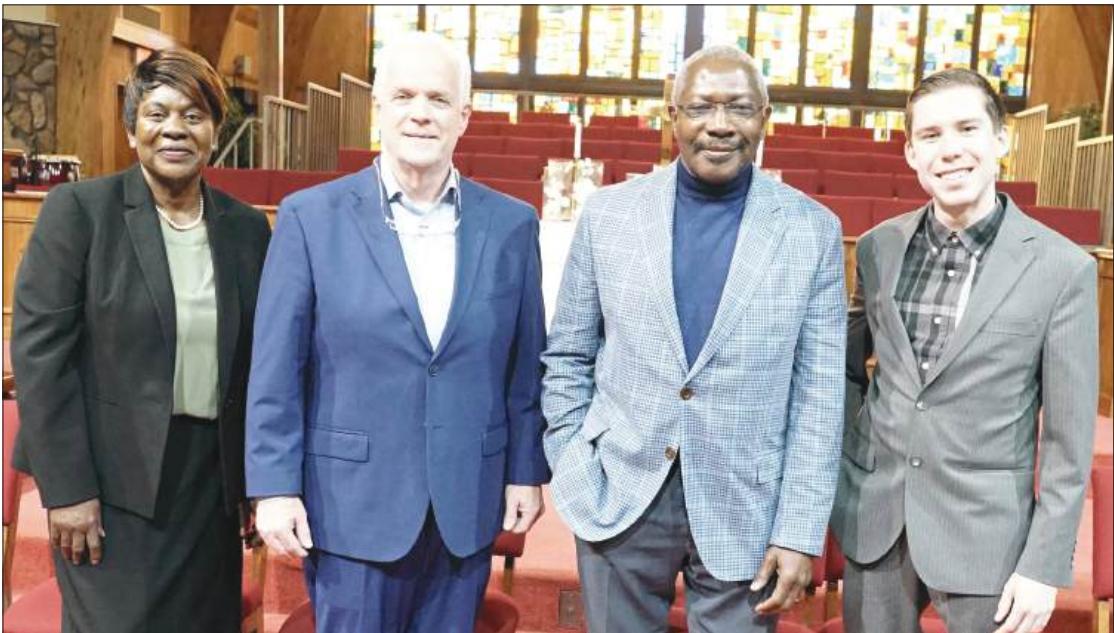


Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Beta Delta Omega Chapter Incorporated Hosts 2025 Mayoral and City Council Candidate Forum

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Jackson residents continue to be devastated with festering problems that have held them captive for decades. With the General Election for mayor rapidly approaching on June 3rd, many are conversing among themselves about a mayor who is capable of thrusting Jackson in its present state into “a positive, productive, model city.” For various reasons, many have grown weary and are seeking relief from their inheritance. One of the most recent sites for cries from the city regarding leadership responsibility was Anderson United Methodist Church (6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson). There, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Beta Delta Omega Chapter Incorporated, hosted the 2025 Mayoral and City Council Candidate Forum on Tuesday of this week at 6:00 p.m. Erica McKinley (JD) and Byron Brown of WJTV Channel 12 posed a series of questions to get at mayoral candidates’ goals for reviving the city. Held to the fire were Senator John Horhn (Democrat), Lillie Stewart-Robinson (Democrat), Zach Servis (Independent), and Rodney De Priest (Independent). When asked about their qualifications that have best prepared them to be Jackson’s next mayor and to manage escalating crises, Horhn specified among “other” qualifications, his 32-year record as a state senator in community development and \$300 million to put resources in place to build Jackson’s infrastructure. Stewart-Robinson noted that as a businessperson, she works with Jackson’s youth and oversees budgets and strategies with directors for quality pre-school in Jackson. Servis stated he has been in leadership



Mayoral Candidates (L-R) Lillie Stewart-Robinson, Rodney DePriest, Senator John Horhn & Zach Servis



L-R- Grace Green , Kevin Parkinson, Tina Clay, Vernon Hartley, Jasmine Barnes, Ashby Foote, Ray McCants, Marques Jackson & Taylor Turcotte PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

positions since age 8 and has led in top sales positions as well as led in pastoral situations. De Priest identified extensive leadership experience, including ties with Trustmark National Bank in business recovery. Candidates were asked to share their plan on how to fix the basic city services for accountability. While Stewart-

Robinson emphasized unification, Horhn called for “good, qualified folks” to take care of the city, and identify resources to get the job done while “restoring our relationship with the county.” De Priest emphasized the need to “empower people to do their jobs” so they would know that “the mayor has their back.” Servis recommended a

90-day performance review and called for the implementation of technology for a clear vision to deal with the problems. All candidates spoke about resources. De Priest stated that the City of Jackson “might have to review things to focus on infrastructure...potholes” for

Candidates
Continued on page 3

Statement by Senate Minority Leader Derrick T. Simmons on Senate Democratic Caucus Votes of “No” or “Present” in Special Session Budget Measures

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As Senate Minority Leader, Mississippi State Senate, Minority Leader Derrick Simmons stated, “ I stand in full support of my colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus who voted “No” or “Present” during the special session. These votes are not taken lightly, but they reflect a deep concern regarding the continued lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the budgeting process. The people of Mississippi deserve a legislative process that is open, accountable, and representative of all communities in our state. Unfortunately, in this special session, critical budget decisions were made behind closed doors with minimal input from many legislators and no input from members of the Senate Democratic Caucus. This approach not only under-

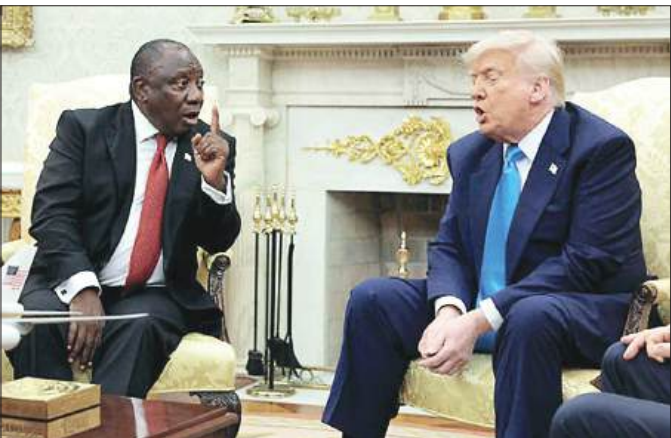


Senate Minority Leader, Derrick T. Simmons

mines the principles of good governance but also erodes public trust in the legislative process. Our caucus believes

that every member of the Legislature should have a seat at the table when allocating taxpayer dollars, especially when those decisions have far-reaching consequences for our schools, hospitals, infrastructure, and economic development. We cannot support a process where transparency is sacrificed and where some communities are left in the dark about how and why funding decisions are made. Our votes were a statement—a principled stand for a better process. We remain committed to working in good faith with our colleagues across the aisle, but we will continue to speak out and act when the process fails the people we are elected to serve. Senator Derrick T. Simmons Minority Leader, Mississippi State Senate

Has an American President ever looked so small?



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa Oval Office meeting with Trump on May 21, 2025. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

COMMENTARY

It was hard to watch. There was just a feeling from the onset that this would be another installment of – How Can This Be Happening. Just like with the Oval Office meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy on February 28, 20025, the President of the United States single-handedly found ways to sink to new lows in diplomacy, decorum, and basic decency. The price America is paying for his attitudes, laid bare by his behaviors, continues to rise.

Imagine the President of South Africa, leader of the 24th largest country in the world, traveling to Washington to attempt to reduce tensions that have been mounting for months, and to improve overall bilateral relations, only to be met by an ambush – Trump claiming white genocide under President Ramaphosa, and then dimming the lights and showing a five-minute montage of photos, video, and articles to support his position. Just one glitch – all of it was false, manufactured - propaganda. As reported by Time Magazine, even professional golfers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, as well as billionaire South African businessman Johann Rupert – all white – on hand in the meeting at the request of President Ramaphosa, attesting that white genocide is not going on in their country. President Ramaphosa handled the ambush calmly and directly. He was prepared – highly knowledgeable of Trump’s ways and knows well what impresses him – he brought him a gift of a 30-pound book of photographs of South Africa’s golf courses.

