

National and Local Figures sparked mental fireworks during Fourth of July weekend celebration

From Douglass to Duck Hill: A Reflection on Truth, Justice, and Sacred Ground

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

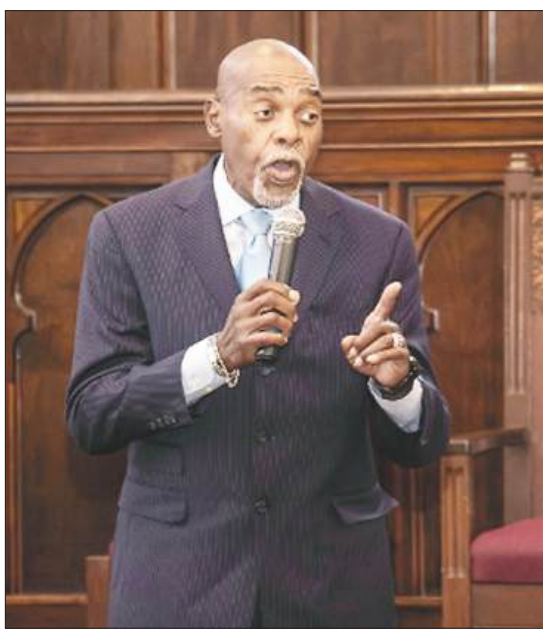
Born enslaved in Maryland, Frederick Douglass later escaped to freedom and emerged as “the greatest orator of his day.” His provocative oratorical skills left many mesmerized that he had been in bondage. This towering freedom proponent fought against slavery, influenced many for the right to be free, and was highly respected.

Douglass – a pacesetter – is most famous for his oration, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” On July 5, 1852, the speaker fervently delivered his address at a meeting organized by the Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York. He stressed his dissatisfaction with the United States for falsifying American values like liberty, citizenship, and freedom that were not granted to enslaved Blacks who were unwillingly transported to the country during the Atlantic Slave Trade. Churches, he charged, were religiously hypocritical while distorting God’s word, betraying their own biblical and Christian values, and stripping away the rights and liberties of others.

What does Duck Hill, MS have to do with Douglass? It links him through a gathering based upon the 1937 lynching of Roosevelt “Red” Townes and Robert “Bootjack” McDaniels. Part of a broader movement led by a nonprofit organization, Mississippi2, in preservation of suppressed Black historians,



Azia Cimone sings a haunting version of “Strange Fruit.” PHOTOS BY JOSHUA MARTIN



Henry Rhodes singing “A Change Is Gonna Come.”



Ramel Cotton inspired viewers with his soulful rendition of the outspoken genius of Abolitionist, Frederick Douglass.



Laurie Walker Hall renders her version of Trouble of the World.

intergenerational dialogue and building pathways to justice and community restoration, are key elements for healing. Thus,

the Civil Rights Movement – a movement that is not over until all persons are free – from Douglass’s unwavering courage –

has been instrumental in racial reconciliation.

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Mayor John Horhn holds Meet & Greet July 3rd and attends the first City Council meeting as Mayor of Jackson, July 8th

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Honorable Mayor John Horhn held a Downtown Meet & Greet even Thursday July 3, 2025, at the Two Mississippi Museums, 222 North Street in Jackson. A large crowd of community leaders, elected officials, youth, stakeholders, and citizens attended the event which began as an informal gathering where attendees had the opportunity to talk to one another until Mayor Horhn approached the platform.

The event was moderated by Bishop Ronnie Crudup, Sr. who served as a member of the mayor’s transition team.

Greetings were extended from sponsors of the event, Liz Brister, President & Executive Director, Downtown Jackson Partners, Jeff Rent, President & CEO, Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Yolanda Owens, COO, Jackson Redevelopment Authority, and Rickey Thig-



Mayor Horhn speaks at Meet & Greet July 3, 2025 at Two Mississippi Museums. Several youth from the I AM Inspire Program by Center for Social Entrepreneurship attended the event. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

pen, Ph.D., President/ CEO Visit Jackson. Each expressed their excitement in collaborating with the mayor who has hit the ground running with an abundance of energy under his theme, “Jackson is Ready....The

Time is Now.” Horhn announced the team that will help him lead the city. Horhn first introduced former Hinds County Judge Pieter Teeuwissen, as the city’s interim chief administrative officer.

In this position, Teeuwissen will be serving as the deputy mayor. Others introduced as interim appointees included Willie Bozeman chief of staff, ReSean

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The torch of freedom and democracy

“Liberty Enlightening the World” now extinguished by America’s greed, racism, and classism



Statue of Liberty, in silhouette. COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

COMMENTARY

In 1886, it was a monumental gift from one nation to another, celebrating the enduring values of liberty and democracy, embodying the aspirations of those who sought refuge and opportunity in a new land - a welcoming beacon of hope for generations. This was the gift from France to the United States following the Revolutionary War when the 13-colonies overthrew the Kingdom of Great Britain. The Statue of Liberty – originally named “Liberty Enlightening the World,” was intended to be an international symbol of liberty, justice, and democracy, per the National Park Service.

“The statue’s role in American history extended beyond mere symbolism; it served as a literal gateway to a new life. New arrivals were often met with the words inscribed on the pedestal: ‘Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.’ This iconic phrase, crafted by poet Emma Lazarus, encapsulated the compassionate spirit of the United States and its commitment to providing refuge for those in need,” per World History Journal.

Here we are, 139 years later, and reasonable people inside and outside America can ask if the United States still stands for liberty, justice, and democracy. It seems like discrimination, oppression and inequality are no longer on a snail’s pace of decline – they are on the incline. IP-SOS surveyed perceptions of

America as a force for good in 29 countries since just prior to the November General Election and 46 percent said yes. Prior to the election that number was 59 percent - a 13 percent decline in six months. The country list includes South Korea, Hungary, Australia, Great Britain, Germany, and yes, the very country that conferred Lady Liberty on us – France – records just 30 percent of respondents claiming America is a force for good today.

As President Trump focuses on immigration – illegal and otherwise – some Americans are contemplating emigration. Gallup polling in 2024 found that 21 percent of Americans wanted to leave the United States permanently, more than double the 10 percent who had said so in 2011. The thousands that are leaving are people who have the means to do so. We have no shortage of people of means here. “In 2024, the top 10 percent of wealthiest Americans control 60 percent of the country’s overall wealth, whereas the bottom 50 percent control 6 percent,” per USA Today.

One lens to the view the deep division in America is the number of tie-breaking votes cast by our vice-presidents, in the Senate. Over time 306 of these votes have been cast. Vice President Kamla Harris cast the most, 33 over her four years. J.D. Vance has already cast his fifth tie-breaking vote – on H.R. 1, dubbed One Big

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In Loving Memory of

LoEster

Taylor Benson

December 23, 1934 – June 27, 2025



LoEster Taylor Benso

LoEster Taylor Benson was born to Nolan and Robbie Taylor December 23, 1934, in Magnolia, Mississippi. During her childhood years, she was baptized at Terry's Creek Missionary Baptist Church and later became a member of Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church, both in Magnolia, Mississippi.

LoEster attended elementary school at Lee School in Magnolia, Mississippi, and graduated from O.W. Dillon High School in Kentwood, Louisiana, in 1952. She continued her education, attending Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she graduated in 1956, receiving her undergraduate degree in elementary education. She did her student teaching in Port Allen, Louisiana. She began her teaching career in Indianola, Mississippi. Throughout her career, it was clear that her passion and life's calling centered on educating youth. While in Indianola, she met and later married her loving husband, Alvin Lee Benson. Their union was blessed with a daughter, Tarita Benson. The family later moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where LoEster taught first grade at Lake Elementary, Timberlawn Elementary, and Siwell Elementary. As she continued in her career, LoEster received advanced degrees and earned both her Master's and Specialist's degrees in Education from Jackson State University, which are testaments to her unshakable belief in the power of learning. After 35+ years of teaching, LoEster retired in 1997.

LoEster accepted Christ at an early age and was a faithful member of College Hill Baptist Church, where she, her husband, and daughter attended and served faithfully for over 30 years. LoEster was an active and dedicated member of the Women's Choir, Mass Choir, Mission Circle No. 6, the Outreach Ministry, and a sincere and devoted Sunday School teacher for the nursery.

LoEster was an esteemed and proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She was initiated in

the Alpha Tau Chapter at Southern University and was a member of Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. LoEster dedicated herself to community, education, and sisterhood.

LoEster Taylor Benson lived a life rooted in love, faith, and service. She had a beautiful spirit and touched countless lives over her distinguished 35+ year career as an elementary school teacher. She nurtured generations of students with warmth, patience, and her gift for growing minds and changing lives. She had a loving joy and a spirit of kindness that could brighten any room and a soul nourished by her "green thumb," her love of gardening, flowers, and life's simplest pleasures. As a longtime resident of Jackson, Mississippi, you would often see her gardening in her yard which was her passion, and she helped to cultivate the beauty in the yards throughout the neighborhood. Alvin and LoEster's home was often the anchor for the neighborhood's "Beautiful View Block Club" meetings and festivals, where she served as president for several years. She also volunteered at St. Dominic Hospital for several years, bringing joy and kindness to the people she encountered.

LoEster was skilled in so many areas. She was an excellent cook and could bake delicious homemade pound cakes. One of her most cherished and enduring talents was her remarkable skill as a seamstress. With careful hands and an eye for detail, she transformed fabric into garments that were not only beautifully made but deeply personal. She did everything from professional grade alterations to making party dresses, prom dresses, and formal gowns. She took particular pride and joy in sewing for her daughter, Tarita. Each outfit she created for her was a labor of love, thoughtfully designed and meticulously sewn to make Tarita feel confident, radiant and deeply loved. Her legacy is stitched into every memory she helped to create, and she will be remembered for the elegance, warmth, and tenderness she brought into the lives of those she loved most. LoEster was a woman who loved life - and life, without a doubt, loved her right back.

LoEster's life was enriched by a deep and abiding love for her family. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Alvin Lee Benson; her parents, Nolan and Robbie Taylor; her sister, Alice TaylorWare; one brother-in-law, Clyde McMorris, and countless loved ones who have no doubt greeted her with open arms.

LoEster is survived by her cherished daughter, Tarita Benson Davis (Dyren) of Humble, Texas; her siblings, sisters, Barbara McMorris and Carolyn "Gloria" Scott (Valiant) both of McComb, Mississippi, a brother, Wallace Taylor (Lynda) of Magnolia, Mississippi; one sister-in-law, Rosalee Coleman of Vicksburg, Mississippi; bonus grandchildren Karen Prophet (Darius), Kasey Shy (Yulbritton), Kolby and Sydney Davis and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends who will continue to celebrate her generous spirit.

Homegoing services were held Monday, July 7, 2025, 11:00 A.M. at College Hill Baptist Church, Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, officiating, Rev. Hosea J. Hines, pastor of Christ Tabernacle Church delivered the eulogy. Homegoing arrangements were entrusted to Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, 3580 Robinson Road in Jackson.

*Celebrating The Life
And Legacy of*

Mama Burks



Mosie "Mama" Burks transitioned Monday, July 7, 2025

The Mississippi Mass Choir, alongside the Burks family, will celebrate the extraordinary life, legacy, and ministry of beloved Mosie "Mama" Burks with services in Jackson, Mississippi, July 15-16, 2025.

Mama Burks has accepted the call of a lifetime—one extended by her Heavenly Father. It was a standing invitation she often sang about, lived prepared for, and finally answered. With a life rooted in unwavering faith, joyful praise, and steadfast devotion, she transitioned from the stage to glory July 7, 2025.

Mama Mosie was more than a voice. She was a living testimony of unwavering faith, joy, and perseverance. From her electrifying performances of "When I Rose This Morning" to her soul-stirring presence on and off stage, she embodied the spirit of gospel music and the mission of this choir. Her energy, her testimony, and her unwavering love for God touched audiences around the world and brought countless souls to Christ.

In preparation for their first recording proceeding the passing of their founder Frank Williams in 1993, the choir opened membership for new members in 1995, and Mama Burks joined at the invitation of the choir's Minister of Music Jerry Smith, who had played for her group the S.L Spann Inspirers since he was sixteen years old. Unbelievably, but consistent with her humble spirit, she was reluctant to join because she did not think she was good enough. Notwithstanding, she came in as a rank-and-file member, faithfully attending every rehearsal in preparation for the 'See You In the Rapture' project.

