetings may be called at any time by the chair of the committee, upon 48 hours' notice of the same to all council committee members. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in city hall.

(f) Citizens' Agenda Meetings will be held quarterly on the last Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the council chamber. At this time, the city council will entertain proclamations, special presentations, commendations, and resolutions honoring individuals, businesses, groups, or organizations. The city council may call a Citizens' Agenda Meeting on dates and at times and locations set by a majority of the members of the council. At any Citizens' Agenda Meeting, the city council may take such action as is appropriate under the circumstances on any matter found on the agenda for that meeting. The agenda for the Citizens' Agenda Meeting shall give notice that official action may be taken on matters found on the agenda.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that this Ordinance Amending Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended.  
Council Member Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.  
Nays – Stokes.  
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting January 3, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pgs. 672-674".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of January, 2024.

1/25/2024





LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI RE-ENACTING JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE II SECTIONS 86-51 THROUGH 86-62.

WHEREAS, the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Jackson shall be considered by this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the re-enactment of the “City of Jackson Curfew Ordinance” is made necessary and has been overwhelmingly desired by the citizens of the City of Jackson because of a rise in the incidents of crimes, including, violence, robberies, and murders allegedly being committed by a growing number of youth in the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council proactively legislates this re-enactment of the Curfew Ordinance as a preemptive step to prevent the escalation of the acts of crime and violence allegedly being committed by a growing number of youth in the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the “City of Jackson Curfew Ordinance” is hereby re-enacted as follows:

[ARTICLE II. CURFEW]

Sec. 86-51. Short title to article.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the “City of Jackson Curfew Ordinance.” (Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-52. Purpose and findings of article.

The City Council of the City of Jackson has determined that juveniles have been congregating in the city causing general disturbances to residents, and contributing to an excessive number of incidents of drug and alcohol related crimes, thefts, homicides and assaults, including a high percentage of crimes committed by and against juveniles; and

The City Council of the City of Jackson finds and determines that special and extenuating circumstances presently exist within this city that call for special regulation of minors within the city in order to protect them from each other and from other persons on the street during the nocturnal hours, to aid in crime prevention, to promote parental supervision and authority over minors, and to decrease juvenile crime rates; and

In accordance with the prevailing community standards, this article serves to regulate the conduct of juveniles on streets during evening hours, and those hours prohibited by the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law; to be effectively and consistently enforced for the protection of the juveniles in Jackson from each other and from other persons on the streets during nocturnal hours; to support parental control, authority, and responsibility for their children; to protect the public from nocturnal mischief by juveniles; to reduce the incidents of juvenile criminal activity; to further family responsibility; and to promote the public good, safety, and welfare.

After further review and continuing evaluation of this article, the City Council finds that there is continued justification for the purposes and findings herein to reinstate the curfew ordinance, as well as to extend the period of restrictions to coincide with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-53. Definitions.

For purpose of this article, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular, and words in the singular number include the plural. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely discretionary or suggestive.

City is the City of Jackson, Mississippi, with administrative offices at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017.

Compulsory school age child is a child who has attained or will attain the age of five years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not reached his/her 18th birthday on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

Establishment means any privately-owned place of business operated for a profit to which the public is invited, including but not limited to any place of amusement or entertainment.

Minor or juvenile is any unemancipated person who has not reached his/her 18th birthday.

Parent is any person having legal custody of a minor:

- (1) As a natural or adoptive parent;
- (2) As a legal guardian; or
- (3) As a person to whom legal custody has been given by court order.

Police department shall refer to the police department headquarters located at 327 E. Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, or any officially designated precinct of the police department.

Remain means to linger, to tarry, and to stay unnecessarily upon the streets, including the congregating of groups (or of interacting minors) totaling four or more persons in which any minor involved would not be using the streets for ordinary or serious purposes such as mere passage or going home.

Street is a way or place, of whatever nature, open to the use of the public as a matter of right for purposes of vehicular travel or in the case a sidewalk thereof, for pedestrian travel. The term street includes the legal right-of-way, including, but not limited to, the traffic lanes, the curb, the sidewalks, whether paved or unpaved, and any grass, plots or other grounds found within the legal right-of-way of the street. The term “street” applies irrespective of what is called or formerly named, whether alley, avenue, court, road, dedicated or otherwise.

Time of night referred to herein is based upon the prevailing standard of time, whether central standard time or central daylight savings time, generally observed at that hour by the public in the city, prima facie the time when observed in the city administrative offices and police department.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-54. Restrictions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any minor who has not reached his/her 18th birthday to remain in or upon any public street, highway, park, vacant lot, establishment or other public place within the city during the following periods:

10:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 a.m. Monday  
10:00 p.m. Monday to 6:00 a.m. Tuesday  
10:00 p.m. Tuesday to 6:00 a.m. Wednesday  
10:00 p.m. Wednesday to 6:00 a.m. Thursday  
10:00 p.m. Thursday to 6:00 a.m. Friday  
12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 6:00 a.m. Saturday  
12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 6:00 a.m. Sunday

(b) It shall be unlawful for any compulsory school age child to remain in or upon any public street, highway, park, vacant lot, establishment or other place within the city during the following periods:

(1) 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school term in which such compulsory school age child is to be enrolled in a public, private, or legitimate nonpublic school, as required by the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law.

(2) Any minor who shall violate any of the provisions of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law shall be dealt with according to the youth court laws of the State of Mississippi and in accordance with the directives of the youth court of Hinds County, Mississippi, or such other court as shall have jurisdiction over said minor.

(c) It shall further be unlawful for a parent of a minor to knowingly permit, or by inefficient control to allow, such minor to be or remain upon any street or establishment under circumstances not constituting an exception to, or otherwise beyond the scope of, this article as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) herein. The term “knowingly” includes knowledge that a parent should reasonably be expected to have concerning the whereabouts of a minor in that parent’s legal custody. It is intended to hold neglectful or careless parents to a reasonable community standard of parental responsibility through an objective test. It shall be no defense that a parent was completely indifferent to the activities or conduct or whereabouts of such minor child.

(d) The owner, operator, or any employee of an establishment commits an offense if he knowingly allows a minor to remain upon the premises of the establishment during curfew hours as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) herein, or fails to make a reasonable effort to report any such violation to the proper authorities including but not limited to, advising the child to leave and contact the Jackson Police Department.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-55. Exceptions.