The United States skipped a G20 meeting in Johannesburg in February of this year. Secretary of State Marco Rubio shared on social media, “I will NOT attend the G20 summit in Johannesburg. South Africa is doing very bad things. Expropriating private property. Using G20 to promote ‘solidarity, equality, & sustainability.’ In other words: DEI and climate change.” He added: “My job is to advance America’s national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism.” Also in February, a

South African court ruled that claims of a white genocide were “clearly imagined” after blocking a wealthy benefactor’s donation to the white supremacist group Boereleigooen, per <https://time.com>. Cape Town Today wrote at the time, “Judge Rosheni Allie’s ruling shows how important it is to protect the nation’s commitment to a peaceful and inclusive society. This decision reminds everyone that South Africa must keep fighting against the shadows of its past while aiming for a brighter future.”

In March, Rubio expelled the South African Ambassador to the U.S. Ebrahim Rasool, calling him “a race-baiting politician who hates America” and hates the President. Rasool had previously said that Trump was leading a white supremacist movement in the U.S. during a webinar. This followed a Trump Executive Order citing the South African Expropriation Act of 2024, enacted in January 2025, saying it enabled Ramaphosa’s government “to seize ethnic minority Afrikaners’ agricultural property without compensation.”

For Trump to think he can succeed in falsely labeling the South African government as perpetrators of white genocide, and attempt to bully President Ramaphosa along the way, reveals so much to the world. Of course, he is attempting to dismantle any and all forms of diversity, equity, and inclusion! He doesn’t believe in diversity – just look at his cabinet. He doesn’t believe in equity – just look at who the insiders were at his inauguration. He doesn’t believe in inclusion – a white supremacy mindset doesn’t acknowledge the need.

Alternately, it was Cyril Ramaphosa who was anointed by Nelson Mandela to negotiate the repeal of 40+ years of apartheid rule in South Africa and usher in a democratic government - he succeeded. The argument could easily be made that there are few people who are more knowledgeable, experienced, and tested than Ramaphosa when it comes to the evils of racism and white supremacy, how to

President
Continued on page 3

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

GENERAL ELECTION DAY JUNE 3RD

Battle for the Black Mind

Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Mississippi Heart Association Presents 2025 Metro Jackson Go Red for Women Luncheon

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

The leading cause of death in women is cardiovascular disease (CVD). This disease claims more lives than all cancers combined. It has targeted nearly 45% of women over age 20 who are living with it. Further, CVD is the number 1 killer of new moms. It moves beyond boundaries into the lives of young and older women.

More than 600 guests attended the American Heart Association's 21st Annual Metro Jackson Go Red for Women Event at Jackson Convention Complex Center (105 E. Pascagoula St., 39201) on Friday, May 16 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. They brightened the halls and rooms in their favorite red attire while sending a strong message in their fight against CVD.

The Heart & Wellness Expo drew attention to pertinent matters of the heart. Guests were given red paper bags to fill souvenirs to remind them of the occasion's purpose: "Don't take the heart for granted." As the guests mingled, they could see people who were sitting at tables creating scenarios as they stroked their paintbrushes. This "relax-



Women in Red, chatting, sitting and standing. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

ation" technique moved what might have been "baggage" that guests brought with them as they cast their eyes on the colorful images.

Inside the ballroom were tables dressed with red heart-shaped signs labelled, "Our table has a full heart." This welcome mat was designed to put the sitters at ease and to subtly lure them into the occasion's purpose: "A woman's heart is precious and must be taken seriously." Therein lies the Go Red for Women connection from one heart to the other.

Go Red for Women event

chair, Jennie Simmons (with Simmons Erosion Control), paid tribute to women when she stated, "Today is about connecting with other women. We recognize that women do it all. We juggle a variety of roles. We educate each other."

Amanda Fontaine (Mississippi Broadcasters Association) asserted to the audience that the moment had come to go well for communities, families, and friends. She posed that this was not an individual act. "When we go red together, we can make sure that no woman has to be

alone."

Young Addie Hamm – a cancer survivor - was honored. She had a series of heart surgeries, but was in heart failure. The wheel of time continued to move. Then, after 14 hours of surgery, Addie (10) had a "new heart." "She is smart, brave, and kind," said Addie's brother. Hamm's, Addie's parents, acknowledged their gratefulness for Addie's new heart.

Event organizers instituted a fundraiser. This special giving of \$100 per individual was in honor of Addie Hamm. Within minutes, Metro Jackson Teen Impact final



Gatherers flock to the red

fundraising results were \$26,790. Metro Jackson Women Impact was \$191,913.

The Survivor Fashion Show was one of delight. Models pranced across the stage and "wooded" and "wowed" the viewers who followed suit with applause. This merriment lasted throughout the fast-paced show that brightened smiles, laughter, and respect.

The American Heart Association believes that "every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life. For over 100 years the American Heart As-

sociation has been fighting heart disease and stroke and helping families and communities thrive." According to the association's mission, it strives "to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives."

Circle of Red Committee includes Brenda Barron; Abby Brann; Tina Clay; Laurie Cooter; Jamie Woods – Dull; Rebecca Hass; Mallory Hemphill; Sharon Jernigan; Mindi Kern; Rhonda Moore; Tammy Phillips; Ardarian Pierre; Amy Ramsey; Lori Sanders; Jennie Simmons; Kathy Smith; and Liz Torricelli.

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Candidates

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Prayer led by Darla Palmer

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at the Mayoral & City Council Forum

budget operation. Horhn and Stewart recommended making sure that the resources will be available. Horhn added the need to “go around the state,” and Stewart-Robinson focused on developing a relationship with the City Council and “raising funds to make ends meet.” Zach quipped that “\$2 million are already set aside, so we have the resources. Take every dollar we have for city employees to do the required work. Treat them with respect.”

Regarding the actual handling of the infrastructure crisis, Servis noted that the City Council should use the funds that are already set aside and should not use them for other things. Stewart-Robinson explained that funds donated and raised for Jackson should be used for Jackson. De Priest pinpointed the need for engineering criteria to assess the needs and maximize every dollar to spend on Jackson. “Leadership from the top down” is needed to levy county, state, and federal government monies,” said Horhn.

Of the question, “How will you ensure that Jackson’s residents will have direct input in decision making,” Stewart-Robinson said

she will talk to people, emphasize working together, and strategize to make something happen. Horhn called for priorities in the city to understand what the different locales of the community are saying. De Priest maintained the need for “citizenry engagement.” “They want to participate, but personality conflicts [are hindrances].” “We’re going to make sure that our youth and our churches are accessible and involved,” said Servis.

On how to improve relationships, Horhn advocated the restoration of honesty, ethics, trust, and accountability. De Priest called for the acknowledgement of past mistakes while demonstrating how to move forward. Zach, on the other hand, emphasized using every dollar received well, and making certain that all workers are qualified. Stewart-Robinson recommended “reaching across the aisle” to the community, federal government, and state to restore the city.

While Horhn explained that he has a relationship with the Federal Government, Congressman Bennie Thompson and Republi-

cans, Servis claimed that he wanted to make sure to get money from the Federal Government by demonstrating that “we’re using the money we received appropriately.” Stewart-Robinson stated she can work with anyone. “We can meet, collaborate, and strategize,” she said. In his call for competence and credibility, De Priest shared that he has 32 years of business and working with the Federal government.

The City Council contenders for city council positions were asked questions from the moderator regarding how they could do a better job than incumbents, Tina Clay (Ward 2), Vernor Harley (Ward 5) and Ashby Foote, (Ward 1).

The contenders included Grace Green and Jasmine Barnes (Ward 1), Marques Jackson, (Ward 3) Ray McCants (Ward 5) Kevin Parkinson & Taylor Turcotte (Ward 7). Each had the opportunity to share his/her platform regarding crime, infrastructure, and cleaning of the city.

President

Continued from page 1

navigate those systems, and how to deal with leaders of those systems. He comes from the lion’s den, with a long history of fighting the foundational ideology of separating different races in South Africa, where the roughly 8% of white Afrikaners welded racist power over an 80% Black population. Even now, only 4% of land in South Africa is owned by Black South Africans.

Over time Ramaphosa rose in business and government. When President Jacob Zuma resigned after nine years as President in February 2018, Ramaphosa was elected President to fill the remainder of the term. Then in May 2019, he was reelected with 57.50% of the vote, unlike Trump who has never achieved 50% of the

popular vote.

There are no guardrails any longer at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue – unchecked rages of power lawlessness, and indecency are now the norm. Longtime award-winning journalist Thomas B. Edsall, recently wrote about the degradation of the U.S. Presidency. “The targets of Trump’s assaults include the law, higher education, medical research, ethical standards, America’s foreign alliances, free speech, the civil service, religion, the media and much more.... Some of the damage Trump has inflicted can be repaired by future administrations, but repairing relations with American allies, the restoration of lost government expertise and a return to productive research may take years —



Familiar signage seen in South Africa during Apartheid courtesy of www.worldatlas.com.