Three weeks prior to the recording, Smith observed that the project needed an additional song to round out the project and suggested 'This Morning When I Rose,' a song that Burks had performed for decades with her church choir, Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

According to the choir's Executive Director, Jerry Mannery, "On the night of the recording, she walked out from the alto section to the lead microphone, and with the first signature shaking of her head from side to side - with immaculate gray hair swinging, the atmosphere shook, and aftershocks went throughout the audience, the Gospel industry and the broader music world, announcing the arrival of an icon.

Three additional songs by her - They Got the Word, I'm Just Holding On, and "I'm Not Tired Yet," became viral sensation, with the latter becoming the theme song for the Scott Van Pelt show on ESPN.

Though we mourn her physical absence, we rejoice in knowing she's been singing about this day all her life - "There's a great coronation coming up... filled with joy and gladness, and the special guest attending will be all the children of the Lord." She sang about having "a standing invitation" and early on the morning of July 7th, packed and ready, God called, and she boarded the flight there.

Her unforgettable voice, infectious spirit, and powerful testimony touched lives across the world. Now, we pause not just to grieve her absence—but to honor a life well-lived and a legacy that will sing on through the generations.

Arrangements are as follows: Public Visitation Tuesday, July 15, 2025 / 2:00PM - 4:00PM Jackson Memorial Funeral Home 1000 West Woodrow Wilson Blvd. Jackson, MS 39213

Musical Celebration: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 / 5:00PM - 7:00PM Greater Fairview Baptist Church, 2545 Newport Street Jackson, MS 39213

Homegoing Service: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 / 11:00AM Greater Bethlehem Temple Apostolic Church, 1505 Robinson Street, Jackson, MS 39203

Arrangements Entrusted to: Jackson Memorial Funeral Home, 1000 West Woodrow Wilson Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Please keep her family - Amos and Watkins - and the Mississippi Mass Choir family in your prayers during this time of reflection and remembrance.

The Mississippi Link™

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Torch

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Beautiful Bill – in just five and half months in office. Just three Republicans Senators voted against it, Susan Collins of Maine, Tom Tillis of North Carolina, and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Among the Democrats speaking on the Senate Floor prior to the vote was New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen. “I’m here on the floor to oppose the Reconciliation Bill that we are considering today. It would be the largest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in a single bill in our history. It would give not the top 1 percent but the top .1 percent an extra \$250,000 per year, while those making less than \$50,000 per year, which is about 30 percent of Americans, will lose \$700 per year. The bill represents the largest cut to healthcare in history, impacting Medicaid and those on the Affordable Care Act. There are \$930 million in cuts to Medicaid alone in this bill. Up to 17 million will lose their health insurance. Those American’s earning less than \$30,000 per year will pay \$1,500 more per year in taxes.” So much for fairness and equality. So much for “with Liberty and Justice for all...” so much for caring for our own children. The One Big Beautiful Bill will drive a deeper, more expansive wedge, between the haves and the have nots.

Pew Research tells us that 23 percent of Americans are enrolled in Medicaid – about 80 million people – and the number is rising. States like Louisiana (32.4 percent), Kentucky (28.3 percent), West Virginia (28.2 percent), and Arkansas (27.4 percent) heavy Republican states - are among the seven states with at least 25 percent of their population enrolled in Medicaid. These four states have a total of eight Senators and eighteen Representatives. Of those twenty-six members of Congress, only five voted against H.R. 1, per <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2025190>, demonstrating little to no regard for the least of these.

Here on the deep down home front, both Mississippi Senators – Wicker and Hyde-Smith - and three of our four Representatives – Ezell, Guest, and Kelly - all Republicans, voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill, despite one out of every two Medicaid enrollees being children, per the Kaiser Family Foundation - <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-MS>, in a state that refuses to apply for Medicaid expansion. Only Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, a former schoolteacher from Bolton, voted against the bill.

The inscription on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty no longer applies in modern-day America. There is a full-out assault on poor and marginalized communities in the United States today, fueled by people who pridefully call themselves conservatives, MAGA Republicans, Christian Nationalists, and President of the United States.

Horhn

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Thomas, fire chief, Von Anderson, director of planning and development, Grace Fisher, communications director, Pearlean Campbell, constituent service director, Nathan Slater, information technology director, and Jamal Sibley, special assistant to the mayor. Each appointee had an opportunity to speak to the crowd gathered.

The interim appointees can serve in this capacity for 90 days. Their names must be placed on the agenda of a city council meeting, to be confirmed by the members of the city council prior to completion of the 90 days.

In a packed city council meeting to include elected officials and community leaders, the council elected Councilman Brian Grizell, Ward 4 as the new president and Councilman Vernon Hartley, Ward 5 as vice president.

In addition to interim appointees that were named at the Meet & Greet, the mayor named the following appointees at the city council meeting: Drew Martin, City Attorney, Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk, Fidelis Malembeka, Chief Financial Officer, Toya Martin, Director of Human Resources, and Pam Joiner, Human & Cultural Services Director. It was announced that Emad Al-Turk, the contractor for the city’s public works department will remain in that position and Malcolm Johnson will be joining constituent services.



Mayor John Horhn first row, and City Council Members back row (L-R) Ashby Foote (Ward 1), Tina Clay (Ward 2), Kenneth Stokes (Ward 3), Brian Grizell (Ward 4), Vernon Hartley, (Ward 5) Lashia Brown-Thomas, (Ward 6) and Kevin Parkinson (Ward 7). PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Fireworks

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Mississippi 2 CEO, Talamieka Brice, and Princeton University Professor Dr. Eddie S. Gaude

Mississippi2 hosted “From Douglass to Duck Hill” in Jackson, MS at Fondren Presbyterian Church, 3220 Old Canton Road Saturday, July 5, 2025 - 173 years since Douglass delivered his stinging oration before a powerful gathering to bridge history, healing, and hope. The legacy of racial violence and the sacred call for truth-telling in America were explored

According to Talamieka Brice (Mississippi2’s CEO), the occasion alerted the public “of the very real and historic divide between the African American and white American experience, to dive into the wedge that’s always been there and to further explore a path forward with that knowledge.”

A poetic invocation set the tone for memory and justice. Viewers and participants were reminded of Douglass’s searing words regarding liberty. They were challenged to reflect on what it means to live in a land where blood has been spilled and sanctified into the soil.

Featured speakers and artists braided a narrative of pain and possibility, acknowledging that the soil in places like Duck Hill is not just dirt. Rather, it is also festured with memory, sacrifice, and unresolved trauma. Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr. – professor at Princeton University and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies –

emphasized how the spilled blood of lynching victims cries out from the soil for acknowledgment and repair, and that America must face the moral reckoning to move forward.

Wright Thompson – author and ESPN Writer – urged the audience to confront the stories buried beneath our feet while reflecting on the Miss. landscape as both a witness and participant in history. On the other hand, Robert P. Jones – author of “White Too Long” – pensively examined racial violence. He examined the theological and cultural complicity in racial violence, thereby underscoring the need for truth as a precondition for healing.

Vocal, troubled voices interconnected the past to the present. Ramel Cotton fired up participants with excerpts from Douglass’s eloquent addresses which linked his prophetic voice to the struggles of today. The audience was moved by Laurie Walker Hall’s soul-stirring rendition of “Trouble of the World” which evoked the pain and resilience of generations past. Azia Simone sang a memorable, haunting version of “Strange Fruit” that reminded attendees of the terror and beauty embedded in the Black American experience. Hearts were lifted with Henry Rhodes’ version of “A Change is Gonna Come” which offered a hopeful refrain for the future we are called to build.

“From Douglass to Duck Hill” culminated in a ritual of healing and commitment, where participants gathered red, white, and blue sands into a communal jar, symbolizing a reimagined America built on truth and shared responsibility. Jars of soil from the Duck Hill lynching site were offered to participants as sacred reminders of the blood that consecrates the ground. “More than an event,” voiced Brice, “[we were called] to remember, to reconcile, and to build a future worthy of those whose blood nourished the soil beneath us.”

Brice’s nonprofit Mississippi2 was founded to amplify marginalized voices and to preserve cultural memory through visual storytelling, historical education, and community healing. The organization uses art, history, and community engagement to confront hard truths while also creating space for hope and transformation. Focusing especially on uplifting Black women’s voices, honest dialogue is sparked, and communities are enticed to heal from the legacies of racial violence and social injustice. To learn more, visit www.brice-media.com, or contact Talamieka Brice, CEO, at 601-790-0259 or 601-813-6161.

Congressional Black Caucus challenges Target on Diversity

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent

Target is grappling with worsening financial and reputational fallout as the national selective buying and public education program launched by the Black Press of America and other national and local leaders continues to erode the retailer’s sales and foot traffic. But a recent meeting that the retailer intended to keep quiet between CEO Brian Cornell and members of the Congressional Black Caucus Diversity Task Force was publicly reported after the Black Press discovered the session, and the CBC later put Target on blast.

“The Congressional Black Caucus met with the leadership of the Target Corporation on Capitol Hill to directly address deep concerns about the impact of the company’s unconscionable decision to end a number



Retail Store. Target Sells Home Goods, Clothing and Electronics. San Diego, California, USA, August 16th, 2020 PHOTO BY THOMAS DE WEVER

of its diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts,” CBC Chair Yvette Clarke stated. “Like many of the coalition leaders and partner organizations that have chosen to boycott their stores across the country, we found that the explanations offered by the leadership of the Target Corporation fell woefully short of what our communities deserve and of the values of inclusion that Target

once touted,” she emphasized. “Black consumers contribute overwhelmingly to our economy and the Target Corporation’s bottom line. Our communities deserve to shop at businesses that publicly share our values without sacrificing our dignity. It is no longer acceptable to deliver promises to our communities in private without also demonstrating those values pub-

licly.”

Lauren Burke, Capitol Hill correspondent for Black Press of America, was present when Cornell and a contingent of Target officials arrived at the U.S. Capitol last month. “It’s always helpful to have meetings like this and get some candid feedback and continue to evolve our thinking,” Cornell told Burke as he exited the meeting. “We look forward to follow-up conversations,” he stated. When asked if the issue of the ongoing boycott was discussed, Cornell’s response was, “That was not a big area of focus — we’re focused on running a great business each and every day. Take care of our teams. Take care of the guests who shop with us and do the right things in our communities.”

A national public education campaign on Target, spearheaded by Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the NNPA’s board of directors, and with other national African American leaders, has combined consumer education efforts with a call for selective buying. The NNPA is a trade association that represents the more than 220 African American-owned newspapers and media companies known as the Black Press of America, the voice of 50 million African Americans across the nation. The coalition has requested that Target restore and expand its stated commitment to do business with local community-owned businesses inclusive of the Black Press of America, and to significantly increase investment in Black-owned businesses and media. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Black-owned Banks, national Black Church denominations, and grassroots and local organizations committed to im-

proving the quality of life of all Americans, and especially those from underserved communities. According to Target’s latest earnings report, net sales for the first quarter of 2025 fell 2.8 percent to \$23.85 billion compared to the same period last year. Comparable store sales dropped 3.8 percent, and in-store foot traffic slid 5.7 percent.

Shares of Target have also struggled under the pressure. The company’s stock traded around \$103.85 earlier this week, down significantly from roughly \$145 before the controversy escalated. Analysts note that Target has lost more than \$12 billion in market value since the beginning of the year. “We will continue to inform and to mobilize Black consumers in every state in the United States,” Chavis said. “Target today has a profound opportunity to respond with respect and restorative commitment.”

Shandra Toaster recognized by the Hinds County School District for ranging creative, teaching abilities in a global society

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

When Shandra Toaster attended the University of Southern Mississippi, her goal was to become a lawyer. After graduation, she worked at the Hinds County Justice Court and realized that she was going to venture in a different direction. She mentally struggled for a pathway that would be best suited for her.

Toaster knew that she worked well with youth in the church. One member observed her actions with the youth and suggested that she look into a teaching program at Belhaven College (now university). Toaster heeded the advice and enrolled at Belhaven to obtain an Alternate Route Teacher License.

"I believe God led me to teaching. It has been a very meaningful journey. I love it when I see my students succeeding. [Teaching] is very rewarding," said the educator.

No stranger to inspiring students, Toaster has been teaching for two decades in Hinds County. She challenged scholars to improve their skills at Woolfolk Middle School (Yazoo City); Jim



Shandra Toaster

Hill High School (Jackson); Gary Road Intermediate (Byram); and, currently, Raymond High School (Raymond). As a result, she

taught Spanish 19 years and English one year. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the educator was

cited teacher of the month for the creativity that she brought to the classroom. She wanted to "energize" the scholars more, so she took her teaching abilities to a new level. "Instead of scholars just sitting in their seats and working on worksheets, they were engaged throughout the class with games and cooperative learning activities," she said.