The following shall constitute valid exceptions to the operation of the curfew:

(1) At any time, a minor is accompanied by his or her parent;

(2) When accompanied by an adult authorized by a parent of a minor to take said parent’s place in accompanying the minor for a designated period of time and definite purpose within a specified area;

(3) Until the hour of 12:30 a.m. if the minor is on errand as directed by his or her parent;

(4) If the minor is legally employed, for the period from 45 minutes before to 45 minutes after work, while going directly between his or her home and place of employment. This exception shall also apply if the minor is in a public place during curfew hours in the course of his or her employment. To come within this exception, the police officer shall dispatch communications to contact the minor’s employer for verification of employment;

(5) Until the hour of 12:30 a.m. if the minor is on the property of or on the sidewalk directly adjacent to the place where such minor resides or the place immediately adjacent

thereto if the owner of the adjacent building does not communicate an objection to the minor and the police officer;

(6) When returning home by a direct route from (and within 30 minutes of the termination of) a school activity or an activity of a religious or other voluntary association, or special event as defined and regulated in the “City of Jackson Special Events Ordinance;”

(7) In the case of reasonable necessity, but only after a minor’s parent has communicated to police department personnel the facts establishing such reasonable necessity relating to specified streets at a designated time for a defined purpose, including place of origin and destination. A copy of such communication, or the police record thereof duly certified by the chief of police to be correct, and appropriate notation of the time it was received and of the names and addresses of such parent and minor, shall constitute evidence of qualification under this exception;

(8) When a minor is, with parental consent, in a motor vehicle engaged in bona fide interstate travel through the city particularly on Interstate 55, 20 and 220 and all access roads to these interstate systems, including all interstate travel beginning or ending in the city.

(9) Each of the foregoing exceptions, and their several limitations, are severable. (Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-56. Violations.

(a) From 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday during the school term, a police officer of the city who has probable cause to believe that a minor is in violation of this article shall:

(1) Stop and ascertain the name and address of the minor, and the school the minor attends;

(2) Report to communications so that communications personnel can make every reasonable effort to contact the appropriate school representative to confirm the minor’s enrollment; and

(3) The officer shall make every reasonable effort to transport the minor to the appropriate school; or if the minor has been suspended or if the minor’s school cannot be ascertained, then the officer, through communications personnel, shall make every reasonable effort to contact the minor’s parent. If the minor’s parent is unavailable, the officer shall transport the minor to the Henley-Young Juvenile Detention Center, where a Mississippi Department of Education representative will attempt to continue to contact the minor’s parents.

(b) Between the hours of:

10:00 p.m. Sunday to 6:00 a.m. Monday;  
10:00 p.m. Monday to 6:00 a.m. Tuesday;  
10:00 p.m. Tuesday to 6:00 a.m. Wednesday;  
10:00 p.m. Wednesday to 6:00 a.m. Thursday;  
10:00 p.m. Thursday to 6:00 a.m. Friday;  
12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 6:00 a.m. Saturday; and  
12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 6:00 a.m. Sunday;

A police officer of the city who has probable cause to believe that a minor is in violation of this article shall:

(1) Stop and ascertain the name and address of the minor;

(2) Report to communications so that communications personnel can make every reasonable effort to contact the minor’s parent and transport the minor to his/her parent; or

(3) If the minor’s parent is unavailable, the police officer shall transport the minor to the Henley-Young Juvenile Detention Center until the minor’s parent or proper authorities are contacted.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, a police officer who has probable cause to believe that the minor is in violation of this article and has engaged in misdemeanor or felonious conduct, and if reasonable grounds exist to believe the minor has engaged in said delinquent conduct, the officer shall follow normal police procedure and transport the minor to the police department and place the minor in the Henley-Young Juvenile Detention Center.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, when a minor is detained, the minor’s parent shall be immediately contacted. If, after this contact, there is still probable cause to believe that the minor was violating this article, the minor shall be held until the parent comes to retrieve minor. When the parent arrives, he or she shall be given a copy of this article. If no parent arrives within a reasonable time to retrieve the minor, then the minor shall be turned over to the custody of the local juvenile authorities until a parent can take custody of the minor.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-57. Penalties.

(a) Whenever a minor is transported to the Henley-Young Juvenile Detention Center for violation of this article under subsection (b), the minor’s parent shall be issued a written warning. For a second parental offense, a parent shall be fined \$25.00. For each subsequent offense by a parent, the fine shall be increased by an additional \$25.00, e.g. \$50.00 for third, \$75.00 for the fourth offense.

(b) The owner, operator, or any employee of an establishment violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined \$100.00 for a first offense. For each subsequent offense by an owner, operator, or employee of an establishment, the fine shall be increased by an additional \$50.00.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-58. Construction and severability.

Severability is intended throughout and within the provisions of this article. If any section of this article is determined to be voided or invalid, the validity of article’s remainder shall not be affected thereby. The city council does not intend to violate the Constitution of the State of Mississippi or the Constitution of the United States of America in the implementation of this article.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-59. Continuing evaluation.

The city council will continue its evaluation and updating of this article through methods including, but not limited to, at the end of each school year, after the implementation of this article, the chief of police shall provide the city council with a report concerning the effect of this article on crimes committed by and against minors, and of the number of warnings issued and arrests of minors and parents or legal guardians hereunder, and such other information as the city council may request.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-60. Expiration (“sunset provision”).

This article shall expire and shall be null and void on January 3, 2025. This provision is included herein to ensure that the effectiveness and necessity of the article will be reviewed by the city council within a reasonable time after its adoption.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-61. Notice.

The city clerk shall provide notice of this article and of the curfew regulations established herein by having copies of the article posted in, on, or about such public or quasi-public places as may be determined by the mayor, city council, and police department so that the public may be constantly informed of the existence of the article and its amendments and regulations.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Sec. 86-62. Cumulative nature of article.

This article shall be cumulative and in addition to any other laws and regulations in force.

(Ord. No. 2007-25(7), § 1, 8-9-07; Ord. No. 2008-16(6), § 1, 5-20-08)

Secs. 86-63—86-85. Reserved.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby re-enacts Jackson, Mississippi, Code of Ordinances, Article II Sections 86-51 through 86-62.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Council Member Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting January 3, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book “6Y, Pgs. 643-654”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of January 2024.

SEAL

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/25/2024

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-71(c) OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2-71(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances establishes guidelines and requirements regarding speaking limitations, public comments, and council chamber conduct during meetings of the Jackson City Council; and

WHEREAS, the current guidelines and requirements regarding speaking limitations, public comments, and council chamber conduct during meetings, as set forth in Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, is as follows:

(a) No member of the council shall be permitted to speak more than once on any subject, until all members desiring to speak have spoken. A member may not speak more than five minutes without obtaining the consent of the council, by majority vote.

(b) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any item on the agenda for that meeting must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding the regular or special calledmeeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. The number of instances allowed for public comment on an item on the agenda (whether by individuals, organizations, or other entities) during a regular or special called meeting of the Jackson City Council is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When recognized by the president, such person may speak only once with reference to any agenda item and for a portion of the time not to exceed three minutes, unless such period of time is extended by a majority vote of the council. Such public comments will be received prior to the consideration of ordinances, orders, or resolutions.