2025 Press Forward Summit ignites serious dialogue on strengthening MS local news

An alarm sounded for educating/growing future journalists

Mississippi Link Newswire

Nearly 40 media leaders from across Mississippi gathered May 15–16 at the University of Mississippi for the 2025 Mississippi News Summit — a powerful conversation about the future of local news and the next generation of journalists.

Panelist Michael A. White Jr., director of the Gray Media Training Center in Jackson, called the summit “an eye-opening experience” that highlighted the value of both traditional and digital newsrooms. “Mississippi continues to press forward with strong and intelligent journalists who work hard to tell the stories of the communities we serve,” White said.

Also among the panelists was The Mississippi Link’s own Publisher Jackie Hampton, who emphasized the importance of staying connected with her newspaper’s diverse audiences. “That is how we meet them where they are,” she told attendees. We respond to their emails, calls, concerns, etc.”

The summit is an initiative of Press Forward Mississippi, a new chapter of Press Forward, led by the CREATE Foundation that is working to revitalize local news coverage statewide. It is one of more than 30 chapters in a national movement started in 2023 by national foundations to invest together in local news and information for American communities. ([http://](http://www.pressforwardms.org)

www.pressforwardms.org)

A strong and passionate call to engage future journalists came from Taylor McGraw of The Bell/Jackson Youth Newsroom, who challenged media leaders to partner with schools. “Young people are in school 180-something days a year — and most are not getting access to journalism education, news literacy, or civics instruction,” he said. “We’ve got to step up.”

Blake Kaplan of The Sun Herald addressed concerns about artificial intelligence. “There’s a general worry that AI will replace reporters,” Kaplan said. “That’s not what we’re doing at McClatchy. We’ve been using artificial intelligence to supercharge our reporting.”



Mississippi Press Associate Executive Director moderates session on “Meeting People Where They Are” and Jackie Hampton, The Mississippi Link Publisher



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Eight newly trained EMT's pinned at AMR's graduation

May 27, 2025 • PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY & JACKIE HAMPTON

A graduation ceremony for eight newly trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) of Central Mississippi was held Thursday, May 27, 2025 at AMR's facility located at 600 Melvin Bender Drive in Jackson, MS.

Beginning with the Presentation of Colors and Processional of students, the graduation kicked off at 10:00 A.M. The audience was comprised of friends and family members smiling and looking proud as they pulled out cell phones to take photos.



Court Fight Begins Over Trump’s Destruction of AmeriCorps

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Trump administration is preparing to terminate AmeriCorps, eliminating \$400 million in grants, and cutting off critical services for tens of thousands, while continuing to advance policies that benefit Donald Trump, his family, and wealthy allies at the expense of low-income Americans.

Final layoffs of AmeriCorps staff will take effect on June 24. Under orders from Elon Musk’s U.S. DOGE Service, the administration is dismantling the country’s only federal agency for national service and volunteerism—without public input or congressional authorization.

The decision ends funding



Volunteer, friends and portrait of people in park for recycle program, earth day or social responsibility. Environment, climate change and NGO with groups in nature for non-profit, cleaning or charity
PHOTO BY JACOB WACKERHAUSEN

for 1,031 organizations and displaces more than 32,000 AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers. The move is part of a broader campaign to punish the poor. Since returning to office, Trump has

aggressively pushed cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance while pursuing massive tax breaks for the rich. Now, the administration is erasing programs that served veterans, students, the elderly,

and communities devastated by natural disasters.

“These actions are heartless, cruel, and unlawful,” said Joel Berg of Hunger Free America, one of many groups impacted. “AmeriCorps isn’t wasteful

spending—it’s a lifeline.” A coalition of nonprofits and service organizations from across the country has filed a federal lawsuit in Maryland, accusing the Trump administration of violating federal law by gutting AmeriCorps without legal authority or due process. Plaintiffs include Elev8 Baltimore, Red Cloud Indian School, the AmeriCorps Employees Union, and over a dozen others.

The lawsuit states that the cuts violate the Administrative Procedure Act and federal budget law. On April 15, AmeriCorps participants were abruptly told to cease work and return home. Four regional National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) campuses were closed, and the entire corps

disbanded. Most agency staff were placed on immediate administrative leave, and 85% were issued layoff notices effective June 24.

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), an AmeriCorps alum, called the shutdown a betrayal. “AmeriCorps costs pennies to the dollar and delivers enormous value. This decision will hurt communities that can least afford it.” The lawsuit demands a halt to the shutdown and calls on the courts to block what plaintiffs describe as an “unprecedented and unlawful dismantling” of a vital public institution. “Congress created AmeriCorps to serve the vulnerable,” the suit reads. “This administration has chosen to destroy it instead.”

Remembering George Floyd



Mural showing the portrait of George Floyd in Mauerpark in Berlin. To the left of the portrait the lettering “I can’t Breathe” was added, on the right side the three hashtags #GeorgeFloyd, #cantbreathe and #Sayhisname. The mural was completed by Erne Street Art (facebook name)
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By April Ryan
NNPA National Correspondent

“The president’s been very clear he has no intentions of pardoning Derek Chauvin, and it’s not a request that we’re looking at,” confirms a senior staffer at the Trump White House. That White House response results from public hope, including from a close Trump ally, Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. The timing of Greene’s hopes coincides with the Justice Department’s recent decision to end oversight of local police accused of abuse. It also falls on the fifth anniversary of the police-involved death of George Floyd on May 25th. The death sparked national and worldwide outrage and became a transitional moment politically and culturally, although the outcry for laws on police accountability failed.

The death forced then-Dem-

ocratic presidential candidate Joe Biden to focus on deadly police force and accountability. His efforts while president to pass the George Floyd Justice in policing act failed. The death of George Floyd also put a spotlight on the Black community, forcing then-candidate Biden to choose a Black woman running mate. Kamala Harris ultimately became vice president of the United States alongside Joe Biden. Minnesota State Attorney General Keith Ellison prosecuted the cases against the officers involved in the death of Floyd. He remembers,” Trump was in office when George Floyd was killed, and I would blame Trump for creating a negative environment for police-community relations. Remember, it was him who said when the looting starts, the shooting starts, it was him who got rid

of all the consent decrees that were in place by the Obama administration.”

In 2025, Police-involved civilian deaths are up by “about 100 to about 11 hundred,” according to Ellison. Ellison acknowledges that the Floyd case five years ago involved a situation in which due process was denied, and five years later, the president is currently dismissing “due process. “The Minnesota Atty General also says, “Trump is trying to attack constitutional rule, attacking congressional authority and judicial decision-making.” George Floyd was an African-American man killed by police who knocked on his neck and on his back, preventing him from breathing. During those minutes on the ground, Floyd cried out for his late mother several times. Police subdued Floyd for an alleged counterfeit \$20 bill.

‘We’re Not Going Back’ Black Churches Confront Target

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

On the fifth anniversary of George Floyd’s murder, Rev. Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant led a national prayer protest targeting Target’s rollback of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Dozens of churches joined in what Bryant called a “spiritual act of uprising,” staging nine-minute and 40-second demonstrations outside Target stores in honor of the time Floyd was pinned to the ground by police. “Five years ago, the CEO of Target said George Floyd could have been one of his employees and, with no pressure, made a pledge of \$2 billion,” Bryant said during the protest in Conyers, Georgia. “To see mega-companies now walk away from diversity, equity, and inclusion is a stark contrast from where we were five years ago.” Laretta Wright, a protester at the demonstration, urged accountability. “If you’ve made a promise or a commitment to the people, that’s all we ask—that you follow through,” Wright demanded. “Don’t fall back and tell us to go back because we ain’t going back. We’re going forward.”

Bryant said 67 churches participated in the May 25 protests, organized as part of the ongoing Target Boycott. The movement began as the Target Fast and gained national momentum as the company pulled back on its DEI pledges. Target had prom-



Target store in a sunny day in Plattsburgh in New York State on October 17/2024 PHOTO BY ARTURO ROSENOW

ised to support Black-owned brands and increase Black representation within its workforce following Floyd’s death in Minneapolis, where the retailer is headquartered. Target has said the changes were part of a planned three-year cycle. Programs to increase representation and partnerships with Black businesses were quietly phased out, sparking outrage. CEO Brian Cornell met with civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton in April, who later called the conversation “constructive and candid.”

