

Feeding Gaza’s children – when starvation is a moral imperative

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series



Alex de Waal. Photo courtesy of World Peace Foundation.



Boudour Hassan, Amnesty International Researcher. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.JERUSELUMSTORY.COM.



Afeef Nessouli, Journalist and Aid Worker. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.THEINTERCEPT.COM.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Intro to this week’s National Briefing provided by American Community Media – “After nearly two years of war between Israel and Hamas, Gaza is in ruins. Over 60,000 people have been killed—18,000 of them children, according to UNICEF. The majority of Gaza’s 2 million residents have been displaced, left without homes, clean water, or consistent access to food. For months, many have faced what international agencies now describe as catastrophic levels of hunger.

Despite repeated denials by Israeli officials, the global consensus is clear: Gaza is on the brink of famine. Religious leaders, humanitarian groups, and global heads of state, including President Donald Trump, have acknowledged that starvation is taking place.

UNICEF, the UN Fund for Children’s emergencies, last week called for more humanitarian and commercial traffic to come into Gaza, calling for

“flooding the strip with supplies using all channels and all gates” to combat the spiraling death rates that accompany aid blockades, war and hunger.”

Friday, August 8, 2025, American Community Media hosted a weekly national briefing focused on the devastation in Gaza, moderated by Pilar Marreno. Over 80 global media entities were present on the call, including The Mississippi Link newspaper. The first guest speaker was Dr. Alex de Waal, Executive Director, World Peace Foundation; an expert on famine and mass atrocity, and a professor in the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University.

He began responding to the question, how did Gaza get to this point, where particularly the children, the older and frail, are starving. “The situation in Gaza was unusual. The nutrition and health status of the population was generally good. You didn’t have large numbers of malnourished children. You had high rates of vaccination, high rates of health, but you had a situation in which

the population of about two million people was almost entirely depended upon supplies of food, medicine, water, fuel, etc., that were under the control of Israel, there was very little food that was actually produced within Gaza. After October 7th, Israel did two things: it put a complete siege on Gaza – not allowing anything in for seven weeks, then after that a partial siege – allowing some food and other commodities, day-by-day, with varying amounts.

It also launched a military campaign from the air and on the ground that attacked and destroyed objects indispensable to survival. That is a key term because in international law the prohibition on starvation is not on food as such. It is defined as objects indispensable to survival which include food, water, sanitation, housing, medical care, etc. There was mass displacement, there were evacuation orders for the population, so people had to leave their homes and were crowded into areas that were desperately overcrowded.”

Guest speaker Budour Hassan, Amnesty International’s researcher on Israel and Palestine, joined the call from Ramallah. Can you briefly explain what your job is a researcher for Amnesty International asked and what are you hearing from people regarding the hunger and starvation? “We at Amnesty have been investigating the situation, I, myself since 2022. The first thing I worked on was a three day attack offensive by the Israeli forces and forty nine people were killed on those three days...unprecedented in terms of scale...we published a report that Israel is committing genocide last December...killing, seriously injuring, and physical destruction of conditions that affect like hunger and disease...witnessing thousands, sometimes tens of thousands in northern Gaza waiting for humanitarian aid trucks which were denied by the Israeli forces and people resorting to eating animal feed...denial of aid is dehumanizing...people are trying to help each other initially, but then fighting

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Looking for an HBCU? What’s your major? Check out our guide to find the best school



By Cynthia Maxie Milton
Contributing Writer

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are known to lead in diverse areas of higher education. Their campuses serve as breeding grounds for social and political movements. However, beyond the classroom, these institutions stand out as national leaders in producing Black professionals across various fields. Check out our list of the top HBCUs, according to major.

Howard University
If acting or music is your schtick, then Howard University also known as the “Mecca,” located in the nation’s capital is one of the top HBCUs in the nation. Founded in 1867, the university remains a flagship institution for communications, law, acting, music, and biology. The communications School offers unparalleled access to major media outlets and a curriculum that prepares students to shape narratives with cultural depth. The Howard University School of Law is celebrated for its legacy of civil rights advocacy and producing influential political minds, including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Former Vice President Kamala Harris. Meanwhile, the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts nurtures top Black talent in the art, theater, and music industries. Also, as home to the oldest Black medical school in the nation, Howard University has many resources for students interested in biology. Howard University College of Medicine and College of Dentistry have committed themselves to adding to the only 6 of percent Black doctors and 4 of percent Black dentists that make up the medical profession.