(c) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any matter which is not on the agenda must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding a special called meeting referred to as a “Citizen Agenda Meeting”, to be held on the Thursday after the last Council meeting of the Month, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the subject matter with reference to which he wishes to address the council. The number of instances allowed for public comment on an item not on the agenda (whether by individuals, organizations, or other entities) during this special called meeting, is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When recognized by the president, such person may speak only once with reference to such matter and for a period of time not to exceed three minutes, unless such period of time is extended by a majority of the council. Such public comments will be received by the city council immediately prior to its adjournment and at the conclusion of all other city business.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions, no person shall address the council with reference to any personnel matter during any open meeting of the city council.

(e) No derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chamber shall be permitted. The president shall suspend irrelevant speaking. A majority of the members of the council have the right to suspend irrelevant speaking at any council meeting.

(f) Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chambers, or who uses abusive, vulgar, or profane language, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the council shall be forthwith, by the presiding officer or the clerk of council, barred from further audience before the council and/or barred from council chambers, unless permission to continue or stay be granted by a majority vote of the council.

(g) The usage of cellular phones and paging devices shall be prohibited within the council chambers during council meetings. All such devices within the council chambers shall be placed on silence or vibrator mode during council meetings. The city clerk shall place signs within city hall notifying the public of said rule. Any person violating said rule shall first receive a verbal warning from the presiding officer; upon any additional violations, the presiding officer may bar the person from the remainder of the council meeting for which he is in violation, and the person shall be required to place all cellular phones and paging devices with city hall security prior to entering any city council meeting.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall be amended to establish the speaking limitations, public comments, and council chamber conduct for meetings of the Jackson City Council as follows:

(a) No member of the council shall be permitted to speak more than once on any subject, until all members desiring to speak have spoken. A member may not speak more than five minutes without obtaining the consent of the council, by majority vote.

(b) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any item on the agenda for that meeting must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding the regular or special called meeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. The number of instances allowed for public comment on an item on the agenda (whether by individuals, organizations, or other entities) during a regular or special called meeting of the Jackson City Council is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When recognized by the president, such person may speak only once with reference to any agenda item and for a portion of the time not to exceed three minutes, unless such period of time is extended by a majority vote of the council. Such public comments will be received prior to the consideration of ordinances, orders, or resolutions.

(c) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any matter which is not on the agenda must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding a regular or special called meeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the subject matter with reference to which he wishes to address the council. The number of instances allowed for public comment on an item not on the agenda (whether by individuals, organizations, or other entities) during a regular or special called meeting of the Jackson City Council is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When recognized by the president, such person may speak only once with reference to such matter and for a period of time not to exceed three minutes, unless such period of time is extended by a majority of the council. Such public comments will be received prior to the consideration of ordinances, orders, or resolutions.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions, no person shall address the council with reference to any personnel matter during any open meeting of the city council.

(e) No derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chamber shall be permitted. The president shall suspend irrelevant speaking. A majority of the members of the council have the right to suspend irrelevant speaking at any council meeting.

(f) Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chambers, or who uses abusive, vulgar, or profane language, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the council shall be forthwith, by the presiding officer or the clerk of council, barred from further audience before the council and/or barred from council chambers, unless permission to continue or stay be granted by a majority vote of the council.

(g) The usage of cellular phones and paging devices shall be prohibited within the council chambers during council meetings. All such devices within the council chambers shall be placed on silence or vibrator mode during council meetings. The clerk of Council shall place signs within city hall notifying the public of said rule. Any person violating said rule shall first receive a verbal warning from the presiding officer; upon any additional violations, the presiding officer may bar the person from the remainder of the council meeting for which he is in violation, and the person shall be required to place all cellular phones and paging devices with city hall security prior to entering any city council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that this Ordinance Amending Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended.

President Banks moved adoption; Council Member Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting January 3, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book “6Y, Pgs. 670-672”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of January 2024.

SEAL

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/25/2024

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## Too early to tell if NIL agreements will create an uneven system in college athletics

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.D.  
President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio



If you were blessed to have gone to college on an athletic scholarship, then you didn't have to worry about student loans. You didn't have to go to the bursar's office to work out a payment plan. The heavy lifting created by inadequate finances was not a part of your college experience.

You saw some of your college friends leaving campus because they didn't have enough money. Those that had athletic scholarships made full use of them to graduate from college.

I enjoyed my time as a stu-

dent-athlete. Upon reflection, I didn't feel any pressure to win. I simply did my part as a good teammate and conducted myself well when I was not competing.

Back in the day, the rules were simple. Excelling both academically and athletically were the key components to success.

Having good grades was important. Without them, you couldn't maintain your eligibility which put your athletic scholarship in jeopardy.

There weren't any add-ons to your scholarship. Of course, that was yesterday. Today is quite different.

A breakthrough in college athletics has been NIL (name, image and likeness) agree-

ments. Since 2021, these agreements have become more widespread and are quite lucrative for college student-athletes.

If you have been designated as a top-tier athlete, then you will probably get some type of NIL agreement. As a result, some student-athletes will become millionaires before they leave school.

I am happy for them yet there are some questions that are popping up about NIL agreements. One question is how these agreements will be legislated. At this time, there doesn't seem to be any legislation associated with NIL agreements.

I suspect it will not be long before the NCAA and/or Congress step in to review the structure of these agreements

and to implement some type of checks and balance system.

Some critics are thinking that there will be some athletes that get them and choose not to pursue a professional sports career. Of course, purists will say that going to the professional ranks is considered the pinnacle of sports achievement. We will just have to see the options that become available.

Another question hovering in the student-athlete air space is about attaining a college degree. Is that still important?

In days gone by, college student-athletes did get their college degrees. They didn't go to school with the primary goal of going to the professional ranks. Has it changed? The answer is no! According to the standard

federal graduation rate, 69% of Division I student-athletes graduate within 6 years. Less than 2% of NCAA student-athletes go on to play professional sports.

Will these NIL agreements play some role in the graduation numbers in the future. This topic is sure to garner a lot of debate and questions.

Records will show that most NIL agreements are with student-athletes who play basketball and football. What about student-athletes who play other sports? Current records show that Emily Cole, (Duke University\track and field), Livvy Dunne, (LSU\gymnastics), Xolani Hodel (Stanford University\ women's beach volleyball) and Reilyn Turner, (UCLA\women's

soccer) have NIL agreements.

It is my prediction that college student-athletes in sports will eventually get these agreements. There are some old school athletic folks who believe that NIL agreements might impact on field and on court performance. NIL agreements are still relatively new so there will be some tweaks and adjustments to them.