Toaster was recognized by the Hinds County District in 2025 for her work with her English Learners class which consisted of 12 scholars in grades 9-12. She observed the scholars at the outset and knew that she could make a positive impact. "I was very creative when creating differentiated lessons," she reminisced.

The teacher philosophizes that no two students are exactly alike. She approaches each student where they are and creates effective lessons that line up with real-world applications. She advises her scholars to continue to strive academically because "learning is a continuous process."

daily. Using languages at school with their peers is an ideal way to boost skill development. She also desires for the mentees to use these languages extensively in their careers to meet worldwide obligations.

"I am obligated to teach my students the importance of respecting all people and all things through examples...[and] to become independent learners. Every student has the potential to bring something unique and special to the world," said the motivator. While assisting her students in the development of their potentials, Toaster further explains that "they will be able to explore more opportunities."

Toaster surmises that she has taught beyond 2,000 students during her two-decade instructional period in Hinds County. She instills three significant things for their life's success: (1) keep God first and allow Him to direct their path; (2) persevere when pursuing their goals; and (3) be passionate about whatever they do. Summarizing these matters, the educator clearly states that although God opens doors, sometimes He closes them be-

cause He does not intend that the mentees have certain positions. They, however, must keep trying with challenging work to obtain remarkable results. When they dedicate themselves to their careers, they will make a difference in this world.

Not long ago, Terranee Brent, Toaster's former Spanish scholar, commented on Facebook: "Had it not been for you, I wouldn't have found myself 2,000 miles away from home, [having learned Spanish] in your classroom right there in JPS. I'll be forever grateful for you. I'm not claiming to be fluent, but thank you for not letting me leave your class empty-handed."

Toaster has an ultimate goal - to become a principal. She believes that within the next five years, she will be an assistant principal. While she has not targeted a specific locale, she believes that with God's guidance, she will land in the right direction and be equipped to work within that environment. As she continues to empower children, she envisions them "getting out of poverty and becoming successful."

Jackson is Ready... The Time is Now

Words inspired from the
Inaugural Address of Mayor John Horhn

By H. Ralph Samuels, Jr

Jackson is Ready
What about you
A new hope is dawning
A hope that is true

Jackson is Ready
We need everyone moving
No time for sleeping
No time for snoozing

Jackson is Ready
Ready to thrive
To move forward in progress
A city revived

Jackson is Ready
Let's think through our problems
Then pray for God's guidance
to show us how to solve them

Jackson is Ready
To face a new day
Charting a new course
Paving a new way

Jackson is Ready
To stand big and stand bold
There's so much potential
in this city with soul

Jackson is Ready
Challenges to overcome
We must all work together
and include everyone

I know we can do it
some way and some how
Because, Jackson is Ready
And the time is now!






Helping Hands for Medicare Plans



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

(Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Copiah, Simpson, Warren, & Yazoo)

Come join us as a volunteer! Help empower your community by providing vital Medicare information and support.

For more information,
contact an Insurance Counselor at 601-981-1516.

Beulah Missionary Baptist Church has a new look

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A \$150,000 grant awarded in 2024 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation has made a difference in the appearance, stability, and preservation of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, in Natchez, MS.

The funding, which came through the Preserving Black Churches program of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, was used for the restoration of the steeple and exterior windows of the 112-year-old structure.

"When the time is right, the Lord will make it happen, and it has happened at Beulah Baptist Church," said Pastor Johnathan T. Hargrave. "We're so thankful for the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Other restoration work included the walls and ceiling in the church foyer, said Deacon Robert Morgan. He and other church officials are excited about the project being completed, and they are pleased with the results, Morgan said.

He noted the construction began in November 2024 and was completed in May 2025. Johnny Waycaster of Waycaster Dungan Architecture and Engineering was the architect on the project, and Smith Painting and Contracting completed the work.



Beulah Missionary Baptist Church has a new steeple

"Everybody was overjoyed," Morgan said of the congregation. "They were so pleased that they actually made more trips to the church. Some people who don't even attend the church said they made it a habit to drive by to see how it looks."

For Morgan, the project is about the legacy of the church. "It means that the legacy continues," he said. "Each generation does its best to take what the previous generation gave and makes it better. In this case, the legacy continues for the next genera-

tion, which won't have that problem (of the steeple) to deal with."

Carter Burns, executive director of Historic Natchez Foundation, assisted the church with its grant application.

"We're thankful that the Historic Natchez Foundation was able to assist Beulah in receiving this grant from the Preserving Black Churches program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to restore the steeple on this important historic church building here in Natchez," Burns said.

Beulah is located at 710 Beulah St. or B Street. It played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement in Natchez. According to historians, it was regularly used as a meeting place by the Natchez NAACP.

In early October 1965, NAACP meetings at the church launched protests that resulted in the arrest of several hundred protesters who defied a court ban against marching.

When the local jails became full, the authorities bused 150 of them to Parchman Penitentiary

where they endured harsh treatment. It is said that they were "Proud to Take a Stand." Their experience became known as "The Parchman Ordeal."

Beulah was founded in 1896 by William Rochester, a U.S. Colored Troops veteran and commander-in-chief of the Mississippi and Louisiana Department of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The church officially organized on December 30, 1896, but its original wooden building was constructed in 1901, accord-

ing to Hargrave. Unfortunately, he said, it was destroyed by fire on March 4, 1911, and rebuilt in 1912.

Beulah was one of 31 churches out of more than 550 applicants across the United States approved for funding by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which awarded a total of \$4 million for the institutions.

A dedication ceremony for the steeple will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, July 20, during the church homecoming service. It is open to the public.



(L-R) Deacon Robert Morgan, Pastor Johnathan T. Hargrave, Historic Natchez Foundation Executive Director, Carter Burns.

Pearl River Revitalization Coalition Supports Corps of Engineers' New Plan for Jackson and the Pearl River Basin

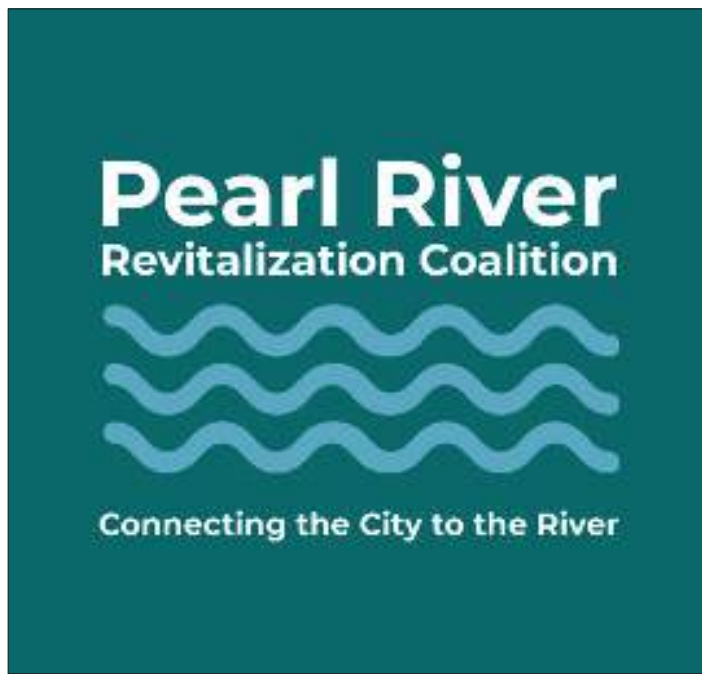
The Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a long-awaited Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) outlining a revised flood risk management plan for the Pearl River Basin. The Pearl River Revitalization Coalition announced July 3rd its strong support for the findings related to the Alternative D1 plan presented by the Mississippi Valley Division, Regional Planning and Environment Division South.

"This report affirms what we've said for years—when cities embrace their rivers, they see new opportunities for growth, development, and economic revitalization," said Dr. Rickey Thigpen, President and CEO of Visit Jackson. "We want that future for Jackson, and we're ready to work together to make it happen."

Called Alternative D1 in the report, the most impactful option consists of widening the Pearl River within the existing levee system and constructing a weir just south of I-20. Not only will it result in a 71% reduction in flood risk for the area, the Corps' report states: "This project can be a transformational catalyst for enhancing the quality of life of these communities for decades...that could spark an economic revival with a riverside focus that simply does not currently exist. We agree and look forward to a time later this year when the Corps will approve Alternative D1," said Thigpen.

The latest iteration of the plan features a smaller physical footprint than previous proposals, significantly reducing environmental impacts



while providing much-needed flood protection for historically vulnerable neighborhoods in Northeast and South Jackson. The Corps also states there will be negligible downstream impacts and no impacts to the Gulf Coast or the State of Louisiana.

"It is imperative for the Jackson metro area to have quality of life amenities like this to attract and retain the skilled workforce needed to drive economic development," said Jeff Rent, President and CEO of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership. "We are excited about the opportunity for new beginnings in Jackson and this project will accelerate our growth and secure our region's future."

Beyond flood control, the project offers a wide range of community benefits, including:

1. Improved public access to the Pearl River
2. New recreational ameni-

ties like parks and trails

3. Opportunities for a modernized water treatment facility in South Jackson
4. Enhanced water quality
5. Expanded environmental education efforts
6. Increased economic development
7. A chance for Jackson to embrace the river as part of its identity

The Pearl River Revitalization Coalition is a diverse partnership of educational institutions, community organizations, private sector partners, and non-profits. The Coalition fully supports this compromise plan developed collaboratively by the Corps of Engineers and the local flood control district to reduce flood risks, reconnect Jackson residents with the river, modernize critical water infrastructure, encourage investment in parks and trails, and help Jackson thrive for generations to come.

MSBOC Urges Residents to Do Homework Before Going Solar

Avoid costly mistakes, scams and unlicensed installers before making a commitment

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As more Mississippi homeowners explore solar energy to lower their utility bills, the Mississippi State Board of Contractors urges residents to be cautious, informed and selective when considering solar panel installations.

Solar energy is a major investment that requires careful planning. Important factors to consider include the age and condition of your roof, sun exposure, energy usage, household budget, and how long you plan to stay in your home.

"Solar is a growing trend, and we want Mississippi homeowners to reap its benefits without risking poor workmanship or misleading sales tactics," said MSBOC Executive Director Stephanie Lee. "That starts with hiring a licensed contractor who meets the state's standards for training, safety and accountability."

MSBOC warns that unlicensed contractors are entering the Mississippi market, offering fast installs or low prices and leaving behind incomplete or unsafe work that fails to meet state standards. That's why residents should verify that companies are properly licensed to do business in Mississippi before making any final decisions.

The board also recommends that homeowners review their electricity usage, investigate available incentives and get multiple written quotes that compare apples-to-apples on equipment, system size, installation scope, warranties and financing terms.

"Some solar companies make claims about savings or use high-pressure tactics like limited time



deals to push people into contracts," Lee said. "It's important homeowners aren't misled about costs, trapped in confusing lease terms or left with systems that don't perform as promised."

Homeowners should be cautious about leasing offers that advertise low monthly payments and guaranteed energy savings since these often come with long-term contracts and unfavorable terms. They should also be wary of companies that request large upfront payments. In general, down payments should not exceed 10 percent of the total cost or \$1,000, whichever is less.

MSBOC Urges Residents to Do Homework Before Going Solar.

MSBOC is committed to protecting residents by ensuring that only qualified, licensed contractors perform work in the state. Here are some helpful tips:

- Avoid high-pressure sales tactics such as limited-time deals.
- Get references and ask previous customers about their experiences.
- Know the lease terms and don't rush into signing on the dotted line.

Never pay large amounts upfront; down payments should be minimal.

• Ensure contracts, warranties and inspections are complete before making the final payment.

• Upfront costs can be significant, and savings may take years to materialize.

• Without battery backup, panels won't deliver solar power when needed most.

• Watch out for companies that use substandard or outdated equipment that may cause poor performance or safety hazards.

• Be alert for scammers posing as legitimate solar companies to collect your personal or financial information.

To verify licensing status, visit msboc.us or call 1-800-880-6161.