Xavier University
If you have an interest in

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HBCU
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What Trump’s control of D.C. police means for the City, its mayor, and Black residents

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Donald Trump seized direct control of Washington, D.C.’s Metropolitan Police Department, removing authority from Mayor Muriel Bowser and placing the force under the command of Attorney General Tom Cotton. The move comes under a “crime emergency” declaration that allows the president to invoke Section 740 of the D.C.

Home Rule Act — a rarely used law that exists only because the District lacks full statehood.

For Mayor Bowser, this means she no longer has operational control of her own police department. All decisions on how and where officers are deployed now run through the Justice Department. That includes the ability to redirect D.C. police from neighborhood patrols to guard federal buildings, secure national monuments, and police

protests — even if it leaves fewer officers in local communities. For African Americans in the District — who make up nearly half the city’s population — the change places local policing under the direct control of a president who has repeatedly called for racial profiling, attacked other predominately Black-led cities such as Baltimore and Chicago, and used “law and order” policies that disproportionately target Black communities.



Police car with lights on at night in city.

ties. Residents could see federal priorities override local crime prevention strategies, with increased policing around demonstrations and broader latitude for aggressive enforcement tactics. Trump justified the takeover by citing D.C.’s 2024 homicide and

vehicle theft rates, even though other cities he has singled out — all with large Black populations and Black leadership — have seen major crime reductions this year. The order has no end date, meaning the District’s police could remain under federal com-

mand indefinitely. This is only possible because D.C. is not a state — a political reality that leaves its leadership vulnerable to federal override and its residents without full control over their own local government.

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Delphine Williams Colman

April 21, 1941- July 31, 2025



Colman

Delphine Williams Colman was born April 21, 1941, to the late Sam Oga (S.O.) and Willie Oda Williams in Carthage, MS. As the eldest of four children, Delphine was witty, kind, and inquisitive, and whenever she was around, there was never a dull moment.

Growing up in the Harmony Community outside of Carthage taught Delphine the importance of community building, family togetherness, economic development, and sustainability. At the

time, she didn't realize that gathering chicken eggs, shelling purple hull peas, and working part-time in her father's store would serve as the foundation for a career of service that spanned more than four decades.

She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. As an adult, she joined New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson under watch care.

Delphine matriculated through Harmony Schools during her early years through high school. In the fall of 1959, she entered Alcorn A&M College (now Alcorn State University), an institution that had a profound impact on her life as a student and an alumna. During her time at Alcorn, Delphine was initiated into the Gamma Phi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her over-the-top personality on campus was also evident when she served as first attendant to Miss Alcorn during the 1962-63 school year. Delphine was also a member of the Band of Distinction (now known as the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite) and performed in the ASU choir.

Delphine graduated from Alcorn in 1963 and shortly thereafter married Ronald Alex Colman. To this union, four children were born: Ronald, Deandra, William, and Sonya. She subsequently earned her Master's Degree from the University of Mississippi and an Education Specialist degree from Jackson State University.

Even though her education was important, her family brought her the most joy of all. A natural cheerleader and encourager at heart, Delphine can be remembered for her consistent presence and unwavering support of her children's academic and extra-curricular pursuits. That unique personality trait continued as she supported her seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren in everything they did.

In the academic world, science was her first love. Beyond that,

her commitment as an educator was to ensure that students were able to take complex terms and make them easy to understand and applicable to their daily lives. Her career touched the lives of students across several school districts and two states, including Utica, East Flora, and Jackson, Mississippi, and Mount Clemens, Michigan (near Detroit).

Retirement looked different for Delphine than it did for most others. After retiring from JPS, she continued her work as a teacher in Michigan, and upon retiring from there, she worked as an educational consultant for the Jackson-based firm The Kirkland Group. She remained active with the Beta Delta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Alcorn State University National Alumni Association until her passing.

For all of the hard work, service, and dedication she lent to others, she also spent a lot of time shopping, dancing, and visiting the casino. In any circle she was a part of, she shared many jokes, laughs, and unforgettable moments.

Delphine was preceded in death by her parents, Sam Oga (S.O.) and Willie Oda Williams, her sister Robbyc Crosby, and her grandson, Brian Christopher White.

Survivors include: her children, Ronald Colman, Houston, TX, Deandra Colman (Kodirinyechi), Bethesda, MD, Sonya Christian, (James), Jackson, MS, William Colman (Bernadette), Royal Palm Beach, FL; grandchildren, the late Brian White (6/7/1986-12/30/2021), Alan Smith, Okolona, MS, Sydney Colman, Bethesda, MD, James "Bubba" Christian, Jackson, MS, Jalyn Christian, Jackson, MS, Taylor Colman, Royal Palm Beach, FL, and Tia Colman, Royal Palm Beach, FL; and great-grandchildren, Caylee Smith and Carter Smith, both of Okolona, MS. She also leaves two brothers: Gerone Williams (Betty), Carthage, MS, George Williams (Barbara), Jackson, MS; and one brother-in-law, Phillip Crosby of Carthage, MS.