But Bryant and other leaders say the rollback, paired with the silence toward Black-owned media, speaks volumes. In a joint column, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and NNPA Chair Bobby R. Henry Sr. said they sent a formal letter to Cornell in October 2024 requesting investment in Black-owned

newspapers. The letter received no response. “Silence, in the face of truth, is complicity,” they wrote. “Let us be clear: we will not shop where we are disrespected. Our dollars will not finance our own marginalization.”

Target reported a 2.8% drop in first-quarter sales to \$23.8 billion and lowered its full-year forecast. Adjusted earnings fell nearly 36% to \$1.30 per share, down from \$2.03 last year. The company cited a challenging economic environment and announced internal leadership changes and a new acceleration office. “Black Press USA is in complete solidarity with Rev. Dr. Jamal Bryant, New Missionary Baptist Church, and the millions of Black church members across the nation who continue to be active and to engage in nonviolent protests against Target,” Chavis said. “Sunday was a glorious day that the Lord has made.”

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Joy happened at commencements for college graduates

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



The month of May is known for blossoms and flowers. May is also known as the month for college graduations.

Joy and happiness were in abundance as students received their college degrees. The long hours and hard work paid off. They made it!

Graduates checked all the boxes on their way to this momentous occasion. They left no stone unturned. Success happened because graduates prepared themselves. I heard an expression years ago and it was “no pain, no gain.”

Being a college graduate was their goal, and they accom-

plished it.

According to the Census Bureau, the goal of having a bachelor’s degree is foremost on the minds of young people. The same holds true for those seeking advanced degrees like master’s, doctoral, or professional degrees.

Education is an important quality of life component in states across America. Confirmed reports list Massachusetts as the most educated state in the country. It boasts the highest percentage of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree and a considerable proportion of graduate degree holders.

One question that comes up at times is why does a person go to college? I think we know the answer, however I wanted to reaffirm the answer.

Recently, I asked a group of

soon to be college graduates that question, A companion question was what were their post-college plans?

A young man said, “I am the first person in my family to attend college, and I wanted to set an example for my other family members. He followed up by saying, “I want to go to graduate school to pursue a master’s degree in business administration.”

A young woman seated next to him said, “I am a non-traditional student, and I am quite excited about my college graduation. College was a wonderful experience for me. My degree will help me to get a better position and have more responsibility with my company.”

Another young man said, “Both of my parents are graduates of HBCUs (Historically

Black Colleges and Universities), and I wanted to follow in their footsteps. He added, “I have been accepted to medical school and will be going there in the fall.”

These were real-life testimonies about the impact of a college degree. I was impressed with their candor and their sincerity.

One study showed that acquiring a college degree can increase your self-confidence and give you a sense of pride. The journey had bumps along the way, yet they persevered until the end. Their resilience showed up and showed out.

Some business magazines say that having a college degree will give you a financial boost and will result in your being more economically stable.

Shayna Joubert of North-

eastern University says there are several benefits to having a college degree. In her article, ‘10 Benefits of having a college degree,’ she lists that it will prepare you for a specialized career and you will have increased access to job opportunities. I would strongly encourage recent college graduates to read it.

Across this nation recently, students were crossing the stage to receive their degrees with unbridled jubilation. These moments were captured on tablets, cameras and seen on television.

This jubilation was displayed recently on May 17th during the commencement exercises for the graduates of Morris Brown College in Atlanta Georgia. Pomp and Circumstance was the call of the day at St. Philip A.M.E. Church in Atlanta

Georgia as graduates entered hearing the cheers and hand-claps from family and friends.

The commencement address was delivered by Bishop T. D. Jakes, chair, and CEO of The T. D. Jakes Group.

He congratulated them for staying the course and for not giving up on their dreams. Bishop Jakes talked about them having fortitude which sustained them in their educational pursuits.

The graduates and the audience were ebullient and effusive as they listened to his address of overcoming and thanksgiving.

College commencements have always celebrated excellence, and they always will.

This column is dedicated to all 2025 graduates.

The Real Issue is what will congress do about the president violating the constitution?

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



The real issue in America is no longer what Donald Trump is doing with his daily and consistent violation of the U.S.

Constitution but rather what will the Congress do in light of the blatant violations of the Constitution and the Oath of Office both the President and the Members of Congress took to “Protect and Defend The Constitution Of The United States Against All Enemies Foreign and Domestic”?

Here are four of the most recent examples of ignoring the Constitution in “plain view” of everyone and everything the Constitution stands for:

1. The acceptance of a \$400 million dollar airplane from the government of Qatar, when Article I of the Constitution under section 9. Any gifts given to officials of the United States, personally or otherwise, are the property of the United States Government,

unless Congress so authorizes the acceptance. Only Congress can stop this gift, which is intended to replace Air Force One and puts this nation’s security at risk, no matter how much the plane is inspected or searched for devices that can harm American intelligence; 2. Against individuals, as a ground for deporting people, is a violation of the Constitution. Only Congress Can Declare, and the Supreme Court has already ruled, that the law being used by the Trump Administration is illegal. That ruling has been ignored; 3. Having Homeland Security stationed at a maternity ward waiting for an immigrant mother to give birth, with the idea of deporting mother and child when the child is a U.S. citizen by birth under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution; 4. Firing the Librarian of the Library of Congress. The library and its staff are under the authority and control of Congress, and do not fall under the authority of the Executive as outlined in Article II of the Constitution. Additionally, it is worth mentioning the Administration’s

efforts regarding the suspension of Habeas Corpus, among other initiatives. The Constitution says under Article I, Section 9, Clause 2: “That the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, except in cases of rebellion or invasion where the public safety may require it.”

What needs to happen is that all 213 Democratic members of Congress should be on the steps of the Capitol every day, demanding that the Republicans, as the controlling Party of the House of Representatives, take action against the President to demand enforcement of the Constitution, which is their sworn oath and duty. The people of this nation, in every congressional district where that elected member refuses to act on this Constitutional authority, should be recalled. America cannot wait until the Mid-Term elections in 2026. America as we know and cherish will not exist in 2026 if we don’t act now, both the Legislature under Article I and the Judicial under Article III.

My fellow citizens, “What say Ye?”

Do You Have a House or a Home?

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



I always tell folk there are two places that one should always find peace and comfort. These two places are home and church. When you can’t find comfort within your home – one should at least be able to have confidence in knowing that their church is somewhat of a haven. Now, the topic of the church is another article for another day. But I do advise that you attend where you feel loved/appreciated, it is growing spiritually, healing and deliverance is taking place, your heart and soul are more important than traditions, etc. Anyways, getting back to the topic – I do not mean to bust your bubble – well, yes, I do, it’s not the zip code that makes your house a home, it’s not the material possessions that makes your house a home, it’s not your blue prints/floor plans that makes your house a home, it’s not your fine foods that makes your house a home, it’s not the mortgage or rent amount you pay that makes your house a home, etc. Love is what makes your house a home.

Many would not dare live in a trailer park, or a certain area that some without a proper historical understanding refer to as the ghetto or hood. For instance, there may be those who frown upon Jackson, but flee to Jackson’s medical centers, state fair, or come to Jackson to find a good ole Pick Five like turkey necks, neck bones, and entertainment. Hence, these residential areas that we wouldn’t dare stand our feet in sometimes have more love than in fancy HOUSES. Do you have a house or a home? Does your house feel empty – abandoned? Do you look forward to coming home or do you have anxiety? One of the most effective practices for having a healthy and cheerful home is investing in love.

How Can One Invest Love in Their Marriage?

- Pray together daily.
- Hold each other accountable.
- Don’t sweat the small stuff.
- Forgive – let it go and if you can’t let it go, seek marriage counseling and if that doesn’t help – pray for direction regarding if divorce is the best solution.
- Communication
 - Work together in finances.
 - Spend Quality Time together.
 - Date – keep the spark/fire going.
 - Wives don’t constantly nag your husband.
 - Husbands live with your wives in an understanding way.
- Find out each other’s love language – check out Dr. Gary Chapman, book “The Five Love Languages.”
- Show appreciation – illustrate your gratitude to your spouse often.
- Take short trips/vacations just the two of you – yes, you can go somewhere without your

babies.

Woo – woo each other with love, romance, and intimacy.

Continue to be a paid subscriber of the Link and read these weekly articles.

How Can One Invest Love in Their Children?

Pray for and with your children.

Teach them the Word of God

Keep them in church – they should be there every time the doors open.

Hold your children accountable – address the wrongs, offenses, don’t reward unruly behavior, don’t uphold them in their wrong, don’t justify their wrong

Hug and love especially when they are babies and are young – harder to hug when they become tweens/teens, but it is never too late to try.