Protecting Mississippi residents and businesses since 1952, the Mississippi State Board of Contractors licenses and regulates the state's construction industry to ensure public health and safety. MSBOC educates consumers, enforces licensing laws, investigates complaints, and actively combats unlicensed activity through its statewide investigative team

Talent over tokenism: black mayors slash crime despite media silence

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

While cable news pundits and national newspapers often fixate on urban dysfunction, Black mayors across America are delivering measurable, record-breaking progress in public safety—and getting almost no credit for it. Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin have overseen some of the steepest reductions in violent crime their cities have experienced in decades. But they are far from alone. From New York to Los Angeles to Chicago, Black mayors are proving that talent, vision, and a relentless focus on evidence-based policy—not tokenism—are transforming communities. Yet their achievements have largely been ignored by mainstream media outlets that rarely look past sensational headlines.

Baltimore, long branded one of America's most dangerous cities, released midyear crime data showing a 22 percent drop in homicides compared to the same period last year. Nonfatal shootings are down 19 percent, and juvenile homicide victims have declined by an astonishing 71 percent. Police are solving more crimes, with a homicide clearance rate of 64 percent and a non-fatal shooting clearance rate 20 percentage points above



Governor Moore attends a press conference with Mayor Brandon Scott on Public Safety in Baltimore WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / PHOTO BY MARYLAND GOVPICS

the department's 10-year average. "These historic lows are the result of a comprehensive, evidence-based public safety strategy that we have implemented in partnership with residents," Scott said. "But our work is far from over—68 lives lost to violence is 68 too many."

The progress didn't happen by chance. Under Scott's leadership, the Baltimore Police Department has combined targeted enforcement with offers of help. Commissioner Richard Worley described how the Group Violence Reduction Strategy works: "We go out and give them a letter and basically say, 'Listen, we know you were doing the shooting. We want you

to put the guns down, or we will take you and your entire drug operation off the street. But here are the services—job training, education, relocation.'" Meanwhile, in Birmingham, Woodfin has led an aggressive, community-driven approach that's paid off. The city's homicide rate has fallen 52 percent compared to last year, and the clearance rate for homicides has surged to 79 percent, a level rarely seen in major cities.

"The Birmingham Police Department is extremely aggressive in what they're doing and how they're taking a different approach in policing our community," Woodfin said. He credited a blend of new tech-

nology, such as the Real Time Crime Center, and grassroots cooperation. "When you share information, it doesn't allow the criminal element to be emboldened and hide behind fear of people," Woodfin explained. "Those who are killing people are not just walking our streets." Birmingham Police Chief Michael Pickett said the city's street outreach teams are also preventing retaliatory shootings before they happen. "We are really, really hammering at it," Pickett told the City Council. "I am very appreciative of all the men and women in the Birmingham Police Department who are leading our fight."

While total violent crime

in Birmingham has edged up slightly, the plunge in homicides shows that sustained focus and coordination can work—even if major media don't bother to cover it. State and federal partners in Maryland have also acknowledged Baltimore's progress. "Baltimore City released a mid-year report showing the fewest homicides ever recorded at this point in a single year," Maryland Governor Wes Moore's office said in a statement. Across the country, other Black mayors are driving similar results.

In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams has presided over a 24 percent drop in shootings and a 14 percent decline in murders so far in 2025, the fewest shooting incidents recorded in more than a decade. Robberies and burglaries are also down, with NYPD data showing consistent reductions across nearly every major crime category. On the West Coast, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass saw homicides fall 14 percent in 2024 and gang-related killings drop nearly 45 percent in areas targeted by community safety programs. Overall violent crime declined by 3 percent, and property crimes like burglary and auto theft dropped by thousands of incidents compared to the prior year.

In Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson has overseen a 22 percent decrease in murders and

a 31 percent drop in shootings through early 2025, reaching the city's lowest homicide totals in over a decade. Officials credit community-based outreach and investments in neighborhood violence prevention. And in Atlanta, Mayor Andre Dickens announced that violent crime was down nearly 16 percent in 2024, with homicides decreasing and property crime dropping as well. The city has invested in hiring more officers while expanding the At-Promise Centers that connect youth with educational and mental health resources.

In both large and mid-sized cities, the results are undeniable: fewer families burying loved ones, more cases solved, and more residents willing to engage with police. But to hear much of the national narrative, you'd never know it. As several social media users have pointed out, in Baltimore, Birmingham, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta, Black leadership is not a box to check or a headline to boast about. It's what drives real, life-saving change—whether the national media notices or not. "While we acknowledge the historic lows we are experiencing, we must simultaneously acknowledge that there is much more work to do," Scott stated. "And our success makes me commit even further to doing it."

The Race Card

Bad Faith never changes – dishonest, deceitful, fraudulent – now mainstream in America

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

'Playing the race card'; 'using the race card'; 'pulling the race card' – are all phrases very often used in our society by white people against non-white people, particularly African Americans. When non-white people call out racism, racial injustice, or lack of fairness – the retort is always that they are 'playing the race card'. There is no pause for deeper consideration of the merits of the objection. It's not in the playbook to truly listen and try to understand. In all too many instances, if your skin color is not white, then your thoughts and feelings don't matter.

This template of discrimination in America was inherent in slavery – 250 years of brutal and often deadly oppression of African Americans. Enslaved people were brought to this land as property, totally stripped of sovereign humanity. To view these people as anything other than property – possessions of their white owners – required an infusion of enlightenment and morality. It became a means to ensure a Union victory. On September 22, 1862, when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that would go into effect the following January 1st, Lincoln tied slavery to the Civil War. He repeatedly proclaimed that preserving the Union was his primary objective – not ending slavery, per the National Museum of African American History & Culture.

When asking Southerners about slavery or the Civil War, we often hear the words: "It's complicated." That response affords undeserved grace to the respondent. The better response would be, "From our origins to the present day, on the soil that we now call the United States, African descendants and others have been looked down on; have been viewed by the white majority -- with relatively few exceptions -- as less-than, and undeserving of equality, despite our country's own founding documents claiming the opposite."

Post-Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment, we have seen the systemic targeting of Black Americans. The list never ends: "Black Codes,



ILLUSTRATION VIA WWW.BUCKNELL.EDU

convict leasing, Jim Crow, redlining, sundown towns, COINTELPRO, mass incarceration, and the calculated destruction of over 60 thriving Black towns," per the Minnesota Spokesman Reporter, a member of National Newspaper Publishers Association – The Black Press.

Currently, The White House is occupied by someone who does not believe in racial equality. He was just 27 years old in 1973 when the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division filed suit against Trump Management Corporation for racial discrimination in their renting policies. They settled with a consent decree in 1975, per www.Politico.com.

Trump's cabinet consists of twenty-two people, and one is African American. At the top of his agenda is the nationwide elimination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, focusing on eliminating support for non-whites in a broad manner that includes physical ability, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religion. This action, while beginning with the federal government, has the intent to spread into the private sector. This is "playing the race card" on the grandest and ugliest of scales.

When asked for her thoughts, Dr. Marion Y. Talley, Associate Minister at the historic Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson, MS shared, "First, they want to delegitimize our experiences by saying, 'it's not true', and second, in the back of their minds, I think they are saying, 'If we can take away the historical nature of what is happening, then they won't have a problem repeating them. If they could erase our lived experiences they would. If he could load up all the

black folks and take them out, he would do it. Reverse racism is nothing but a power play. If we allow it, it will continue."

Reverend Hosea J. Hines, Senior Pastor of Christ Tabernacle Church in Jackson and the national leader of A New Day Coalition for Equity for Black America (ANCEBA) shared, "People are exercising racism, oppression and bigotry in our current environment. This administration is doing it, and they have made it okay for others – it's their version of cleansing America. Accusing someone of 'playing the race card' is just one of their tools. Another is identifying people with adjectives. In our lives we are not adjectives, we are nouns – a man, a woman, etc. In days gone by it was easy to call someone out, like Beckwith (Byron De La Beckwith, the avowed white supremacist who murdered Medgar Evers), for example; but today we need to expand our critical thinking and see the larger picture, because today the major corporate that will practice racism is AI. Who is doing the programming of AI? Is it connected to a New World Order? Now with spiritual wickedness in high places, we are at a crucible of crises – we must act."

Ms. Annie L. Cooper, who served as the Director of Multicultural Affairs for over twenty years at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, didn't mince words. "People who try to dismiss issues pertaining to injustices perpetrated on Black people by saying they are 'just playing the race card' are either unaware of the history of structural discrimination and marginalization of people of color in the United States or they are staunch racists."

Some people have conservative views and are unable to appreciate the value of DEI. They do not understand the benefits and enrichment of exposure to variety – differences of culture, lifestyles and beliefs. In my opinion, when some people are faced with the history of structural racism and the truth of unfair advantages afforded to white people in this country, they have a sense of guilt and/or denial and will choose to dismiss issues of protest or grievance as simply Black people "playing the race card."

The new tax law fuels inequality, strips healthcare, and displaces black communities

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

The legislation President Donald Trump signed into law July 4—celebrated by Republican Sen. Tim Scott as a milestone of "fiscal responsibility" and "opportunity"—is, in fact, a sprawling blueprint for further concentrating wealth, destabilizing public schools, and stripping resources from Black communities.

While Scott touted the bill as a transformative achievement for American families, independent analyses paint a different picture. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget projects the law will add trillions to the deficit over the next decade, driven by permanent corporate tax cuts and expanded defense spending. That debt load will almost certainly trigger future demands to slash Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance programs essential to millions of Black families.

Scott, who is Black, repeatedly claimed that the law delivers tax relief to working people; however, the Tax Policy Center estimates that the wealthiest 1 percent of households will collect the majority of tax benefits, averaging more than \$60,000 per year. By contrast, the average middle-income household—where most Black families fall—will see only temporary, modest reductions, many of which expire in five years. Among the most dangerous provisions is the permanent expansion of the Opportunity Zone program, which Scott called "maximizing community impact." Multiple studies, including those by the Government Accountability Office and the Brookings Institution, have found that Opportunity Zones have largely failed to reduce poverty or lift incomes for residents. Instead, they have accelerated gentrification, pushing long-time Black families and small businesses out of their neighborhoods as investors rush in to extract profit.

The law's new permanent school choice tax credit has been framed as a lifeline for low-income children, but the reality is that it primarily benefits those who are already able to afford



Official portrait of U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). PHOTO BY U.S. SENATE PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO-RENEE BOUCHARD

private school tuition. Public education researchers have warned that this diversion of public funding will deepen educational disparities that trap Black students in under-resourced schools while wealthier families receive tax subsidies. The repeal of Section 899, a tax provision that imposed penalties on certain foreign-owned corporations, was labeled by Scott as a job creator. Yet tax policy experts agree there is no evidence this giveaway will generate employment. What is certain is that multinational corporations will pocket billions in tax savings, while Black workers are left to hope for trickle-down benefits that rarely materialize.

Even as lawmakers made corporate tax cuts permanent, they allowed the expanded Child Tax Credit—responsible for record reductions in Black child poverty in recent years—to remain expired. In its place, the law provides structural tax advantages to investors and business owners, making it more difficult for Black families to build wealth or afford rising housing costs. The result is a sweeping law that strengthens systemic inequities under the banner of prosperity. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries put it bluntly: "The One Big Ugly Bill hurts everyday Americans and rewards billionaires. It's the largest attack on healthcare in American history. More than 17 million people will lose their healthcare as a result... folks are going to die across the United States of America."

Freedom celebrated. Freedom denied. Strange isn't it?

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



The cost of living is going up. Going to the store or getting gas has become painful. America is in an anguished and frustrated state.

The questions are many and the answers are few. There is much conjecture and concern in the United States of America now.

Yet despite these challenges, we celebrated another 4th of July holiday. We used that day as a day of thanksgiving. You see, we can't take freedom for granted. Being in this country has its privileges. We don't

have to hide, nor do we have to take shelter.

Last week we celebrated this time-honored day in various ways. In some cities, there were 4th of July parades. It is widely recognized that Alameda, California has the longest parade. It is 3.3 miles long with over 150 entries and 2500 participants.

Let's just say that you had to pack some snacks because you were out there for a while. I am sure that it was a fun time for family and friends. Another California city, Claremont celebrated July 4th with a pancake breakfast and a road race. I am sure a good time was had by everybody.

Fireworks are also a traditional part of July 4th festivi-

ties. Cities across America like Washington DC, Boston, Massachusetts and Chicago, Illinois had grand fireworks displays. Children love to see the sky light up at night. That is a big treat for them. The record shows that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania started the July 4th fireworks celebrations.

Traveling by car is always a preferred mode of transportation for many of us. According to the American Automobile Association, thousands of motorists took to the highways to celebrate with loved ones.

Now, it couldn't be the 4th of July without backyard barbecues with hot dogs and hamburgers. Don't forget the ribs and chicken. These foods went well with the assortment of

side dishes that we had. Food, folks, and fun happened on that day.