There will be plenty of conversations about what is best for student-athletes. I believe it will be vitally important to have them at the decision-making table. They must have a seat at the table and voices that must be heard.

Stay tuned because in 2024 because there are still many more questions than answers.

## People, politics, primaries and results

By Dr. John Warren  
Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint  
Newspaper



Now that the New Year is fully underway, MLK celebrations are over and Black History is on the horizon, let us not forget that the "Political Season" is also upon us with primaries and special elections.

While conservative White America has reviewed that racism is more important than law and democracy, through the Iowa caucuses overwhelming endorsement of Donald Trump for another term as President of the United States, alarms should be sounding for those of us who still believe that Joe Biden is the lawful President of the United States and that Donald Trump is both dangerous and should probably be in jail as well as bared under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, from running for office again.

Let's be very clear. America is in a crisis of leadership and laws. The caucuses and primaries will determine which candidate receives the required number of delegate votes by the time of the party conventions to

compete for the presidency under our two party system.

With the high frustration with Biden over the border crisis and unrelated influx of migrants, more people could be encouraged to vote for Trump just to close the borders. Instead of complaining about the failure of the Republicans in the House and Senate to act on border legislation, Biden could order federal troops to close the entire border until such legislative action is taken. He could also federalize the National Guard in Texas, taking authority for their use away from the governor who has used them to lock out federal border agents seeking to deal with migrants.

Biden could also take a firm stance with Israel on the Palestinian crisis in Gaza and he needs to find a way to help Ukraine so that Russia does not win this war outright.

The frustration with Biden and Trump, could lead to a third party candidate which would all but guarantee that Trump would be elected, whether or not he gets the "orange jumpsuit" that will come with a conviction if he loses in Federal Court.

In California, we are just a little over 40 days away from our state primary and other state primaries

follow. Every ballot position is important from local city council seats to the state, U.S. House of Representatives positions and White House. Now is the time to determine if the candidates who are promising to solve all our problems, line up with our personal needs and interests.

Are you registered to vote? Do you remember Dr. King's 1957 speech in which he said "Give us the ballot and we will elect the people needed" or do you remember the struggle for both the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act and the price for those freedoms? Well, now let's pay up with the use of our rights to vote; with the use of our ability to examine the issues and the ability to see that America is truly divided by race and color and that to a minority of Whites, the fear of race is greater than the respect for the Constitution and the laws we agreed to live by.

The failure to register and vote is like expecting to win the lottery without buying a lottery ticket.

Let's not vote personalities like the Iowa caucuses did. Let's look toward the much needed results and put pressure on both the parties and the people that we think can save America and our allies.

## A married couple who has fun together stays together

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Tips for a Good Marriage



I meet many people in the gym where my family works out but there is one couple who stands out the most to me. I admire this elderly couple

dearly and can't help but to observe their healthy interactions with one another. In fact, I've purposefully observed them for months as a means of motivation, encouragement and guidance for our marriage.

Also, observing this cute couple helps get me through the tedious time of walking, water aerobics, etc. Although, slightly limited in their mobility; they do all of their exercise routines together. They both first walk together slowly and talk for the entire duration, then the wife sits down while her husband strolls around the track. However, they lock eyes with one another every now and then for reassurance and he provides her periodical updates as to when he will be finished. Their few minutes apart appear to be a lifetime as she waits on her husband. He motions to stop walking – grabs her hand and they walk around the track for the last mile before starting water aerobics. It's too sweet; they do this every day, at least when I am there.

I eventually had the nerves to talk to this couple. They were eager to entertain my questions. I realized as I was talking – the husband couldn't hear well, so the wife graciously repeated most of what I stated and asked. I informed them of how I admired their union from a distance and asked them to share any marriage advice they had. One of the questions I asked was how long had they been married and they expressed that they had been married over 40 years (I believe 47 years, if I am not mistaken).

They were still smiling at each other after over 40 years of marriage. So I asked what was their secret to a long marriage. The husband gave an immediate answer without his wife having to repeat my question. He responded, "We have had fun together for 40 years plus and my wife is terrific." Of course, this blew my mind away (I was like Shanaynay from the Martin Lawrence sitcom – Oh My Goodness – Oh My Goodness – my head started to shake just like Shanaynay's but of course I kept my posture as I was standing before this very accomplished couple.

I've asked many successful couples this question and most share that the secret of having happiness and longevity in marriage is communication and compromise, with which I completely agree. However, I had never had one couple express that having fun kept them happily married. It was absolutely refreshing

and precious to talk to this special couple.

Do couples who spend quality time with each other, privately and publicly, while engaging in some sort of fun and relaxing activities, stay together? According to the Marriage.com website, there are various play activities that you and your boo can do together. 1. Intentional activities – scheduled into your days, weeks, months, and so on – watching a tv show, weekend getaways, learning a new hobby together, etc., 2. Everyday activities – Inject some fun and relaxation into daily chores – like organize the pantry together – anything that involves both of you working together at home, 3. Flexible activities – in your free time – spontaneously cook dinner together, play a video game together, or clean the washroom together – fun things can happen in the washroom...

The Marriage.com websites also list the following top ten reasons why couples who play (actively expressing love for one another) together stay together:

- It can sort of renew your marriage
- Reduces boredom and monotony in marriage
- Enhances communication
- Improves trust
- Increases happiness
- Generates positive emotions as a couple
- Create positive memories together
- Concept of compromising becomes easier to understand
- Triggers sexual intimacy of a couple
- Helps couples develop their traditions.

In conclusion, I challenge you and your boo to invest in your marriage by becoming intentional about having fun together. What if adding some good fun to your marriage can be the difference between a separation and divorce? What if adding some fun can promote a healthy and happy long marriage? Don't knock it until you try it.

Having fun together does not have to be expensive – only requires two people who love one another creatively thinking on how to add some fun to your marriage. Afterall, a married couple who has fun together stays together.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 874-6176.

## This new year, don't crush American innovation

By Brian O' Shaughnessy  
IP Transactions and Licensing Group



Federal officials may soon decide to give away key domestic assets – American intellectual property – to our rivals. This will have profound and dangerous consequences for U.S. workers and our economy.

At issue is a proposal before the World Trade Organization. It would waive patent protections for COVID-19 tests and treatments, which would normally be guaranteed around the world under the 1995 Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, or TRIPS.

The WTO already approved one TRIPS waiver – with support from the United States – for COVID-19 vaccines in June 2022. Advocates for that waiver, primarily China and India, claimed that, by rejecting patent rights and allowing others to make copycat versions of vaccines, the waiver would make vaccines more readily available around the world.