Don’t buy your children – this eventually negatively plays out.

Don’t let technology be the parent so that you can have your own time.

Spend quality time with your children.

Communicate

Support your children especially when they are doing positive things/

Listen

Forgive them too.

Go to the park.

Play games.

Express your love and how proud you are of them.

Admit your errors.

Don’t be their friend – they think already have friends – they NEED parents.

Compromise, this one is hard for me at times, but I am learning.

Discover their love language – Dr. Gary Chapman has a Five Love Language Book for Children too.

Take family vacations.

In conclusion, no home is perfect, and it never will be. But go out your way to ensure that your house is a home most days where you can find comfort, love, peace, unity, especially when your children are below 20. Now, for 20 plus if they are creating issues -it’s time for them to get their own keys – this is an article in the making. The overall return from investing love in your marriage and children can include the following: grow as one/family, bonding increases, build trust, love grows, decrease the chances of having toxic relationships, separation and divorce, and you won’t have a house but you will have a healthy and happy home.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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P R E S E R V E D

Living in the Overflow

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Them those got shall get; them that’s not shall lose,” are words sung so sweetly by the late Billie Holiday that can apply to our current national economic situation. With the uncertainty of tariffs, rising prices, and chaotic economic policies, many are struggling financially. Yet surprisingly, there are some that are doing well financially. In fact, some people have gotten even richer during these

hard times. According to Robert C. Lieberman, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs at Columbia University, the top 5 percent of earners have increased their wealth since 2009. The Bible even mentions this kind of strategy when it says in Matthew 13:12, “Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.” It’s always seemed unfair to me that people who have more (and need it the least) can get more and that people who have the least (and need it the

most) seem to lose more. How are those who are in great need going to ever get to be one of those “who have” if they continue to lose? How have the rich stayed richer? Some wealth strategists say that one successful strategy of wealthy people is to live off the interest from investments and to continue to make investments that will allow them to live off interest. However, considering the recent the instability of the stock market it’s hard to imagine making an investment much less living off of the interest from one. We may not be able to make

financial investments, but we can make a “spiritual” investment of sincere obedience to God’s word. The “overflow” of that obedience is an assurance that God will not only hear our prayers but will bless our lives. 2 Corinthians 8:2-7 describes how despite their poverty, the early believers overflowed with joy and generosity despite their difficult circumstances. They were obedient to scripture, gave as God directed them and were blessed. Romans 15:13 says “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,

so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Often, the overflow of peace comes from us submitting the control of our emotions to the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible also mentions a few places how God wants us “live in the overflow.” “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows,” are familiar words from Psalm 23:4-6. When we are in a vulnerable situation, God will allow those who think they have gotten the best of us see him pour out blessings in our lives. We

have to be bold enough to allow God to protect us even in the face of opposition or spiritual attack. Our “overflow” is the assurance that comes in knowing that God is our “Jehovah Nissi,” our banner who has prepared the path of peace and victory for us. Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-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 or follow her on Twitter @shewanda



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Questions and Answers for Parents of Children with Disabilities

By Maureen Samms-Vaughan
Professor of Child Health

As a parent, what can I do to support my child with a disability? Why is it important to focus on a child's abilities?

Every child with a disability has strengths. These may be in doing artwork, in their personality, or in their motor skills. Every child has strength. It's more important for us to focus on what children can do, and their abilities, rather than their disability. We can use children's abilities to assist the areas that they have most challenges with right now.

How can I communicate with my child with a disability and how do I know when he/she wants to communicate with me?

Some children with disabilities will be able to speak with you. Others will not be able to speak. But they do communicate, even though they don't speak. For example, when a newborn baby comes into a family that baby communicates without speaking. You learn the baby's likes and dislikes by whether they smile, laugh, or whether they cry. The same occurs with children with disabilities who can't speak. They tell you what they like by smiling or laughing, and they tell you what they don't like by crying or making an upset face.

What can I do in my day-to-day to make sure I'm stimulating my child and his/her brain development?

Children are stimulated by ev-



everything in their environment: by the sounds, by the interactions, by your smile. So, if your child with a disability is around you, you should make sure that you spend time talking with them, explaining in simple language what it is you're doing, smiling with them, telling them all about their environment, making noises around them so they can respond to noises. Everything that you do, as you are moving about the house, as you are doing your housework, involve and include your child in it. Move your child into the room in which you are working. Tell them what you are doing: you are washing the dishes, you're dip-

ping the dishes in the water. Tell them exactly what you are doing. All of that will stimulate them. You can also stimulate them by directly playing with them, by making little toys in the home, putting stones in a bottle and shaking it, by waving ribbons in front of their eyes, different colored ribbons. There are many things that you can do with just things around your house.

Can I breastfeed my child if he/she has a disability?

Breastfeeding is important for all children but is especially important for children with disabilities. Breastfeeding is important for children's growth, nutrition, and brain development.

Many children with disabilities can breastfeed, but only a few are not able to breastfeed. And those who can't and can be fed expressed breastmilk, because breastmilk is the best.

Why are the early years of every child's life so critical?

The early years of every child, whether they have a disability or not, are critical because when we stimulate the brain during these early years we are ensuring that the brain develops to its full potential. We are making sure that children have the best development that they can have and this happens for children with disabilities and children without disabilities.

How do I play with my child with a disability?

Children with disabilities enjoy being played with just like any other child. They enjoy you reading to them, showing them pictures, tickling them, hugging them, cuddling them. They respond to you with laughter and smiles. If they don't like a particular play that you are doing, they will tell you. They will stop laughing, they'll stop smiling. Try something else. You will find something because you know them best.

If I don't have time to play or money to afford toys, what can I do?

If you don't have a lot of time

to play with your child, there may be other family members in your home who will be able to play with your child with a disability. Brothers and sisters are great around children with disabilities. They stimulate them because they talk to them a lot and they play with them. They don't seem to be concerned about whether a sibling has a disability. They play with them just like anyone else.

What is your advice to parents who suspect that their child has a disability?

If you have a concern that your child has a disability, go to your nearest health provider and let them know your concerns. Some concerns may turn out not to be a problem at all, but some may, and your child may be identified as having a disability. It's just as important to provide children with disabilities with a loving environment. Children who are shown warmth and love grow up to be loving, warm people. A child with a disability who is shown warmth and love will grow up to be an adult who may have a disability, but who is a wonderful person to be around.

Maureen Samms-Vaughan is a Professor of Child Health, Child Development, and Behavior at the University of West Indies in Jamaica. She is an advocate for vulnerable children, particularly children with disabilities and those impacted by violence, and has published significant research in these areas.

Privacy and hunger groups sue over USDA attempt to collect personal data of SNAP recipients

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press

Privacy and hunger relief groups and a handful of people receiving food assistance benefits are suing the federal government over the Trump administration's attempts to collect the personal information of millions of U.S. residents who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The lawsuit filed in Washington, D.C., on Thursday says the U.S. Department of Agriculture violated federal privacy laws when it ordered states and vendors to turn over five years of data about food assistance program applicants and enrollees, including their names, birth dates, personal addresses, and social security numbers.

The lawsuit "seeks to ensure that the government is not exploiting our most vulnerable citizens by disregarding longstanding privacy protections," National Student Legal Defense Network attorney Daniel Zibel wrote in the complaint. The Electronic Privacy Information Center and Mazon Inc.: A Jewish Response to Hunger joined the four food assistance recipients in bringing the lawsuit.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is a social safety net that serves more than 42 million people nationwide. Under the program formerly known as food stamps, the federal government pays



A banner with a photograph of President Donald Trump hangs near the entrance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture building in Washington, Friday, May 16, 2025. AP PHOTO/JOSE LUIS MAGANA

for 100% of the food benefits but the states help cover the administrative costs. States also are responsible for determining whether people are eligible for the benefits, and for issuing the benefits to enrollees.

As a result, states have lots of highly personal financial, medical, housing, tax and other information about SNAP applicants and their dependents, according to the lawsuit.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order March 20 directing agencies to ensure "unfettered access to comprehensive data from all state programs" as part of the administration's effort to stop "waste, fraud and abuse by eliminating information silos."