Shopping was also a big hit in some households. Sales were featured in many stores and online, too. We all know people who will stand in line or get to a computer for a good sale. The operative phrase is that you are saving money and who doesn't want to save money?

The July 4th holiday is draped in celebration and commemoration. It highlights America's greatness and grandeur. It is like no other patriotic holiday. It stands alone and is without equal.

This holiday also gave us a respite from what is happening in America. Regardless of your

walk in life, we are in a position of fear and trepidation. Whatever your political bearing is, you are wondering what the future might hold.

If you are a Washington DC politician and you voted for the bill proposed by the administration, how are you feeling? Your public persona may be one of joy, however what is your gut telling you? That is the question.

When those legislators return to their home states, what will their message be? What will they tell their constituents when they are asked about their healthcare? What will their answer be when asked about food insecurity programs that were cut? Will there be an acceptable answer when asked about

summer programs for children and why they were cut?

The bill signed on July 4th has in it a significant increase for immigration. Reports say there will be an additional 10,000 new positions for ICE. We will see how that increase will affect the current landscape.

Whether you like this bill or not, it will be implemented. One survey says that 54 percent of Americans do not like this bill. Critics say that the administration has gone too far. We will see in the coming months, the effects of this new legislation.

Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are being watched closely by civil liberties pundits. Be vigilant and be careful as these are interesting times.

Rising Waters Will Not Drown the American Spirit

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



On the Fourth of July, Donald Trump signed his "megabill." The law boosts the dying fossil fuel industry with tens of billions of taxpayer dollars. It invites an additional 470 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2035 – that's the equivalent annual emissions of more than 100 million gas-powered cars. And it aims to stop dead in its tracks the clean energy transition and the green manufacturing jobs boom the Inflation Reduction Act was already starting to create.

Just hours later, a climate-fueled storm settled over and dumped four months worth of rain on Texas Hill Country. The Guadalupe River rose 26 feet within 45 minutes. The resulting flash floods killed at least 104 people – at the time of this writing, although that number will go up – mostly in Kerr County. That death toll includes dozens of young girls attending the Camp Mystic youth camp.

This disaster was not a random event. It was a crisis written by the climate crisis and made far worse by the types of policies being pushed by this administration everyday.

Before the absurdly named One Big Beautiful Bill Act landed on Trump's desk, his administration had already begun gutting America's frontline defenses against climate disasters – like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate

labs, the National Weather Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As questions abound about why parts of the flood-impacted region did not receive adequate warning about the floods, Trump insisted that "nobody expected it" and it was a "once in 100 years" event.

But storms like this, as well as increased flooding from the Guadalupe River, were expected – and predicted. The US Geological Survey – another vital body Trump is trying to eviscerate – issued a report to that effect in 2019. The science is clear: warmer air holds more moisture, intensifying storms and accelerating flood risk. We're now witnessing the violent proof of these predictions.

According to UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain, "this kind of record-shattering rain (caused by slow-moving torrential thunderstorms) event is *precisely* that which is increasing the fastest in [a] warming climate."

As for the "one in 100 years" claim, those once-in-a-century extreme weather events are now happening far more often thanks to the climate crisis! Between just 2015-2019, one St. Louis suburb had three major floods and at least two of them were considered "1-in-100-year events."

It is not hard to see how the climate crisis became a political debate. Decades of anti-science propaganda from the coal, oil, and gas industries. Politicians bought and paid for by fossil fuel oligarchs. A current administration with a cabinet full of industry skills.

Big Oil alone spent a whopping

\$445 million through the 2024 election cycle to influence Trump and Congress. A staggering figure to be sure, that does not include donations funneled through dark money groups (likely tens of millions of dollars more – at least). And it still falls short of the \$1 billion Donald Trump asked the country's oil executives to kick in to his campaign -- an amount Trump insisted would be a "deal" for the industry because of what he was willing to give them.

But it is high time that our leaders, at every level and of every party, stop kowtowing to a toxic and unnecessary industry built on death, illness, and poisoning our communities. It is time they treat this crisis as a struggle for survival – a fight for the future our children deserve.

As the people of Texas grieve and the country grieves with them, their pain is our warning.

We are at a crossroads: We can double down on denial and let superstorms, heatwaves, droughts, floods, and fires determine our fate. Or we can lead – with science, resilience, courage, and a recommitment to our values.

If we harness our outrage and come together to fight like hell for our collective future, we will win. Because when people stand up and demand a safe planet, nothing – not even rising water – can drown the American spirit.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Count the Cost

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



Today, many are cautiously evaluating how they manage their money due to today's economy and by every right you should. The economy is facing inflation in grocery stores (I have witnessed many in grocery stores baffling and struggling with what they desire to buy and what they can afford to buy – this is very disturbing), credit card debt is drowning many, buy now, pay later payments are emptying peoples accounts, prices of new and used vehicles are soaring, price of medicines is rising, the cost of gas is steadily increasing, mortgages are increasing, rent for apartments is sky rocketing, college tuition is outrageous (in fact, I recently read that many parents are having to pursue Part-Time work, neglect or put retirement plans on hold, and many are cashing in on their retirement to help pay for their children's college education – do you know anyone who is hiring?), utility bills are increasing, insurance rates are on an all-time high (many have opted out of purchasing auto insurance because it has become ridiculously high), etc. As the old people say – some are robbing AJ to pay Deondre (Yes, I changed the names) and many are going without helping to make ends meet in the household.

What can you do? What do you do about the cost of things increasing? Do you worry? Do you fret? Do you choose to stay in tents? Do you give up? You must count the cost for everything you do and don't do financially, etc. and in marriage. But we will stick to marriage for now. However, I can help you with the financial advice above too – I am not an expert by any means, but I believe God can give you strategies for everything – call or text me. Just like with the economy, married couples must be intentional about what they do and do not do in marriage because it can detrimentally impact the marriage.

What does it mean to count the cost? One of my favorite biblical passages makes it plain on what counting the cost mean.

Luke 14: 28/31 (NJKV) states – Jesus talking: 28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it... 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand.

This passage simply acknowledges that before you decide to do anything even in following Christ (read the entire passage) you must consider and evaluate the cost – the consequences FIRST! For instance, who goes in the

grocery store and just starts buying without some type of plan. You should first, develop a budget that is affordable, compose a grocery list, review grocery store ads online and determine which store will accommodate you the most for what you want, go to the store, don't take any extra source of payment with you besides your budgeted grocery funds and a few dollars over, calculate every item, and stick to your plan - this is counting the cost.

In marriage, you must count the cost for the following:

- Not praying consistently for marriage/family
- Not seeking self-healing from past traumas
- Not working in unity
- Lack of communication
- Lack of spending quality time together
- Allowing family/friends/parenting to divide you
- Showing a lack of gratitude
- Wives overly nagging your husbands – pushes husbands to go to the rooftop – maybe someone else's rooftop?
- Husbands not living with wives in an understanding way – hinders your prayers
- Affairs – breaks trust – takes years to restore trust- separation – divorce, etc.
- Wives controlling – neglecting husband's insight
- Jealously/always suspicious of your spouse – it gets old, and it can cause everything to die
- Abuse - verbal and emotional abuse can cause scars that won't go away as easy as some physical ones will
- Making major financial decisions without spouse
- Not quenching your spouse thirst intimately – this can destroy any marriage
- Unforgiveness, etc.

In conclusion, the above reasons are not a justification to mistreat or neglect your spouse in any way, but we must realize there are consequences for everything we do and do not do in marriage. What do you think the cost – the outcome would be if you invested in love, affection, gratitude, communication, acknowledging each other's feelings, working as a team, etc., in your marriage? Please prayerfully and cautiously count the cost for everything you do and don't do in your marriage because the ultimate price you can pay is losing everything!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstaytogether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Jackson, Mississippi

Proposed Amendments to the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is proposing the following substantial amendments to its HUD-approved plans to allow for the reallocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds:

- Amendment No. 5 to the 2020 Consolidated Plan
- Amendment No. 4 to the 2021 One-Year Action Plan
- Amendment No. 4 to the 2022 One-Year Action Plan
- Amendment No. 2 to the 2023 One-Year Action Plan
- Amendment No. 2 to the 2024 One-Year Action Plan of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan

Proposed Changes:
The City proposes to reallocate CDBG funds from various projects. Details of the reallocations are as follows:

1. 2020 Action Plan: Reallocating funds from the Economic Development and Homeowner Housing Rehab Projects to a project for repaying CDBG financial obligations.
2. 2021 Action Plan: Reallocating funds from the Economic Development and Public Facilities projects to a project for repaying CDBG financial obligations.
3. 2022 Action Plan: Reallocating funds from the Economic Development project to a project for repaying CDBG financial obligations.
4. 2023 Action Plan: Reallocating funds from the Public Facilities Improvements, Fair Housing, and Economic Development projects to a project for repaying CDBG financial obligations.
5. 2024 Action Plan: Reallocating funds from the Economic Development and Public Facilities Improvements projects to a project for repaying CDBG financial obligations.

Public Comment Period:
The City invites public review and comment on these proposed amendments. Written comments may be submitted via email to:
Office of Housing and Community Development
Email: OHCD@jacksonms.gov
Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on August 2, 2025.

Adoption of Amendments:
If no objections are received during the public comment period, the proposed amendments will be considered adopted. Should any objections be submitted by the public, they will be presented to the Jackson City Council for consideration prior to final adoption.

Reginald Jefferson, Deputy Director
Department of Planning & Development
Office of Housing and Community Development
601-960-2155

7/3/2025, 7/10/2025, 7/17/2025, 7/24/2025, 7/31/2025,

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Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Friday, July 25, 2025 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning all listed projects will be held in person at Enochs Administrative Complex, 101 Dr. Dennis Holloway Drive and Via TEAMS (see below for link) on Monday, June 18, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via TEAMS: https://teams.microsoft.com/j/19%3ameeting_MzdmODRjYjQtMTE2MS00TcxLWlxODIYTA0MwIwZjU4ZTIw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bbf1de%22%7d

Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us us to ensure your spot in the pre-bid conference. It is imperative to have this information before the meeting to confirm your attendance.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject all RFPs, waive informalities, and withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

All hand-delivered proposals must be delivered before the opening time (local prevailing time) and the date the bid is scheduled to open. These deliveries are to be made to the Business Services Office at 662 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

- Performance Dates:**
- 1st Advertise: 07 July 2025 (Clarion); 10 July 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
 - 2nd Advertise: 14 July 2025 (Clarion); 17 July 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
 - Pre-bid Conference: 18 July 2025 (TEAMS)
 - Final Date for Questions: 21 July 2025
 - Answers to Questions: 22 July 2025
 - Bid Opening Day: 25 July 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.
 - Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

7/10/2025, 7/17/2025

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CITY OF JACKSON
2025
NOTICE OF GRANT FUNDING

The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development hereby notifies interested Applicants of funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following grant: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service. The 2024 Public Service grant allocation will be used to fund the City of Jackson's Community Safety Initiative.

The City will conduct an in-person Application/Proposal Workshop session on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Warren Hood Building, located at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS. Organizations interested in applying for use of 2024 CDBG Public Service funds to administer the Community Safety Initiative are encouraged to attend the Workshop to receive program instructions and information on completing the applications/proposals.

Proposal packages for 2024 CDBG Public Service funding will only be accepted electronically via the City of Jackson's OpenGov platform. Electronic submission instructions will be included in the application instructions.

The deadline to submit all Public Service proposals electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2025.

No application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.

For more details, contact the Office of Housing and Community Development at 601-960-2155 or (601) 767-9428.

7/10/2025

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

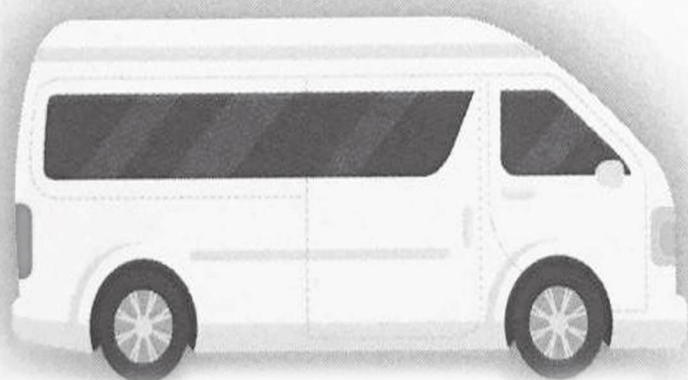
Hint: Quote by Charlie Brown

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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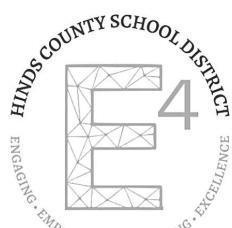


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Public Announcement
Hinds County School District

IDEA, Preschool Project, and Consolidated Federal Programs
Application Meeting

Hinds County School District will host a meeting Thursday,
July 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM
Location: Hinds County School District Boardroom 13192
Highway 18 West Raymond, MS 39154

This meeting will be held to discuss the plans for the Individuals
with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Preschool
Project, and Consolidated Federal Programs Application
(CFPA) for fiscal year 2026.