However, as of right now, more than enough vaccines have been

made and distributed to inoculate the entire global population – without anyone ever relying on the IP waiver.

Companies such as Pfizer and Merck made their innovations available to qualified generic manufacturers, thereby expanding access to those products in low- and middle-income countries.

Today, largely due to these voluntary licensing agreements, and the end of the pandemic, the global supply of diagnostics and therapeutics actually exceeds demand.

In other words, if the Biden administration decides to support an expansion of the TRIPS waiver it will send a clear signal to American innovators and investors that research and development in healthcare is not valued and cannot reliably be protected.

Consider the jobs created by research and development at life science companies. The U.S. biopharmaceutical industry supports more than 4.4 million jobs. In total, our life sciences companies and their partners contribute more than \$1.4 trillion in economic output.

Without robust protection of intellectual property, investment in

American research and development will decline. Those jobs and associated economic success stories will begin to disappear.

Skill sets will wither, and capital will flow to other markets. Ironically, to markets that have seen the historic success of our IP system and have imitated it. As our reversal only weakens our innovation ecosystem, theirs will get stronger.

One of the waiver's principal sponsors, China, has a well-documented history of IP theft to support its domestic industry, and to lure talent and investment away from the United States.

Put simply, the Biden administration has an obligation to protect the fruits of American innovation – for the sake of our technological and economic interests, our labor force and for global health.

Brian O' Shaughnessy is chair of the IP Transactions and Licensing Group of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, and a past president of the Licensing Executives Society (USA & Canada), Inc. He also serves as chair of the Bayh-Dole Coalition Board of Directors.



P R E S E R V E D

# Presence of your enemies

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“I am so ready to leave Dallas – Fort Worth” were words I shouted in frustration nearly 20 years ago. I was having a particularly difficult time financially, hated my job, had lost friends and a romantic relationship had just ended. I was ready for a new start and figured with all of the seemingly bad things happening that God was showing me that it was time to move somewhere else. But the more I planned to leave, the more I felt like I was stuck in Texas. The jobs that I applied for in these other places didn’t work out. It seemed like the more I tried to plan my exit, the more things kept pointing at me staying here. And I was not happy about it.

Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation where you wanted to leave, quit, or just be somewhere else? So many of us may have felt like that now with the isolation and uncertainty of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities that you hoped would work out for you may have led to yet another dead end; or worse, left you feeling frustrated and even forsaken by God. Fortunately, I’ve found myself in that situation more than once. I say fortunately and not unfortunately because I’ve learned that it is during those times when I felt the most vulnerable, forgotten, and isolated that God was working the hardest for me and with me. For example, seeking answers to questions like “why am I still here?” made my prayers more vigilant and focused. Sometimes when we ask that question of ‘why’ – God

allows us to remain in an unbearable situation (like a job, relationship or church that we don’t like), we rationalize it by saying that God wants us to learn something at that level in preparation for the next level of our lives. But sometimes it’s for an even more fascinating reason: He wants those who mistreat us, talk badly about us, or seek to harm us to see how much He loves us. Psalms 23:5 paints a picture of what that looks like: “You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.” It could be that God allows us to remain in those difficult situations because he wants us to develop an unshakeable trust in Him and the promises in His word. Having conversations with others who have experienced this same thing also makes me won-

der if sometimes God allows us to remain in certain uncomfortable circumstances because he wants those who seek to harm us, damage our reputations, and question our spiritual integrity to see how much God can bless us. Like David who wrote Psalm 23 and suffered greatly at the hands of close friends and enemies, it could be that keeping you in a tough situation isn’t about you but about others who are watching how you go through: will it be as one who blesses God or one who bitterly complains? Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

# Be not conformed to this World

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



Something else that you need to drive out is worldly pleasures and worldly apparel that are not conducive to Christianity. The scripture says not to be conformed to this world. You have to stand against it. You may say, “Well, I will look like a square.” In whose eyes will you look that way? In God’s eyes or in the world’s eyes? People seem to care more about what the world thinks about them than what God thinks about them. I could care less what the world thinks. I want to please God. You may ask, “what is worldly attire? It is split skirts and tight clothing that lures the opposite sex to have the wrong thoughts. If you dress that way, you will be held accountable for it. You need to dress right, act right and sit right. First Timothy 2:9 says that women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel. Worldly apparel is a stronghold, and it will vex you. Christian young people need to watch who they date and who they marry. As a Christian, if

you date and marry an unsaved person, you are overstepping the Word of God. The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 7:39, talking about the wife, “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” Another translation says, “... provided the marriage is within the Lord’s fellowship.” Second Corinthians 6:14 says, “Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” Others have strongholds that are habits that need to be driven out. Sometimes these habits carry over from the world. They can be strongholds, but God has the power to break them instantly. Oftentimes the urge or the temptation will come at a time of weakness. You need to go to God and drive it out of your life. If God has shown you a need, if He has shown you some things that you need to drive out of your life, take faith in the Word of God. Come to God and let Him help you. He will give you victory. Simeon R. Greem, III, First Church of God 6517 Walmsley Blvd. Richmond, Virginia 23224.

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# 17 JSU students participated in multimedia automotive apprenticeship spring of 2023

*Black Automotive Media Group is now seeking JSU students to participate in spring of 2024*

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Known as The Driving Force (TDF), the program has been extended for a second year at Jackson State University (JSU) for students interested in exploring multimedia career opportunities within the automotive industry.

Through the Black Automotive Media Group (BAMG), TDF hosts minority students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in a 10-week, field-credit academic program that commingles virtual training, mentoring sessions and in-person product experiences.

Now in its third year, TDF continues to evolve while enhancing career development for young devotees seeking guidance in the mobility sector. Conversations began with an effort to improve the diversity and inclusion of African-American journalists covering the automotive industry and the opportune moment presented itself to help prepare the next generation of automotive media experts hailing from JSU.

“Our first-year collaboration with Jackson State University and Nissan created a diverse program that allowed JSU students to flourish with the extended resources provided,” said BAMG founding member, Kimatni D. Rawlins. “TDF will continue providing professional development tools for talented scholars while offering supplementary perspectives on automotive industry

opportunities.”

For the Spring 2023 academic session, TDF welcomed 17 students from JSU in Jackson, Mississippi.

“A personal and professional passion is to empower and mentor youth through learning opportunities,” said Ashli C. Bobo, director, Nissan Corporate Communications. “The Nissan team is proud to continue our support of The Driving Force program. We celebrate the development of future leaders and their journey to learning about the electrifying and innovative world of automotive, and the communications industry.”

TDF is led by respected media specialists Kimatni D. Rawlins of Automotive Rhythms Communications, Marcus Amick, and Greg Morrison from Bumper2Bumpertv, with additional support from an array of Black automotive journalists and publishers.