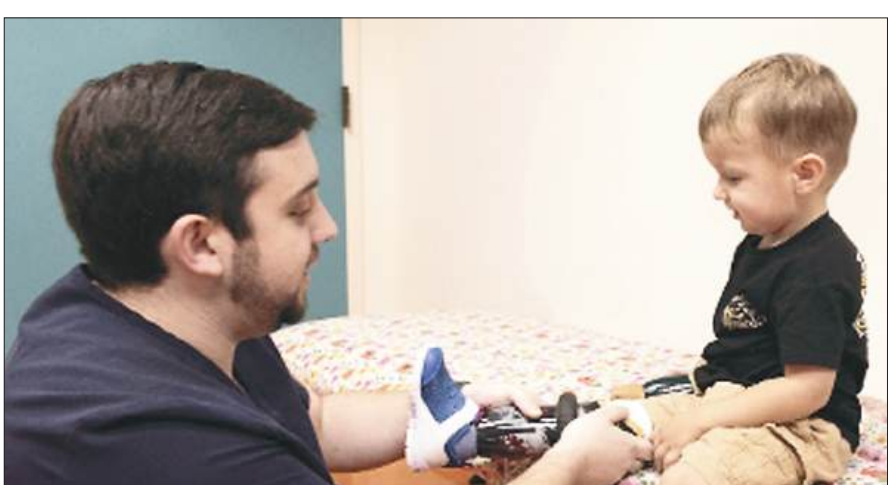
That order prompted Elon Musk's

Department of Government Efficiency and the USDA to ask states and electronic benefit vendors to turn over the info earlier this month. Failing to do so may "trigger non-compliance procedures," the USDA warned in a letter to states.

Some states have already turned over the data, including Alaska, which shared the personal info of more than 70,000 residents, according to the lawsuit. Other states like Iowa plan to turn over the information, the plaintiffs say.

They want a judge to declare the data collection unlawful, to order the USDA to destroy any personal information it already has, and to bar the agency from punishing states that fail to turn over th

Prosthetists, Orthotists and Pedorthists: A Healthcare Sector That Moves Millions



StatePoint

Children wearing back braces, veterans walking with artificial limbs and Paralympic athletes all likely receive care from a prosthetist, orthotist, or pedorthist—or POP—professional. Certified POP professionals help nearly 6 million people in America with limb loss or limb difference move better. They create devices to restore independence for people of all ages while boosting confidence and well-being.

The 15,000 professionals in this vibrant and vital healthcare field make it possible for millions to overcome mobility challenges and improve their quality of life.

"POP professionals make a lasting difference in the lives of their patients," said Catherine Carter, executive director at the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthists (ABC), the credentialing organization for professionals in the field. "They help people return to everyday life and the activities they love. No matter the mobility challenge, POP professionals meet their patients where they are and help them move forward."

The Best Healthcare Career Many Haven't Heard Of

POP professionals are committed to helping people reach their mobility goals. They do it by designing devices,

creating treatment plans, leading rehabilitation, and working with insurance companies to ensure coverage.

POP is the 16th "Best Health Care Job" and 49th "Best Job" according to a "U.S. News & World Report" ranking of best jobs in 2025. Yet awareness of the profession, and the many achievements of its professionals, who use expertise in medical care, art, and engineering to improve mobility, is lower than for many other healthcare jobs.

How POP Professionals Change Lives

From patient care to making devices that improve mobility, POP involves an exciting blend of technology and healthcare. Visit WhatIsPOP.org to watch day-in-the-life videos, explore career paths, learn about schools and programs, and meet POP ambassadors who can answer questions about the profession. Follow WhatIsPOP on social media for a peek behind the curtain to see what POP professionals do.

People who work with prosthetics, orthotics and pedorthics make a profound difference for patients, families, and communities. There are many resources available to help you learn more about this vital, life-changing work and step into a career with purpose, opportunity and potential.

Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter Awards Over \$10,000 in Scholarships to Outstanding High School Seniors



Standing proudly with the scholarship awarders are members of Alpha Delta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. PHOTO BY KEILA ADAMS

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated proudly announces the awarding of seven \$1,500 scholarships—totaling \$10,500—to exceptional high school seniors in the Jackson Metro area. These scholarships reflect the chapter’s ongoing commitment to academic excellence, community service, and youth development.

The 2025 scholarship recipients are:

- Laila Hayes – Brandon High School
- Morgan Hughes – Madison-Ridgeland Academy

- Mason Kendrick – Murrell High School
- Micah Powell – Terry High School
- Jaiyynn Sanders – Provine High School
- Malaya Tyler – Tougaloo Early College High School
- Kelaysia Williams – Clinton High School

Each student was selected based on academic achievement, leadership qualities, and a demonstrated commitment to community service.

“These young scholars represent the best of what our future holds,” said Wendolyn Stevens, Chair of the Educa-

tion & Scholarship Committee for the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter. “We are proud to support their educational journeys and invest in the promise they each bring to our communities. Our chapter remains dedicated to upholding Zeta Phi Beta Sorority’s legacy of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood.”

The scholarship awards were presented during a special ceremony on May 24, 2025, at Tougaloo College’s Bennie Thompson Academic Center. Surrounded by family, friends, and members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, the recipients

were celebrated and encouraged as they prepare to transition into higher education.

In a separate initiative, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter also awarded book scholarships to the entire Class of 2025 at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Blind. These scholarships will assist students as they begin their studies at Hinds Community College in Fall 2025.

This generous initiative reflects Zeta Phi Beta Sorority’s continued commitment to scholarship and service. By investing in students who are visually or hearing impaired, the sorority furthers its mis-

sion to break barriers and promote academic success across Mississippi.

“We believe in the power of education to transform lives,” said Stevens. “These students have overcome unique challenges, and we are honored to support their journey into higher education.”

Chapter President, Judge E. Faye Peterson, added, “We are always pleased to support educational opportunities for students in the Jackson Metro area. We look forward to their continued success.”

For more information about Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter’s

programs and community involvement, please visit www.adz-1938.com.

About Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

Founded on January 16, 1920, on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a historically Black sorority built on the principles of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood. Chartered in 1938, the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter in Jackson, Mississippi, continues this legacy through impactful community initiatives and youth engagement programs.

Women for Progress backs Senator John Horhn as Jackson’s next mayor

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Women for Progress of MS, Inc. stood on the front grounds of Two Mississippi Museums on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and publicly endorsed Senator John Horhn for Jackson’s new mayor. The 10:00 a.m. event brought forth the general public, members of the press, community leaders, and elected officials.

The organization enthusiastically acknowledged the timeliness of the sunny, cool-breezing occasion while embracing the special guest, Mississippi State Senator John Horhn.

Willie Jones, president of Women for Progress of MS, Inc., and the outspoken advocate of Black women in Jackson - Angela Grayson - addressed the senator’s proven record in leadership, community engagement, and economic development. They informed the crowd that Senator Horhn is a visionary for a vibrant and safer Jackson, filled with prosperity. He “champions community-centered solutions that uplift and protect families.” Further, he envisions a Jackson that is a melting pot which works with all its citizens by opening



Senator John Horhn expresses gratitude to Women for Progress of MS for their endorsement of him as City of Jackson Mayor and highlights their notable community achievements

doors of opportunity.

Acknowledging gratitude, Senator Horhn responded,

“Thank you, Women for Progress of MS, Inc., for your endorsement and for 47 years of

bold, visionary leadership across our state. As we look to the future, I remain committed to the

values that Women for Progress has championed for nearly five decades: families, uplifting our communities, and ensuring every voice is heard. Together, we will move Jackson forward one step at a time. Jackson is ready.”

Senator Horhn promises change and accountability while advocating community outreach and improving community relations. Two stages of the 2025 election for the City of Jackson’s candidates occurred on April 1 (primary election) and April 22 (primary runoff). The Jackson mayoral election (the final stage) is slated for June 3, and there will be other Jackson municipal races.

Senator John Horhn, Democratic Party candidate, will be running against Kenny Gee, Republican candidate, along with independent Zach Servis, Lillie Robinson, and Rodney De Priest. (Recently, Kim Wade dropped out and publicly endorsed De Priest).

Mrs. Gladys Marie Johnson (wife of the Rev. Dr. Hickman Johnson) was interviewed by Christopher Young in the February 27-March 5, 2025, edition of The Mississippi Link Newspaper. “Thinking about the po-

litical process, elections, and the need for Black women from all walks of life to be more involved in the political process, a revelation came to me from God to create an organization where Black women can become more involved...I told the Lord I would need help, and then He showed me a vision of Mrs. Dorothy Stewart... I planted the seed that God revealed to me, and Dorothy Stewart watered that seed in a mighty way, and God surely gave the increase – just like I Corinthians 3:6.”