Any parents of children with a disability being served in the
Hinds County School District, along with any other parents of
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P R E S E R V E D

Processing Trauma

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Oh no! Not again!” These words were the first that popped into my mind this past week as I watched the results of the vote for the bill that is poised to take away healthcare from millions. Disgusted and disappointed, I turned off my television and decided to read. Even though I was reading, I was distracted as I was processing the long-range negative impact of this legislation when I turned my television back on to watch the news. Images of torrential rains and floods flashed across the screen that made me think it was from a hurricane. Then the reporter announced that it was from the Guadalupe River in central Texas near Austin. For about 10 minutes, I was mesmerized by the repeated video

of the deadly flood water that saddened to hear that it had taken so many lives. Sadly, as of this writing, there are estimates of more than 100 deaths with the number expected to rise.

Watching the video of the flood plus pictures of those who died led to another emotion: a weariness, a spiritual and mental exhaustion that comes from processing trauma over and over. From the horrifying images of the violent and aggressive “ICE” agents terrorizing communities to the images of the latest weather catastrophe, social media has allowed traumas to stay on a 24-hour continuous loop. As a result, trauma makes you feel helpless, tired, and frustrated.

A few years ago, after George Floyd’s murder, I wrote how I was frustrated with pastors who failed to address the Floyd murder or provide tips to their congregation on how to deal with the lingering effects of the

trauma of seeing the video of his murder shown repeatedly on television and social media. Thinking back on what I wrote back then and seeing the situation years later, I realize that it was unfair to expect pastors to have a magical cure when they themselves may have been trying to process the trauma.

The bible has a variety of verses that explore how to deal with trauma. One that I find especially comforting is Psalm 91: 14-15. “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. Part of the reason why I like these verses is because they point to how we should view our relationship with God while processing trauma. Verse 15 says that he will be with us in trouble then deliver us from the trouble/trauma.

So even if you choose to watch the news but find yourself overwhelmed emotionally, trust that God wants to help you deal with it and not ignore it. For so many reasons, the news is important and should not be overlooked. However, if watching the news gets too overwhelming, stop watching. Even if we don’t expect the trauma to miraculously disappear, we must trust that God will be with us as we process the trauma.

Sending prayers of comfort and peace to all impacted by the floods, ICE detentions and other unexpected life circumstances

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

The true purpose of life

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



The Bible tells us that God created man and clearly implies that all the rest of the material creation of earth was for his benefit and for his use. But what purpose had God in creating man? Did God make him simply to gratify a desire to make something new? Is his existence the result of some mere whim? When God created him, did He expect to give him no further attention? The Bible tells us plainly that God had a distinct purpose, and that His creation was for God’s own purpose, not simply that man might exist. Speaking of man, He says, “The work of My hands, that I may be glorified” (Isaiah 60:21). Again, He says, “For I have created him for My glory” (Isaiah 48:7).

That man was endowed with natural faculties that make it possible for him to know God and to communicate with Him, to understand His will, to obey Him, and to find His highest pleasure in all these, shows that the purpose of man’s life is something very exalted.

It is possible for him to debase

his powers, to put them to ignoble purposes, and to fail entirely of the true purpose of his life. He may develop his physical being and bring it to a high state of perfection, so that he is an athlete. He may be in perfect health. He may conform to the laws of his physical being and be worthy of the admiration of his fellows. He may develop his mind until he reaches out into the starry heavens and reads the secrets of the planets.

He may delve into philosophy and into science until his mental faculties are enriched and highly developed. He may grapple with the great problems of life and solve them. He may fill the chair of some great university. Men may marvel at his learning. He may be eloquent until he can sway the multitudes. He may rise to eminence in the political world and be famous. Men may admire and respect and honor him, but the perfect body and the highly developed mind, or these two united, do not make a perfect man. Eventually that disease will seize upon that body. Eventually that mind will lose its brilliance and its power. The end is but the grave. What then?

Simeon R. Green, III, First Church of God 6517 Walmsley Blvd. Richmond, Virginia 23224

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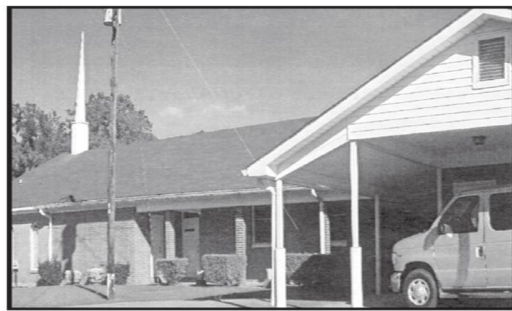


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Mold Impacts Your Health

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Indoor mold often lurks silently within the nooks of our homes. It can grow behind wallpaper, beneath floorboards or in damp corners of the bathroom. While it might seem like a minor nuisance, the presence of mold can have serious health consequences.

Mold is a type of fungus that thrives in moist and warm environments. It reproduces by releasing microscopic spores into the air, which can land on various surfaces and begin colonization when conditions are favorable. Common indoor molds include *Aspergillus*, *Cladosporium*, *Penicillium* and *Stachybotrys chartarum* also known as “black mold.”

Mold typically grows on organic materials like wood, paper, drywall, insulation and carpeting when exposed to high humidity or water intrusion. Leaking pipes, poor ventilation, flooded basements and roof leaks are frequent culprits behind indoor mold outbreaks. Unfortunately, mold is not just a cosmetic or structural issue, it poses real health risks for those living among it.

Humans are primarily exposed to mold through inhalation of airborne spores, though skin contact and ingestion can also occur. Once inside your body, mold spores may trigger a wide array of symptoms depending on the individual’s sensitivity, the type of mold and the concentration of spores in the environment.

For many people, exposure to mold leads to allergic reactions. Symptoms include sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, red eyes and skin rashes. Individuals



Mold can grow in damp places of the bathroom and pose a real health threat for those living among it.

with existing allergies or asthma are particularly vulnerable and may experience intensified symptoms, such as wheezing, coughing and shortness of breath. According to the Institute of Medicine, there is sufficient evidence linking indoor dampness and mold with upper respiratory tract symptoms in otherwise healthy individuals.

Mold exposure doesn’t just exacerbate asthma, it may also contribute to its development. Children exposed to mold early in life are at a greater risk of developing asthma. People with compromised immune systems, chronic lung illnesses or those recovering from surgery may experience more severe effects, such as infections in the lungs.

Black mold, in particular, has been associated with mycotoxin production that can suppress the immune system and potentially damage internal organs if exposure is prolonged. Though rare, individuals can develop conditions like hypersensitivity pneumonitis, a serious inflam-

mation of the lungs that requires immediate medical attention.

Emerging research has begun to explore the link between chronic mold exposure and neurological symptoms. People living in mold-infested environments have reported headaches, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, dizziness and mood swings. While more research is needed, mycotoxins are suspected to affect the central nervous system, especially when exposure is sustained over time.

Direct contact with mold can result in skin irritation or dermatitis, particularly among individuals with heightened sensitivity. Eye irritation can manifest as redness, itchiness and watery eyes. It’s also a common complaint among those residing in moldy homes.

Not everyone responds to mold exposure in the same way. Vulnerable groups include:

Children and infants, who’s immune and respiratory systems are still developing.

Elderly individuals, especial-

ly those with pre-existing conditions.

People with compromised immune systems, such as transplant recipients, cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or individuals with HIV/AIDS.

People with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, COPD or chronic sinus infections.

For these populations, even small amounts of mold can significantly affect their well-being and require immediate intervention.

Beyond physical health, the presence of mold in a home can cause stress, anxiety and feelings of helplessness, especially when remediation costs are high or landlords fail to address the issue. Families dealing with chronic exposure may see a decline in overall quality of life, disrupted sleep and heightened conflict due to the challenges of dealing with persistent illness.

The financial burden of mold-related illness is twofold, healthcare costs and building remediation. Medical visits,

medications and time off work quickly add up, especially for low-income families who may lack adequate healthcare access. On the housing side, mold remediation can be expensive and complex, particularly when mold has infiltrated HVAC systems or structural supports.

Municipalities and housing authorities also bear the burden. Mold-related lawsuits, housing code violations and public health interventions are not uncommon, especially in communities with aging housing stock or limited access to maintenance resources.

Effective prevention starts with controlling moisture:

Maintain indoor humidity below 50%, using dehumidifiers if necessary.

Fix leaks immediately, whether from pipes, roofs or windows.

Ventilate bathrooms and kitchens using exhaust fans or open windows.

Use mold-resistant materials during renovations, such as mold-resistant drywall or paint.

If mold is already present, remediation should match the severity of the outbreak. Small areas (under 10 square feet) can be cleaned with a solution of water and detergent, while larger infestations may require professional intervention. Personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles and an N95 respirator should always be used during mold cleanup to reduce exposure.

Indoor mold is more than just an aesthetic nuisance; it’s a hidden health hazard with the potential to cause both short- and long-term effects. From respiratory problems and cognitive symptoms to the social and economic burden it creates, mold represents a significant public health concern. By remaining vigilant, addressing moisture issues promptly and advocating for healthy housing, individuals and communities can mitigate the dangers posed by indoor mold and foster environments that support well-being.

The Lymphatic System: The Unsung Guardian of Human Health

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

The lymphatic system, often overshadowed by your more celebrated counterparts like the circulatory and respiratory systems, plays a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of bodily fluids, defending against disease and facilitating waste removal. It is a complex network of vessels, nodes and organs working silently and ceaselessly to protect and preserve the integrity of the human body.

Your lymphatic system parallels the circulatory system but lacks a central pump like the heart. Instead, lymph movement relies on skeletal muscle contractions, respiratory movements, and smooth muscle activity in vessel walls.

The lymphatic system comprises:
Lymph: A clear fluid rich in white blood cells, particularly lymphocytes. It originates from interstitial fluid, the fluid surrounding body tissues—and travels through lymphatic vessels.

Lymphatic Vessels: Thin-walled structures that resemble veins, these vessels transport lymph throughout the body. They have one-way valves to ensure lymph flows toward the heart.

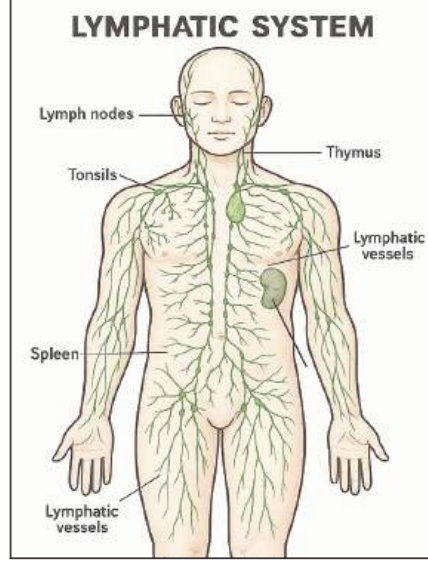
Lymph Nodes: Small, bean-shaped structures located along lymphatic vessels. They filter lymph and house immune cells that respond to pathogens.

Primary Lymphoid Organs: The bone marrow and thymus, which produce and mature lymphocytes.

Secondary Lymphoid Organs: The spleen, tonsils and mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT), where immune responses are often initiated.

The lymphatic system’s responsibilities are multifaceted and interconnected:

1. Fluid Balance
Every day, around 20 liters of plasma



are filtered from blood capillaries into tissues; 17 liters return via blood vessels, while 3 liters are absorbed by the lymphatic system. Without this recovery mechanism, tissues would swell with fluid a condition known as lymphedema.

2. Immune Surveillance and Defense
Lymph nodes act as checkpoints, filtering out foreign particles. They’re equipped with macrophages, B cells and T cells that detect and neutralize pathogens.

The thymus matures T cells, critical for cell-mediated immunity, while the bone marrow produces B cells that create antibodies.

3. Absorption of Dietary Fats
Specialized lymphatic vessels in the small intestine, called lacteals, absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins, transporting them as chyle, a milky fluid rich in lipids into the bloodstream.