“The Department of Journalism and Media Studies is pleased to be a part of TDF with BAMG and Nissan,” said Dr. Elayne Hayes Anthony, chairman of the JSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies. “Our students will gain relevant skills to open new doors in the automotive industry. In addition, we are honored that our students can engage in an industry that will continue to hone their skills in writing, interviewing, public relations and social media. We appreciate the team at Nissan for supporting the program.”

For more information about Nissan's products, services and commitment to sustainable mobility, visit [nissan-global.com](http://nissan-global.com). Follow on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. See latest videos on YouTube.

**About Jackson State University**

The mission of Jackson State University, an HBCU and comprehensive urban research university, is to provide quality teaching, research, and service at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels to diverse populations of students and communities using various modalities to ensure that they are technologically-advanced, ethical, global leaders who think critically and can address societal problems and compete effectively.

**About The Black Automotive Media Group**

The Black Automotive Media Group is a distinguished group of African-American reporters and writers representing over 200 years of combined experience in automotive journalism within radio, television, print, experiential marketing and social media. BAMG members either work for or own various automotive media platforms to bring equity to Black professionals who work within the automotive industry.

For additional details regarding The Driving Force HBCU program, visit [AutomotiveRhythms.com](http://AutomotiveRhythms.com).

**“The Driving Force”**  
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**The Students**

**The Instructors**

For inquiries contact Misa Gann: [Mgann@ARTVLive.com](mailto:Mgann@ARTVLive.com) | BAMG  
[www.AutomotiveRhythms.com](http://www.AutomotiveRhythms.com)

# McLemore emphasizes leadership during Jackson State University's 56th Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation

By Anthony J. Howard  
Jackson State University

The Jackson State University 56th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Convocation was held in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium January 19, 2024. Despite the cold weather, attendees braved the elements to unite for one of the nation's oldest celebrations of King's life.

During his welcome remarks, JSU President Marcus Thompson, Ph.D., highlighted the importance of service and a quality education.

“Dr. King's life and death personify what walking in our purpose looks like. His activism is a symbol of hope and inspiration. I encourage all of you to find a way to use your talents to serve others as well,” he said.

Professor emeritus Leslie-Burl McLemore, Ph.D., served as keynote and spoke to the audience about leadership. The Rust College graduate began his address by quoting from Charles Dickens's “Tale of Two Cities” before addressing the contradictions he noticed in society: “Living with the contradictions that we live with every day, the contradictions in Mississippi, the contradictions in America, the contradictions where we live in a country where people are trying to turn back the hands of time,” he stated.



**Dr. Leslie-Burl McLemore and son  
Leslie-Burl McLemore II, Esq.**  
PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH/JSU

McLemore quoted statistics stating that Mississippi now has more Black middle-class families than in previous years while simultaneously having the highest number of poor people. He continued by saying how the state is 40% African American but does not have any Black statewide elected officials.

“We did better during reconstruction,” said McLemore, who founded the student chapter of the NAACP at his alma mater. “Martin Luther King would ask what progress have we made in 2024? Dickens talked about the contradictions then, and we're living with the contradictions now.”

A Southern Civil Rights Movement veteran, McLemore, wrote his speech

with JSU's freshmen class in mind. He said he knew they could be inspired and would be the next leaders to change the world.

“You are in a special institution. You're in a special city. You're in the best location to study in the state of Mississippi. You are in the center of education, government, culture, arts and humanities. Take advantage of where you are and learn as much as you can because you will be called upon to lead the world,” McLemore said.

He then spoke about the two types of leaders: transactional and transformational. He identified himself as a transformational leader who aimed to inspire followers to achieve ambitious goals. He explained how he was class president in high school and class president every year at Rust College until his graduation.

“In high school, I led a boycott of classes because we had too many faculty advisors on the student council and no negro history books in the library, and we didn't like the food in the cafeteria,” McLemore recalled.

While serving as president of the Rust College student government association, McLemore led two boycotts because of the campus's lack of Ph.D. faculty members. He stated that his leadership abili-

ties originated in the Walls Chapel CME Church in Walls, Mississippi.

“That's where I learned to give my first Children's Day speech, Easter speech, Mother's Day speech, Father's Day speech, and any speech they were calling for because my grandmother insisted I give a speech, although I had a stutter,” he shared.

McLemore told the audience that young people are needed to help protect the right to vote. He shared how he played a role in forming Freedom Summer in 1964 and fighting for democracy at the age of 23.

He concluded his speech by expressing to the students that leaders are made at Jackson State University. McLemore urged the students to raise questions about issues that impact them, such as the city's water pressure and the condition of the streets.

“Don't simply accept anything at face value because you're being taught by some of the best minds in the world. Take advantage of where you are,” he emphasized.

Following McLemore's speech, Robert Luckett, Ph.D., director of the Margaret Walker Center at JSU, expressed his gratitude to McLemore for his historic contributions to the university and the Civil

Rights Movement.

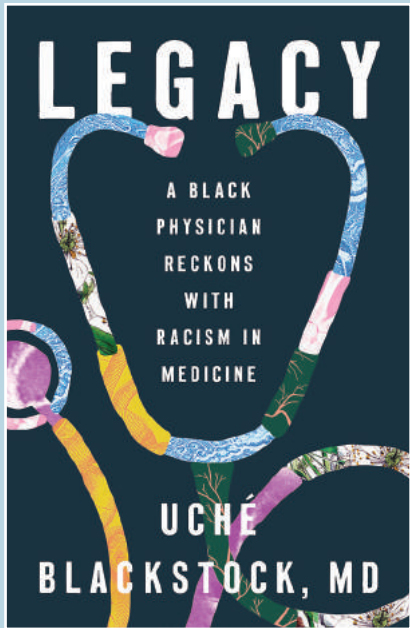
“I'm so deeply grateful, personally and professionally, for your legacy here at Jackson State, in the city of Jackson, across our state, and throughout the nation,” said Luckett. “Your passion, integrity and intellect are matched only by your commitment to this community. It's an example I aspire to replicate every day.”

Following the MLK Birthday Convocation, McLemore and his son, Leslie B. McLemore II, Esq., were honored during the 29th Annual “For My People” Awards. The awards are presented to honorees for their commitment to interpreting, disseminating and preserving African-American history and culture.

“This is one of the highlights of my life. This is a special honor because I'm being recognized with my son, Leslie II,” said McLemore. “This is special because Jackson State is special.”

Leslie McLemore II is an attorney and activist who expressed gratitude to his parents for influencing him to continue furthering his education. He developed a passion for writing, and his work has been featured in numerous publications, including Black With No Chaser, Jackson Free Press, Mississippi Free Press, Blavity and the Offing.