Founded on May 11, 1978, Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan community improvement organization of action-oriented, influential, and talented individuals. The organization “is dedicated to the advancement and well-being of women and families through education, civic engagement, leadership development, and economic opportunity.” Stewart – the first president – led the organization with the mission: to become a catalyst for: Advocacy, Awareness, and Action. To learn more, visit <https://www.womenforprogress.net/>.



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Former airline pilot earns an Aviation Technology degree at Hinds CC

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Marcus Truss of Jackson had a career as an airline pilot, living in various parts of the country. Four years ago, he landed in Mississippi and taught the drone program at Hinds Community College.

On May 15 he also became a Hinds graduate with a degree in Aviation Technology.

“I started off just taking classes,” said Truss, 55. “It’s been a great adventure.

Hinds awarded 1,213 credentials to 899 graduates in four ceremonies held over three days, which means many graduates earned more than one credential. Among the graduates, 437 graduated with honors, including 220 cum laude, 3.2 - 3.59 GPA out of 4.0; 154 magna cum laude, 3.60 - 3.99 GPA and 63 summa cum laude, with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The speakers for the May 15 2 p.m. ceremony were students receiving degrees who have shown leadership and excellence in their fields of study and were selected by their instructors and peers.

D’Jaydyn Readus, 20, of Bolton, gave the invocation and benediction. Readus attended the Raymond Campus, where he was the 44th president of Hinds’ Student Government Association. He will attend Jackson State University in the fall.

The graduation speaker was Destiny Young, 20, of Raymond. She attended the Raymond Campus where she participated in the Student Government Association and was named Homecoming Queen. She will attend the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business.

Young told fellow graduates



Hinds Community College employee Marcus Truss of Jackson received a degree in Aviation Technology on May 15.

she wasn’t involved on campus at all her first semester – she just went to class and went home. She thought Hinds was boring, she said.

She worked on campus her second semester and, at the urging of a persistent campus dean, she got involved in multiple Hinds organizations. She was an orientation leader, an RA, joined the SGA and was crowned homecoming queen.

“Before I knew it, I was becoming one of the student leaders I used to look up to. I was gaining the confidence I once lacked and, more importantly, I was finding my voice.”

She made Hinds her home.

“Our time at Hinds has officially come to an end-but our lives are just beginning. And just like Hinds, life is what we make it. No matter where we go from here, it’s up to us to create meaning and value in our journey,” Young said.



Destiny Young of Raymond, left, was the speaker for the 2 p.m. May 15 graduation ceremony at Hinds Community College. D’Jaydyn Readus of Bolton, right, offered the invocation and benediction. They are with Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik.

Hinds CC graduates second class of Line Workers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Twelve students graduated from Hinds Community College’s Electrical Line Workers program on May 8, to include two students in their 30s and the first woman graduate.

The class, a non-credit workforce program, is the second since the program began in the fall 2024.

“Today is not just the celebration of completed coursework and hours training outside in the cold, hot, and/or rain — it is a recognition of the dedication, toughness, and resilience you’ve shown throughout this demanding program. Today marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another,” said Jason Webb, Career and Technical Education Dean for the Construction and Manufacturing pathway and the Electrical Line Worker program.

Among other tasks, the 16-week program requires students to be able to climb 40-foot and 65-foot poles, set poles by hand, build and take down lines, operate a bucket truck and a digger truck, learn about all the electrical components include transformers and perform safety tasks, including CPR. They also earned a Class A Commercial Driver License through Hinds’ partnership with KLLM Driving Academy, Webb said.

“You also have learned how



Front from left, Instructor Craig Davis, Tyson Beard of Clinton, Parker Bell of Belzoni, Markario Brooks of Canton, Dylan Nichols of Richland, Sidney Bennett of Clinton, Adaychai Bateaste of Magee, Cammie Smith of Crystal Springs; back, Kadarius Taylor of Utica, Brayden McCool of Pearl, Chase Hankins of Raymond, Aaron Dohman of Brandon and Jaden Moore of Rolling Fork

to work as a team, respect the power you will deal with every day and carry the responsibility that comes with keeping the lights on — literally,” Webb said. “You’ve chosen a line of work that requires both physical strength and mental focus. A career that demands courage, precision, and a deep respect for safety.”

Dylan Nichols of Richland, at age 30 one of the older students in the program, was nicknamed “chef” by his classmates because he had a lengthy career in food service as well as sheet metal work and tree service work.

“I decided to do lineman work because I wanted to build a career. I just didn’t want a job. And I also wanted to do something that kind of made me feel like something of importance. And there’s nothing more important than keeping the lights on. it was a real good fit for me,” he said.

His next step is a job operating a bulldozer for a local company, but he is hoping for an eventual job with an electric company.

Adaychai Bateaste of Magee was the first woman in the program. “I just have a passion for working hard and doing

something that a lot of people wouldn’t be willing to do,” she said.

Tyson Beard of Clinton has a young daughter and “needed a career to provide for my family. This is one of the best decisions I could have made,” said Beard, 23.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

JPS-JSU Partership celebrates the Inaugural Cohort of the Jackson Middle College

The JPS Newswire

The Jackson Public School District proudly celebrated the Inaugural Cohort of the Jackson Middle College on Monday, May 12, 2025, in the Atrium of the College of Science Engineering and Technology, on the campus of Jackson State University.

The accomplishments and bright futures of 15 exceptional senior scholars marked a major milestone for scholars who have committed to completing both high school and college coursework simultaneously.

The Inaugural Cohort includes a remarkable group of scholars from across the district. They are:

- Chloey Day – Callaway High School
- Alesia Fisher – Callaway High School
- Karmen Hobson – Murrah High School
- Tamiyah Jacobs – Provine High School
- Khadarius Johnson – Forest Hill High School
- Mya Nelson – Callaway High School
- Kristen Ryan Rhodes – Murrah High School
- Asiah Scott – Forest Hill High School
- Christiana Stringfellow – Forest Hill High School
- Emmariana Taylor – Provine High School
- Karigan Thompson – Provine High School
- Alicia Tolliver – Jim Hill High School
- Charles Travis – Callaway High School



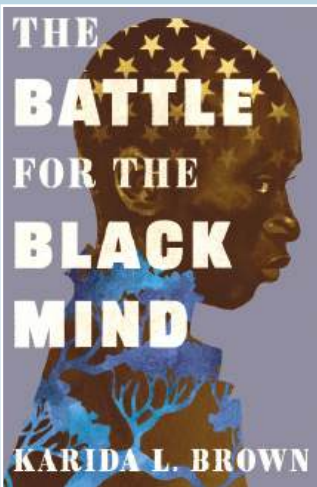
15 high school seniors representing five of six JPS high schools have successfully completed the Jackson Middle College dual enrollment program. This is the first graduating class of this innovative program that gives graduating seniors a head start on their undergraduate degrees in mathematics education. These students will also participate in commencement ceremonies for their high schools.

Gregory VanBuren – Murrah High School
La’Ziyah Walker – Callaway High School

These scholars, all members of JMC’s inaugural cohort, will advance and work toward earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education through a unique partnership between Jackson Public Schools and Jackson State University. The program is designed to address the grow-

ing teacher shortage in mathematics by preparing a new generation of highly qualified educators. Upon earning their degrees, the students have committed to serving as mathematics teachers in Jackson Public Schools for a minimum of three years.

“We are immensely proud of these young scholars for their determination, leadership, and commitment to education,” said Dr. Shelita McCadney, principal of JMC.



BOOK REVIEW: THE BATTLE FOR THE BLACK MIND

BY KARIDA L. BROWN
C.2025, LEGACY LIT
\$30.00 • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

“Use your brain!”
If you had a dime for every time a teacher, parent, or supervisor told you that, you’d be rich. Stop fooling around. Consider what you’re about to do. Act with resolve, not impulse. It’s the best way to work, the optimal method for learning and, as in the new book “The Battle for the Black Mind” by Karida L. Brown, it’s what so many have fought for.
In the months after the Civil War ended, it became apparent to both Black and white people

in both North and South that education for four million suddenly-freed former slaves was “a matter of national security.” It was obvious that those citizens would require formal learning soon, maybe job training – but what kind and how much?

While Mary Smith Peake had “laid the foundation” for Hampton University already by then, two white men with vastly different intentions traveled south after the war to seize control of Black education. Edmund Asa Ware, who became the first president of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) built

schools that “aimed at nurturing Black intellectualism and potential,” while General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who was the first president of Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) had plans to “civilize” formerly enslaved people through physical labor and farm work.

Booker T. Washington was one of Armstrong’s best-known proteges.