4. Waste Transport
The system carries cellular debris, metabolic waste and even cancer cells to lymph nodes for filtration or destruction. In some cancers, the spread to

nearby lymph nodes is a crucial diagnostic indicator.

The lymphatic system isn’t just a quiet custodian, it becomes dramatically active when the body is under threat. Swollen lymph nodes during a cold or flu are signs of the immune system mobilizing its forces.

Additionally:
Autoimmune Diseases: Dysregulation in lymphatic components may contribute to conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, where immune cells mistakenly attack healthy tissues.

Cancer Metastasis: Many cancers spread through lymphatic vessels, making lymph node biopsies a critical part of staging and prognosis.

Lymphedema: Often seen after lymph node removal in cancer treatment, this painful swelling is caused by lymph fluid accumulation.

How to Keep Your Lymphatic System Functioning Properly

Your lymphatic system is a vital part of the body’s immune defense, fluid regulation and waste removal. Yet it’s often overlooked until something goes wrong. Keeping your lymphatic system in top shape requires mindful habits that support circulation, detoxification, and immune resilience.

1. Move Regularly and Intentionally
*Contraction of skeletal muscles acts like a manual pump, pushing lymph through vessels and nodes.

*Daily walking stretching, or yoga gently encourage lymphatic circulation. Rebounding bouncing on a mini-trampoline provides gravitational shifts that particularly benefit lymph flow. Strength training and aerobic exercise are also highly beneficial for lymph drainage and immune response.

2. Stay Hydrated
*Lymph is primarily composed of water. If you’re dehydrated, lymph can

become thick and sluggish, reducing its ability to transport waste and immune cells effectively.

*Aim for half your body weight in ounces of water per day as a guideline. Add a splash of lemon to aid cellular hydration and electrolyte balance.

3. Support with Nutrient-Rich Foods
*Nutrition plays a powerful role in lymphatic health. Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant-rich foods help cleanse and protect lymph vessels and nodes.

*Leafy greens, berries, garlic, turmeric and citrus fruits support detoxification and immune function. Healthy fats like avocado, nuts, seeds and olive oil promote the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins and support lacteal function in the gut. Reduce processed foods, excessive sugar and salt, which can lead to fluid retention and toxic buildup.

4. Practice Deep Breathing
*Breathing deeply from the diaphragm massages the thoracic duct the largest lymphatic vessel and enhances lymph movement toward the heart.

*Set aside a few minutes each day for slow, deep breathing exercises or meditation.

*Try box breathing: inhale for 4 counts, hold for 4, exhale for 4, hold again for 4.

5. Try Manual Lymphatic Drainage and Dry Brushing

*These techniques help stimulate lymph flow near the skin’s surface:
*Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) is a gentle massage technique performed by trained therapists.

*Dry brushing involves using a soft-bristled brush on dry skin in upward strokes, always moving toward the heart.

6. Avoid Tight Clothing and Long Periods of Sitting
*Tight garments and extended inac-

tivity can compress lymphatic vessels, impeding circulation. Wear loose-fitting clothing when possible. Stand up and stretch at least once every hour, especially during sedentary tasks.

*By integrating these practices into daily life, you can enhance your lymphatic function, support immune health, improve energy levels and detoxification. Just like tending a quiet but essential garden, your lymphatic system thrives when given mindful, consistent care.

Massage and compression therapy can be especially helpful for those with compromised lymphatic function. Understanding the lymphatic system is crucial not just for individual health, but also for public health policies and awareness. Many individuals suffer for years without diagnosis. Research and Advocacy: Funding for lymphatic disorders often lags behind other systems. Public discourse can shift this imbalance. Encouraging movement, hygiene and healthy eating supports not just cardiovascular health but lymphatic integrity too.

Your lymphatic system, although often underappreciated, is a fundamental component of human health. From regulating fluid balance to defending against pathogens and absorbing nutrients, its functions are essential and expansive. By deepening our understanding of its workings and nurturing its health through lifestyle choices, we honor the quiet force that watches over us each day. As we explore more of what it means to live well, the lymphatic system reminds us that protection, care and balance often come from systems we don’t see but couldn’t live without.

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed tipstobefit@gmail.com

Let the World See, a traveling exhibit of Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley can be seen at Mississippi Valley State University



EMMETT TILL
INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center (ETIC) recently announced that the powerful exhibition Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See is open to the public weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the James Herbert White Library on the MVSU campus.

This opening marks only the second time the acclaimed exhibit has been displayed in Mississippi, following its previous showing at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson in 2023.

The location of this exhibition, which is free to the public, holds particular historical significance, as Mississippi Valley State University is situated approximately 30 miles from Graball Landing on the Tallahatchie River, where 14-year-old Emmett Till's body was discovered in August 1955. The proximity to this tragic site

adds profound meaning to the exhibit's presence at MVSU, which will be on display until September 21.

"This exhibition provides an invaluable educational opportunity for our students, faculty, and the broader community," said Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs at MVSU. "Having this powerful story told at our university, so close to where these tragic events unfolded, creates a unique opportunity for reflection, learning, and healing."

Developed by the Till family in collaboration with the Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley Institute, the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Let the World See invites visitors to bear witness to the painful history of racial violence while exploring the transformative actions of a grieving mother who refused to let her son's death be in vain.

A centerpiece of the exhibition is a bullet-riddled, vandalized historical marker that both commemorates a tragedy and illustrates the ongoing scourge of racism. Historic markers installed near the Tallahatchie River have been continually stolen, shot at, and vandalized. This damaged sign serves as a stark reminder that the fight against racial hatred continues today.

"We are thrilled about this opportunity to partner with Mississippi Valley State University to bring this exhibit to the Mississippi Delta, where the legacy of Emmett Louis Till and Mamie Till-Mobley continues to shape the way our communities heal," said Patrick Weems, executive director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center. "This experience will help people process past pain and imagine new ways of moving forward, which is a critical part of our work to promote restorative justice and foster

community healing and understanding."

Let the World See tells the heartbreaking yet inspiring story of how a mother's courage transformed unimaginable grief into a catalyst for the American Civil Rights Movement. When Emmett's body arrived in Chicago, his mother insisted on an open casket so the world could see the ugly face of hatred and racism.

"We encourage youth summer programs and schools to visit the exhibit to learn more about this important part of our shared history on a campus that is shaping the next generation of leaders," said Golden. The exhibit, which is recommended for ages ten and up, serves as both a memorial to Emmett Till's life and a call to action for contemporary audiences. Through compelling storytelling, artifacts, and interactive elements, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of how Mamie Till-Mobley's brave

decision to share her grief publicly sparked a movement that changed the nation.

This exhibition's tour to MVSU was made possible by a generous donation from the Maddox Foundation. This project was made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom, the Maddox Foundation in Hernando, MS, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is proud to partner with Riley Children's Health, Old National Bank, Ice Miller LLP, and the Heritage Group.

For more information about the exhibit, contact the Emmett Till Interpretive Center at (662) 351-3791 or visit www.emmett-till.org/exhibit-at-mvsu. Media inquiries should be directed to info@emmett-till.org.

About the Emmett Till Interpretive Center:

Established in 2006, the Emmett Till Interpretive Center is committed to accurately portraying the history and legacy of the 1955 Emmett Louis Till tragedy by promoting racial healing and reconciliation through museum interpretation, public education, memorialization, historic preservation, and community development initiatives.

About Mississippi Valley State University:

Founded in 1950, MVSU is a Historically Black University committed to academic excellence, cultural enrichment, and preparing students for leadership and service in a global society. Mississippi Valley State University continues to be a beacon of higher education, vibrant spirit, and artistic distinction. MVSU invites you to the family. Learn more at www.mvsu.edu.

Hinds County students shine in Disney's The Lion King Jr. at Broadway Jr. Camp at New Stage Theatre

Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre will present Disney's The Lion King, Jr. July 10 - 13, 2025 as a part of the Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive for rising 6th - 12th graders. Participating in this year's camp, we have 32 campers from Hinds County!

Performances will take place July 10 - July 13 with two different youth casts alternating on performance dates. Curtain times and dates for performances are Thursday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3533, or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. This production is sponsored by The Walker Foundation and Feild Co-Operative Association. Tickets are on sale now! Security will be provided at every performance. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Based on the beloved 1994 film and the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, Disney's The Lion King Jr. is a heartwarming, high-energy adventure that's perfect for the whole family! Featuring iconic songs by Elton John and Tim Rice—including "Circle of Life," "Hakuna Matata," and "I Just Can't Wait to Be King"—this one-act musical brings the African savanna to



Hinds County Campers (left to right): Front Row: Austin Sampson, Maliyah Robinson, Addyson Russell, Isabella Samuels, Sean Kines, Mariah Loving, Ethan Moore. Second Row: Ryleigh Holloway, Trinity Braboy, Shaughnessy Baker, Jenesis Francis, Alexander Chigbo, Jade Smart, Macie McClenty. Third Row: Parks Garrott, Derrick Aziz, Reginald Jefferson, Zuri Pearson, Wiley Johnson, Lee Harwell. Back Row: Jacob Jefferson, Christian Ross, Seneca Kelly, Jacob Weems, Brandon Harvey, Gabriel Germand, Kimora Holmes. Not Pictured: Madeleine Hall, Riley Cloyd, Nykendra Mcinnis, Mattison Demming, Laila Bass.

life with unforgettable characters and spectacular storytelling.

Follow young Simba as he journeys from wide-eyed cub to rightful king of the Pride Lands. After being cast out of the Pride Lands as a cub and the tragic death of his father, he must discover the true meaning of responsibility and courage. Along the way, he finds friendship in the carefree duo Timon and Pumbaa, learns from wise Rafiki, and ultimately embraces his destiny as king.

"This show is not only a celebration

of music, movement, and culture", says Education Director, Xerron X. Mingo, "... it's a powerful opportunity to bring our community together. It highlights the strength of unity, the importance of identity, and the beauty of storytelling with the circle of life. Watching young performers connect with this material has been heartwarming and I can't wait for them to share it with their families and neighbors."

Filled with unforgettable music, dynamic dance, and powerful storytell-

ing, The Lion King Jr. is a celebration of identity, community, and the circle of life. With dazzling costumes, colorful masks, and a cast of talented young performers, this production is sure to leave audiences cheering and inspired. Join us as the savanna comes alive in this unforgettable theatrical event!

The New Stage Theatre Arts-in-Education department strives to bring professional, progressive acting instruction to youth throughout Mississippi with its summer camps, yearlong acting classes and touring workshops.

The Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive provides a comprehensive theatrical learning experience for ages 11-18. Campers receive daily theatrical instruction from experienced acting, dance, and voice teachers, as well as take master classes in stage combat, voice/diction, directing, sound design, storytelling, and mask making.

Generous sponsorship for the summer program and the production is provided by The Walker Foundation, and the Feild Co-Operative Association.

Students participating in New Stage Theatre's Broadway Jr. Theatre Camp 2025 from Hinds County includes: Derrick Aziz, Shaughnessy Baker, Laila Bass, Alexander Chigbo, Riley Cloyd, Mattison Demming, Jenesis Francis, Parks Garrott, Gabriel Germand, Brandon Harvey, Lee Harwell, Madeleine Hall, Reginald Jefferson, Jacob Jefferson, Seneca Kelly, Sean Kines, Kimora Holmes, Ryleigh Holloway, Wiley Johnson, Ethan Moore, Macie McClenty, Nykendra McInnis, Mariah Loving, Maliyah Robinson, Christian Ross, Addyson Russell, Isabella Samuels, Austin Sampson, Jade Smart, Trinity Braboy, Jacob Weems, Zuri Pearson.

For more information on the New Stage Theatre Education Programs, please contact (601) 948-3533 ext. 232 or education@newstagetheatre.com.



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Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees elects new officers, bids farewell to president



Jackson Public Schools extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ed Sivak for his service as Board President. His tenure on the Board has come to an end and was honored during his final meeting June 17, 2025.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

At its regular meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2025, the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees elected new officers. All positions were unanimously approved.

Barbara Hilliard, who previously served as vice president, was elected to serve as president.

Cynthia Thompson, formerly the board secretary, was elected as vice president.

Mitch McGuffey was elected to serve as secretary.

The new officers' terms began July 1, 2025, and continue through June 30, 2026.

According to JPS policy, Board officers include a president, vice president, and secretary. The superintendent and their designee serve as assistant secretaries. Elections are held prior to the first regular meeting in July.