BOOK REVIEW:

LEGACY: A BLACK PHYSICIAN RECKONS WITH RACISM IN MEDICINE

BY UCHÉ BLACKSTOCK, MD

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Ugh, suddenly, just now, you don't feel well. Not at all. It might help to lie down somewhere for a few minutes or maybe there's something in a drawer in the bathroom you could take to feel better. Need a doctor? Having the right skin color might help, as in the new book "Legacy" by Uché Blackstock, MD.

Her career choice seemed like the most natural thing in the world. Uché Blackstock and her twin sister, Oni, practically grew up in a hospital, do-

ing homework in a staff room while their physician-mother made her rounds. The girls got a front-row peek into what it was like to be a Black female doctor and because of their mother's influence, it never entered their minds to choose another career.

That inspiration lingered: after their mother died young of cancer, Blackstock chose to work as an ER doctor, caring for her Brooklyn and Bronx neighbors like her mother did. Blackstock knew the history: Black people had long been objects for experimentation, without painkillers and without

their permission. Early in the last century, Black midwives were forbidden from practicing because of a testing matter. A document called the Flexner Report led to low numbers of Black doctors for nearly a century.

She also knew the statistics: Black patients are less likely to get pain medications than are white patients. Black mothers are at a higher risk than white mothers for maternal death, miscarriage and problems at delivery. Half of all medical treatment in the U.S. today happens in an ER, and many of those pa-

tients are Black, poor and without a safety net.

Knowing these things, working under those facts, took its toll.

When she was small, Blackstock played with her mother's leather medical bag and the treasures inside it. She dreamed of carrying it to her own patients someday but her job, meant to help people, left her exhausted, frustrated and emotionally tangled.

It was time to try something else...

This year, if you're average, you'll spend roughly fifteen



minutes face-to-face with your doctor at an appointment. You'll come prepared, and so will your physician; bring "Legacy," and you'll come with stats that are alarming, although very little of it's new.

Indeed, the news lately has been full of stories of Black patients and sub-par care and author Uché Blackstock underscores every bit of that news with personal experiences to support the facts, scattered inside a dual biography of her and her mother.

Readers will enjoy the stories of Blackstock women becom-

ing physicians and you'll be dismayed at generational and historical roadblocks they overcame. Read these triumphs, but don't lose sight of the other important thing here: remember, as Blackstock often urges, that advocating for one's self or a loved one is key to maintaining health and surviving.

Readers concerned about their well-being will be glad they read this book. Biography fans will love it for different reasons. Either way, getting what you want out of "Legacy" is easy, and you'll feel quite well about it.



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

**Services of the Clerk:**

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

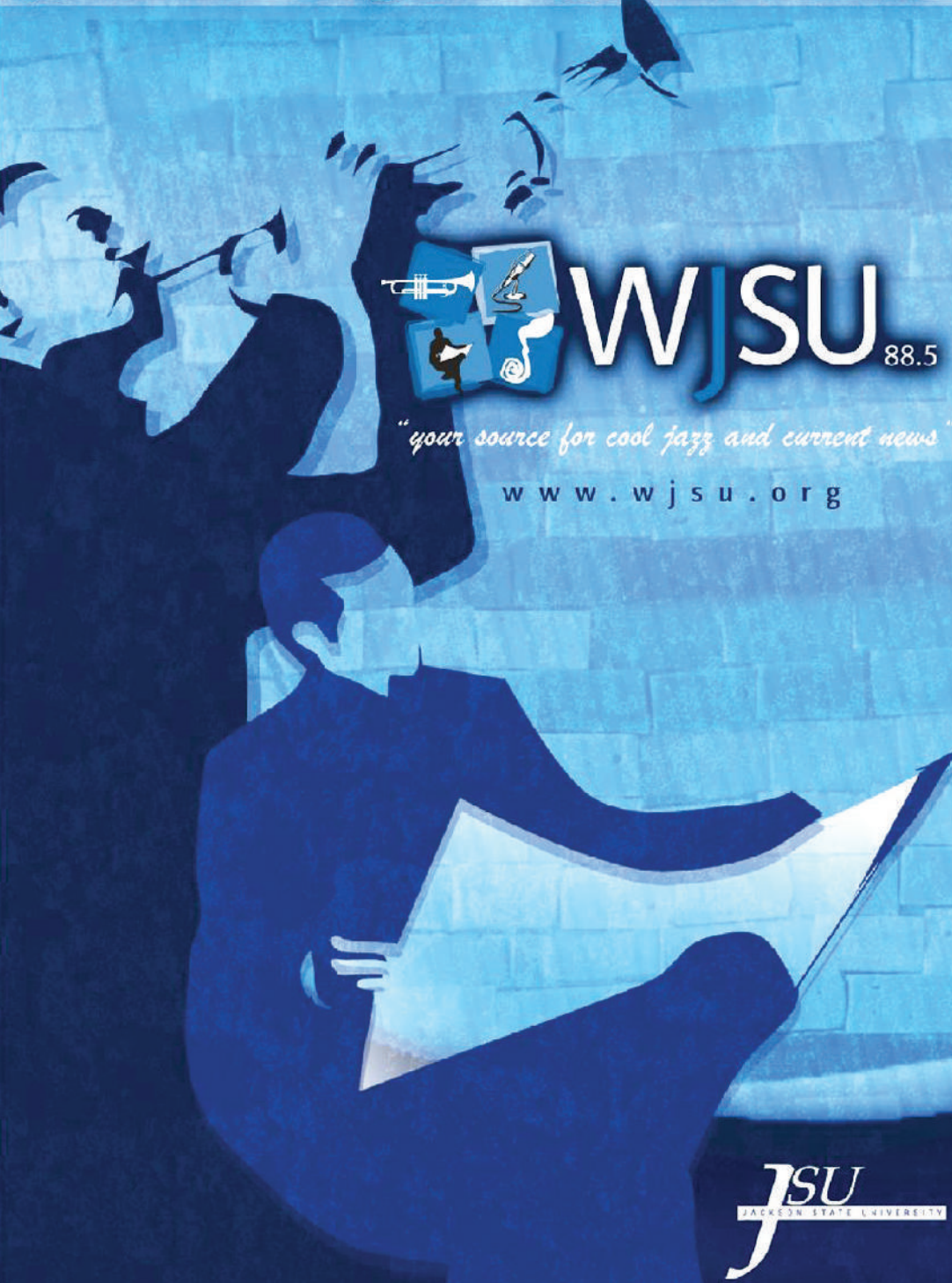

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

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

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

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

**Website:** [www.hindscountymys.com](http://www.hindscountymys.com)  
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# Texas Southern finally chooses head coach while FAMU continues search

By Tim Ward  
Sports Writer

After an exhausting and interesting coaching search, Texas Southern University has finally selected their head coach. Despite all the rumors, it isn't former Alcorn State University head coach Fred McNair. Instead, Texas Southern selected former Houston Oilers football player, Cris Dishman.