In 1881, Washington became the first president of Tuskegee Institute and was later instrumental in forming the “Tuskegee Machine” which, says

Brown, didn’t altogether help “Black families and shoved a singular curriculum down their throats.” There were forty-five Black colleges and universities in America then, though education for most Black children was still lacking.

It remained so in the Jim Crow era when, although literacy rates grew, education beyond a few years of elementary school was “rare” for Black Americans. By then, says Brown, Black women had stepped up to do the work, becoming teachers, bookkeepers, experts in strategy, fundraisers, staffers, managers, and marketers

– sometimes, all at once...

Blending personal observations and experiences with good backgrounding, author Karida L. Brown tells this story in a conversational tone that invites readers to peek down the halls of history’s HBCUs and into classrooms. She writes to readers, rather than at them, which helps to open minds for what’s inside “The Battle for the Black Mind.”

You may not need to be reminded about racism in Black American education, but the secrets she shares and the lines she draws are highlighted to seem like new information. Here,

readers can see more clearly the connections between the early twentieth-century and now, and how Project 2025 could change the trajectory. Fortunately, Brown also offers advice and ideas for taking action and ensuring that upcoming generations can win the next “battle.”

“The Battle for the Black Mind” is a lively book that you can read for information, history, or just because. But beware: it might make you want to get up, contact your Representative or Congressperson, and act. It’s the kind of book that’ll make you think.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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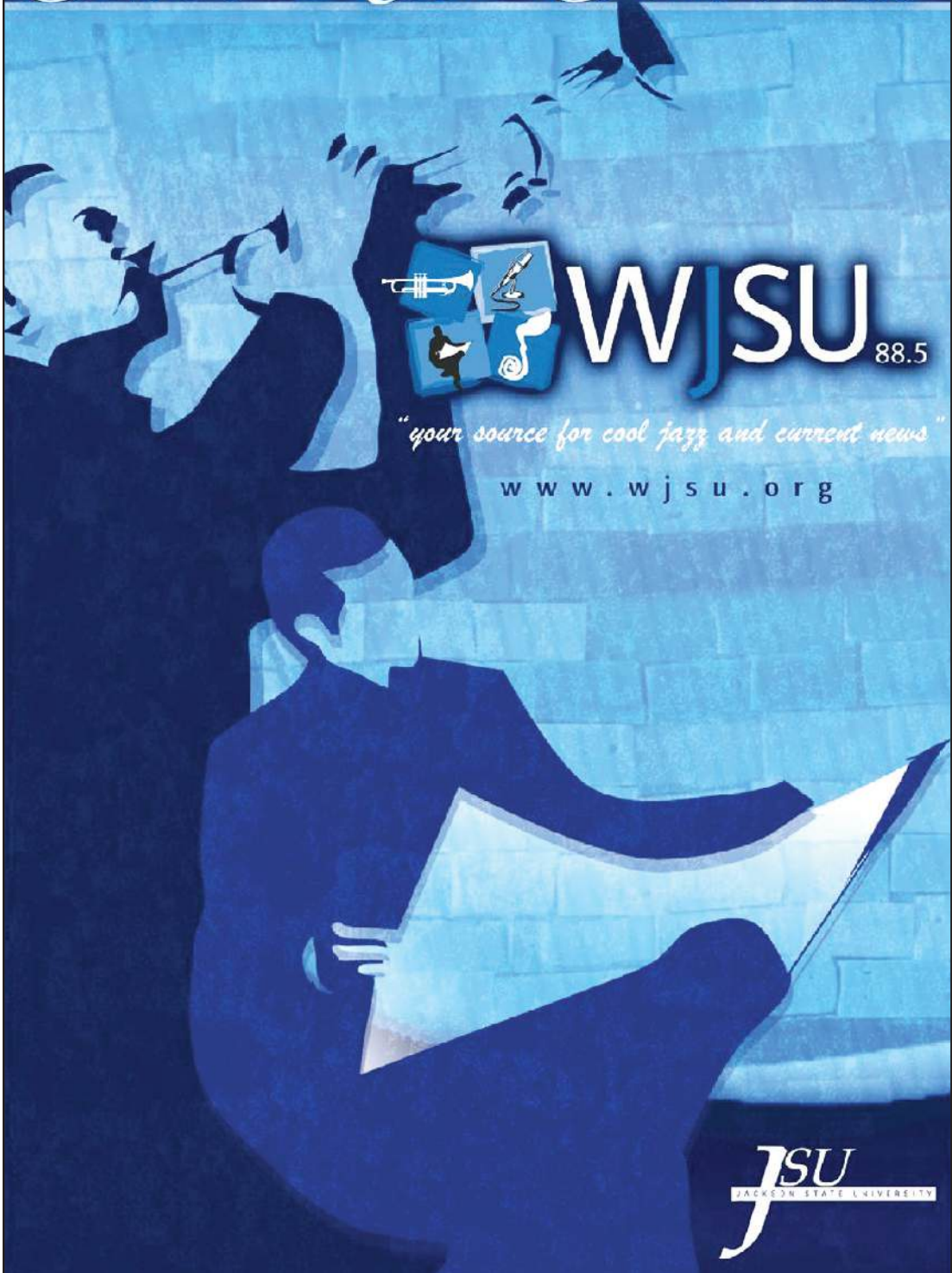
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

EL STAFF OF THE MONTH RECOGNITIONS

We are proud to highlight the final EL Staff of the Month recognitions for 2024-25. These educators have made a meaningful difference in the lives of our English Learners, and it's a pleasure to celebrate their hard work.



March/April EL Team of the Month - Gary Road Elementary

Shantavia Robinson-Johnson and Candice Watson

This team has shown incredible dedication and has worked collaboratively to support student growth and success.



May EL Staff of the Month - Raymond High School

Shandra Toaster

Ms. Toaster's consistent support and commitment to our EL students have not gone unnoticed. Ms. Toaster exemplifies excellence in inclusive instruction and advocacy.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER



BLUE CARPET AWARDS

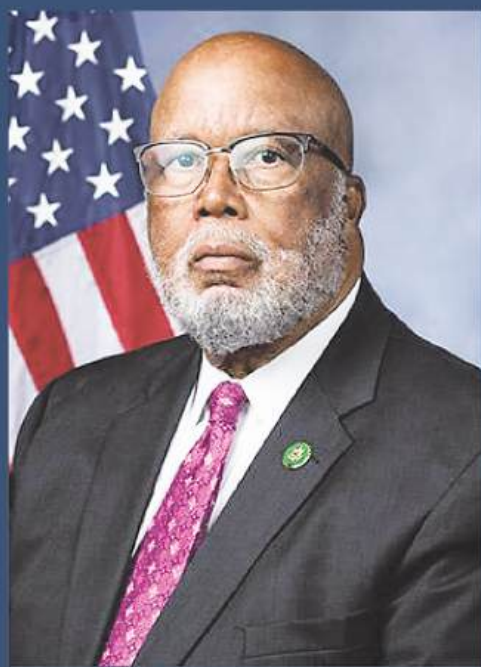
The Raymond High School Blue Carpet Awards on April 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the school's Performing Arts Auditorium, was a special evening dedicated to celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of Raymond High School students during the 2024-2025 school year. The event recognized students for their exceptional performance in several key areas, including achieving proficient or advanced scores on the 2024 MAAP Assessments, attaining Honor Roll and Principal's List status for academic excellence, demonstrating positive behavior as top PBIS members, and showcasing college readiness as members of the ACT 25+ Club. Attendees, dressed in semi-formal attire, enjoyed special entertainment provided by the Raymond High School Ultimate Soul Band and the Raymond High School Choir as they celebrated these memorable achievements.



★★★★★

HORHN FOR MAYOR 2025

JACKSON IS READY VOTE HORHN FOR MAYOR



“Our capital city requires a leader at city hall who can work with the federal and state government, which currently isn’t happening. Given the many challenges facing Jackson, I am convinced that John Horhn is better suited to handle these challenges.”
– Congressman Bennie Thompson

“John Horhn has dedicated over three decades to serving the people of Central Mississippi, consistently delivering results that strengthen our economy and communities. I’m confident he will lead with integrity and deliver the change Jacksonians are ready for.” – Mike Espy



“Jackson is ready for change. Jackson is ready for strong, dynamic leadership at the mayoral level and I support Senator John Horhn as the next mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson is ready.”
– Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr.

“Real change takes real action and Senator John Horhn delivers. He’s a proven leader who shows up for Jackson’s first responders. With honor, courage, and commitment, he’s already moving this city forward. Jackson is Ready!”
– JFD Union President RaSean Thomas



VOTE DEMOCRAT ON JUNE 3RD IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

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