Dr. Ed Sivak, the outgoing Board president, completed his tenure on the Board of Trustees. During his final Board meeting June 17, he was presented with a plaque by Superintendent Erick L. Greene and the Board of Trustees in recognition of his years of dedicated service to Jackson Public Schools.



Barbara Hilliard, Board President



Cynthia Thompson, Board Vice President



Mitch McGuffey, Board Secretary

Alcorn students excel in Meharry Medical College's prestigious BS/MD program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Two standout Alcorn State University students, George Eccles and Frances Lewis, recently completed the rigorous Meharry Medical College School of Medicine (MMC-SOM) BS/MD Program, a bold step in their journeys toward becoming physicians. The six-week intensive program, designed to cultivate the next generation of medical professionals, welcomed its largest cohort to date this summer, with 90 undergraduate students from 12 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the nation.

George Eccles, a rising junior majoring in Biology Pre-Med from Monroe, Louisiana, distinguished himself by earning the highest scores in both Behavioral Science and Critical and Analytical Thinking. He was also invited to represent the Meharry BS/MD Junior Class, delivering a speech at the program's recent closing ceremony.

"What attracted me to the Meharry BS/MD program was the great opportunity to get MCAT [preparation] and experience what it is like at a Medical College," Eccles said. He credits Alcorn State's biology classes for preparing him, but highlights the program's unique value: "The program is most importantly an outlet for students to learn new information that their institution might not have already. The program prepares you for the MCAT, which is a great resource and something Alcorn might not do."

Eccles found the six weeks of intensive study both challenging and enjoyable. He noted the program's fast pace, with classes running five days a week



Frances Lewis, a rising senior majoring in Psychology.



George Eccles, a rising junior majoring in Biology Pre-Med.

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., covering material typically spread across a semester. Despite the demanding schedule, Eccles observed a strong collaborative spirit among his peers. "All of the students in my class worked together to study the material and prepare ourselves for the exams," he stated. He also found personal growth in the experience, discovering that "when I love a class and the material in a subject, studying is not a chore. It is enjoyable because I want to learn more to gain more knowledge."

Eccles, who lived in Abu Dhabi for nine years, plans to become a plastic surgeon. "I want to not only help people look good but feel good on the inside," he stated. "I would like to give back to people in need of cosmetic treatments that affect their mental well-being."

Frances Lewis, a rising senior majoring in Psychology from Jackson, Mississippi, returned for her second year in the program, underscoring its profound impact on her aspirations. "My initial interest piqued when I learned the pro-

gram was looking for HBCU students to attend an HBCU medical school, which I did not know existed at the time," Lewis explained.

Despite being a psychology major, Lewis praised Alcorn for fostering her interdisciplinary growth. "Alcorn has prepared me for this program by teaching me to explore my interests, test my capabilities, and make connections in every room I enter," she said. She vividly recalled a transformative moment from her first summer at Meharry, when a professor helped her restructure her academic plan to pursue medicine while maintaining her psychology major. "She believed in me, and she had just met me," Lewis shared. "I knew I had a place in medicine from this program, and I had people in my corner who were going to make sure I got there."

Lewis aspires to be a psychiatrist, driven by a passion for mental health and understanding the brain. "I've always known I was meant to be there for those in need and

listen to help those achieve the greatness of emotional balance and serenity," she noted.

The Meharry BS/MD Program focuses on developing students with strong academic credentials, competitive MCAT scores, and the personal, professional, leadership, and psychological attributes essential for medical school and a successful medical career. Students in the program participate in enrichment classes covering subjects such as anatomy and physiology, Behavioral Sciences, Critical and Analytical Reasoning, Microbiology, Physics, and Seminar.

Eccles encouraged other HBCU students to apply, emphasizing the program's long-term benefits. "The program doesn't just help you for six weeks, it has an impact on you for the rest of your life," he said. Lewis echoed this sentiment: "It is free to apply, so why not try? You never know what room, journey, people, or lecture is meant for you if you never go out there and at least try."

Lanier HS Educators win grants to empower scholars, strengthen community

The JPS Newswire

Three dedicated educators from Jackson Public Schools have been selected to receive Elevating Educators' Voices and Leadership in Community Schools mini-grants from the NEA Foundation. These grants honor educators who are taking the lead in building stronger schools through community-based, scholar-centered initiatives.

Claralesa Manning, James Young, and Kimberly Archie, all based at Lanier Junior-Senior High School, were chosen for their thoughtful project proposals and deep commitment to the community school model. Their work is focused on meeting real-world needs while promoting equity, leadership, and opportunity



Manning



Young



Archie

for JPS scholars.

Claralesa Manning will launch the Lanier Student Empowerment Resource Center, or L-SERC. This new hub will help remove barriers to learning by offering essential items such as hygiene products, food, clothing, and school supplies. In addition to these basic needs, L-SERC

will provide programs on financial literacy, college and career readiness, and social-emotional learning. Built on strong community partnerships and scholar involvement, the center is expected to become a lasting resource for the entire school.

James Young is leading From Learners to Leaders, a mentor-

ship and engagement program focused on male scholars and community members. The initiative includes cooking classes, mentoring sessions, and community breakfasts that promote connection, responsibility, and pride. Supported by local chefs, faith leaders, and civic groups, the program encourages men in the community to take an active role in school life and scholar success.

Kimberly Archie will lead Watch Me Work It Out, a wellness program aimed at promoting lifelong health habits among scholars who face high levels of stress. The project will include group workouts, peer-led fitness challenges, and wellness workshops. By focusing on both mental and physical health,

the program supports academic growth and long-term resilience.

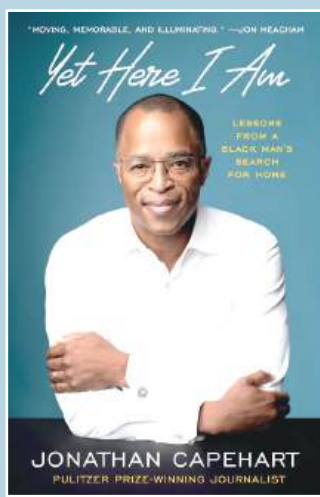
Each project will continue through December 2025. Planning and research will begin over the summer, and the educators will join a regional cohort that includes teachers from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The NEA Foundation will provide coaching and support to help ensure each project has long-term impact.

"At Lanier Junior-Senior High School, we believe that when educators lead with heart and vision, entire schools and communities are transformed," said Principal Stacey Webb Bailey. "I am incredibly proud of Ms. Archie, Ms. Manning, and Mr. Young for turning bold ideas

into real change that will uplift our scholars and strengthen our school family. I cannot wait to see how these projects will inspire our scholars, support our families, and deepen the impact of our community school."

The NEA Foundation applauded the educators, stating: "When educators are trusted with leadership and resourced to act, the opportunities for innovation are endless. The positive effects will reach across classrooms, throughout hallways, and into the broader community."

Jackson Public Schools celebrates these visionary educators and looks forward to the lasting difference their work will make for scholars, families, and the entire community.



BOOK REVIEW: YET HERE I AM: LESSONS FROM A BLACK MAN'S SEARCH FOR HOME" BY JONATHAN CAPEHART BY JONATHAN CAPEHART C.2025, GRAND CENTRAL \$30.00 • 272 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

One hand over the other. That's how you climbed to where you are now. One rung at a time, hand over hand until you reach the intended goal. Yes, sometimes you went backwards before you ascended again or you had to move sideways past a barrier. And sometimes, as in the new memoir, "Yet Here I Am" by Jonathan Capehart, you got a hand up.

His mother refused to talk about it.

When little Jonathan Capehart

inquired about his father, who died just months after Capehart was born, he was met with a look that told him not to ask again. He didn't learn the truth until he was well out of childhood: his father had left Capehart's mother long before Capehart's birth, and though the man visited afterward, "he didn't stay long...."

The loss stung but things turned out well anyhow. Capehart had many father figures throughout his life, paternal relatives who kept him in the family loop, and his maternal grandpa who played a big part

of Capehart's upbringing. Young Capehart spent his summers in Severn, North Carolina, playing, visiting, gathering lessons and wisdom from his mother's parents and aunts. In Severn, extended family was everywhere, and it's where many of Capehart's best childhood memories spring.

He also has many cherished memories of his mother, and books. He was always a reader, and schoolmates recognized it. They also "knew I was a little 'funny,'" he muses because, at ten years old, he knew he was

gay. His mother had to teach him the hard truths in "how to be Black in white spaces" but college friends gave him safety for "self-discovery."

Also at the tender age of ten, Capehart became fascinated with electronic media, and decided that he wanted to work at NBC, later interning at the Today show for two summers. At nineteen, he met a mentor who demanded excellence, and who shaped Capehart's career.

Twelve years later, that same mentor offered Capehart his own MSNBC show...

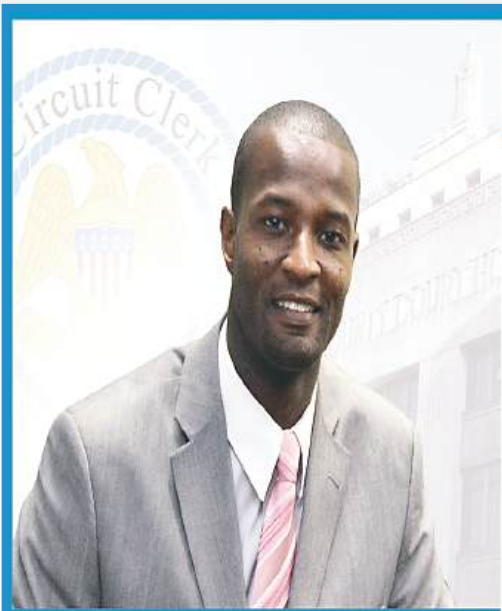
As memoirs go, "Yet Here I Am" is a solid okay.

It's not earth-shattering, nor is it wildly fascinating. It's not exciting or heart-wrenching or even all that emotional, but it's not terrible, either. Overall, it's smack-center, "5" on a one-to-ten scale.

Moving from his middle-class childhood in which he vaguely understood the racism present in his mother's hometown, to a wildly successful career in media and the mentors who helped him get where he is, author Jonathan Capehart shares his story

with a casual tone that's calm and matter-of-fact. Readers get a nice look at the workings of journalism and what it's like to win a Pulitzer Prize, but if you're expecting the kind of excitement you want in a deadline-racing newsroom, it's not here; instead, Capehart writes in a decidedly unruffled manner that's really pretty tame.

Still, Capehart fans will absolutely want to read this memoir for its thoughtfulness and its satisfactory ending. Not a fan? Then "Yet Here I Am" could be a long climb.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

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Circuit Clerk's Office
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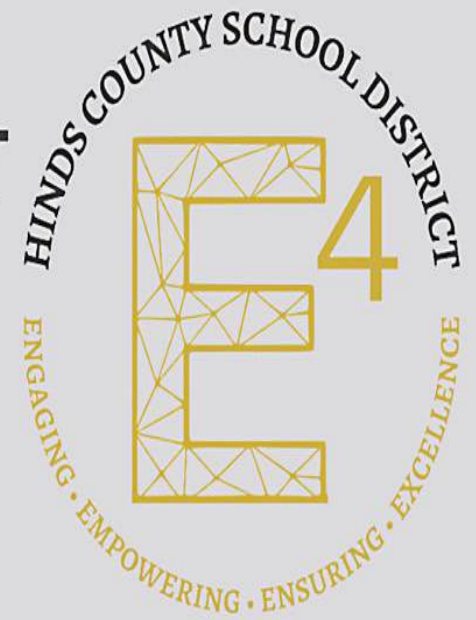
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMER REGISTRATION 2025-2026



We require two current proofs of residency, such as a utility bill, lease agreement, or mortgage statement.

Proofs must be within the last 30 days of registration!

***More information is needed for transfer students.**

July 24, 2025

RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL

14050 HWY 18 W.

Raymond, MS 39170



**DON'T
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1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

BEEMS, UEMS, RES-CM, and RHS

WILL BE IN ONE LOCATION!

REGISTER EARLY!

Please take advantage of these opportunities!

**There will be no registration on Meet the Teacher Night
nor the first day of school!**

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Strengthening communities.
Empowering leaders.

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Vice President
Senior Commercial Loan Officer
12 Years of Service



Mekie Grant
Vice President
Mortgage Loan U/W Manager
2 Years of Service

WE'RE PROUD TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM:



Marsha Womack
Senior Vice President
Retail Sales



Derrick Fletcher
Vice President
Residential Solar Program



Al Taylor
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Talent Acquisition



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