Dishman was a fan favorite back in Houston during his playing days along with Warren Moon. He also played for Washington, Kansas City and Minnesota before retiring. "First off, Thank God for the opportunity," he said. "I've been coaching for over 19 years and always wanted to be a head coach. Thanks to TSU, Tiger Nation, and thank you to the city of Houston for welcoming me back and treating us like family."

Texas Southern formally introduced Dishman, Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Shell Energy Stadium. Dishman has coached defenses at the professional, collegiate and prep levels. He entered coaching as the defensive back coach for the NFL Europe's Berlin Thunder before ascending up the NFL ranks as a defensive back intern for the Oakland Raiders, Miami Dolphins and Arizona Cardinals. He coached defensive backs for the NFL's San Diego Chargers, XFL's New York Guardians and CFL's Montreal Alouettes along with serv-



Dishman

ing as the defensive coordinator for the XFL's Las Vegas Vipers, USFL's New Jersey Generals and high school powerhouse IMG Academy.

Dishman also spent several years on the collegiate level at Menlo College (DC/DB), Baylor University (safeties), and McNeese State (safeties).

After some turmoil down in Tallahassee, FAMU has narrowed their coaching candidates down from 45 to 5. All five will interview with university leaders this week. Their goal is to hire a head coach before National Signing Day February 7th.

The firm's Vice President of Athletics, Adam Gordon, says four of the five recommended names have already won a SWAC title.

FAMU student David Smith says a proven winner is good, but not the most important quality. "If there's someone already in that position on the team as well, I think we should move them up, because they already have that experience with the players we have now."

There has been no confirmation if Fred McNair is one of the five candidates interviewing this week.



McNair PHOTO BY TIM WARD

# Jackson State's men and women take care of Texas Southern Monday night

By Tim Ward  
Sports Writer

Lead by Ken Evans' 25 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 steals, Jackson State defeated Texas Southern 73 to 64. Jackson State took a 10 point lead into halftime. Zeke Cook added 12 points for JSU and Keijuan Johnson poured in 9 points. With the win, JSU improved to 8-10 overall and 4-1 in the SWAC.

For Ken Evans, it was a historical night. He scored his 1000th point for Jackson State. Evans, a graduate of Forest Hill High School, leads the Tigers in scoring, averaging 19 points per game. He is also among the SWAC leaders in steals, averaging 1.4 per game.

Texas Southern lead in scoring by PJ Henley's 20 points and 3 steals. Jaylen Wysinger add 13 points. With the loss, Texas Southern drops to 5-12 overall, but 3-3 in the SWAC.

On the women's side, the Lady Tigers defeated Texas Southern 75 to 50. Miya Crump lead JSU in scoring with 17 points and also added 4 rebounds. Andriana Avent contributed 13 points and Ti'lan Boler added 12 points with 7 rebounds. Ironically, JSU fell behind 15-8 before going on a 5-0 run in the first quarter. JSU would lead at halftime, 26 to 17.

In the second half, JSU would go on a scoring binge and a defensive shutdown, extending the lead to 56-38 by the end of the 3rd quarter. Jackson State would finish 75 to 50. The Lady Tigers improved to 10-6 overall and 5-0 in the SWAC winning 5 games in a row. Texas Southern dropped to 3-14 and 2-4 in the SWAC.

Next up for Jackson State is a road trip to Bethune Cookman this Saturday at 2 p.m. for the women and 4 p.m. for the men.

Bethune Cookman is 8-10 overall on the men's side and 3-2 in the SWAC. For the Ladies, they are 12-6 overall with a 3-2 SWAC record.



Forest Hill Grad Ken Evans Jr scores 1000th point for JSU  
PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Hayleigh Breland Lady Tigers



Ken Evans Jr leads the team in scoring



JSU Tigers men's head coach Mo Williams



Coach Tomekia Reed on a 5 game winning streak



Ken Evans takes a jumpshot





## The Driving Force

BAMG is seeking a select group of JSU students to participate in *The Driving Force* internship (TDF).

- The 10-week program will take place virtually in February.
- Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are eligible to participate.
- Applicants must be Mass Comms, Journalism, Marketing, or Business majors.
- Successful completion of TDF will earn you credit hours.
- Please scan the QR code or email [Mgann@ARTvLive.com](mailto:Mgann@ARTvLive.com) for the application.

Students will receive communications, production, and executive interview experiences.



“My internship highlight was the opportunity to interview and write an article about Jasmine Neely, Diversity Manager at NASCAR.” – Arianna Cobb



Supported by Nissan, TDF was created to expand auto career opportunities for HBCU students.

### CHILD FIND

The Hinds County School District is participating in an ongoing state-wide effort to identify, locate and evaluate children from birth through the age of twenty-one who have a physical, mental, communicative, and/or an emotional disability. Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is most important to each child. Furthermore, this information gathered from contacts with parents and other agencies will be used to help determine present and future program needs as progress is made toward the goal of providing a free appropriate public education to all children with a disability.

If you know of any children who may have a disability, please contact Dr. Kyseta Warner, Director of Exceptional Education and Child Find Coordinator for the Hinds County School District, by calling or writing her at the following address: 13192 Highway 18, Raymond, Mississippi 39154, telephone number 601-857-7077.

The Child Find Coordinator implements child identification, location, and evaluation of children birth through twenty-one who have a disability, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who need special education and/or related services. The Child Find Coordinator works with the local Head Start, Human Services, Health, and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians, and other individuals to identify and locate children out of school and in school who may need special education services.

We have qualified staff in our district who provide services to students who have a physical, mental, communicative, and/or an emotional disability. Again, if there is a child suspected of having a disability, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Find Coordinator.



# 2024-2025 Pre- Kindergarten Open Enrollment



## Apply Now

## Learn More

The HCSD is accepting applications for its 2024-2025 FOUR-YEAR OLD PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM from January 16, 2024, through January 31, 2024

Qualifying children must be:

- 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2024
- A resident of the Hinds County School District
- Potty trained

Parents must provide the following documents with completed student application:

1. Valid photo I.D.
2. Original birth certificate (Long Form)
3. Immunization Record (State of Mississippi Form # 121)
4. Proof of legal custody or guardianship
5. Two proofs of residency

### Applications are available at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us)

or may be picked up at Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School, Utica Elementary/Middle School, Gary Road Elementary School, Raymond Elementary School, or the Bolton, Edwards, Utica, and Terry libraries.