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Gaza

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begins for survival.

People were starting to return to the rubble of their homes and trying to rebuild, to bring life from lifelessness, and then the total siege began again on the second of March ... Israel established a total siege of goods coming in...nothing getting in...a week later Israel cut off the only operational desalination plant which was connected to the electricity grid.”

The final guest speaker was Afeef Nessouli, a journalist and aid

HBCU

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STEM, then the bayou standout is Xavier University. Also known for its prowess in pre-medicine programs, Xavier is the only Catholic HBCU. This HBCU, located in New Orleans, La. and is highlighted for producing more Black students who go on to complete medical school. Also, the College of Pharmacy is one of the top 4 in the nation for graduating Black pharmacists.

Tuskegee University

Want to become a veterinarian? Then Tuskegee University is the school that holds a top spot for animal sciences, agriculture, biology, and nursing. The school is also known for having top programs in STEM-related fields. Tuskegee University, located in Alabama, is rooted in a historic legacy tied to Black historical icons, like Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Tuskegee College of Agriculture drives research and education in sustainability, food security, and rural development, continuing its mission of community impact and innovation.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

For engineering and computer science, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University leads the pack. Affectionately called “NCAT,” this institution boasts the largest engineering college among

worker, who just returned from 9 weeks volunteering in Gaza. Due to time constraints, he was encouraged to share his experiences with the group rather than respond to questions. “First, I just want to substantiate everything that Boudour and Alex have said, giving us a very good example of what I saw in person from March 27, 2025, to June 3, 2025... I can substantiate that with the doctors that I was working with every day who saw their patients struggling with explosive injuries while also being skin and bones...so you’re talking about people

being pulled out of rubble or getting shot at or a drone quadcopter hitting them, but they’re already skin and bones...87 percent of farmland is uncultivable, 83 percent of fishing fleets are destroyed due to the attacks...a kilo of onions was once three dollars, now each onion is three dollars...Palestine is being robbed of itself.”

The entire briefing is just over an hour and can be heard and viewed here: <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/feeding-gazas-children-when-starvation-is-a-moral-imperative>.

HBCUs, with robust programs and industry partnerships that prepare students for cutting-edge work in fields like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and renewable energy. North Carolina A&T’s Department of Computer Science is nationally recognized for its innovative research and workforce diversity efforts in technology.

Florida A&M University

Aspiring business leaders should look no further than Florida A&M University. Located in Tallahassee, Fl., this institution is recognized as the best HBCU for business education. Nicknamed “FAMU,” the School of Business and Industry combines rigorous academics with professional development, preparing graduates to compete and lead in a global economy.

Morehouse College

In medical education, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta stands out as the premier HBCU, dedicated to training physicians who serve underserved populations and address healthcare disparities. Known for its community-based approach, Moorehouse consistently ranks highly for producing African American doctors in primary care and leadership roles in health equity.

Jackson State University

If you’re looking to stay in state and earn a STEM degree, then our hometown icon, Jackson State University is the place to be. Also known for its nationally ranked Social Work program, JSU offers both bachelor’s and master’s degrees accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Jackson State was founded in 1877 as a seminary. Later, when the state took control of the HBCU, it became a training school for teachers. Despite expanding to several other programs, JSU still touts its education program. Social work is also a popular major for its students.

Overall, when it comes to awarding doctoral degrees, Howard University leads all HBCUs, having conferred a record number of doctorates in recent years. However, Jackson State, Morgan State University, and Texas Southern University also contribute significantly to doctoral education. These distinctions reflect the vital role HBCUs play in cultivating diverse talent and leaders across disciplines, while honoring their rich histories and commitments to social justice and equity.

As higher education continues to evolve, these institutions remain beacons of excellence, innovation, and opportunity for students from across the nation and the world. *Leah Clark contributed to this story.*

Newly installed Bishop reflects on first year

By Ora Reed

Guest Writer

Time passes quickly—it’s hard to believe that a year has already gone by since the ordination and consecration of The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. It feels like only months ago that we witnessed the inspiring ceremony. The sight of bishops from across the country, vested in robes and miters (the tall, peaked headdresses worn by bishops), each carrying a crozier—a ceremonial staff symbolizing pastoral authority—was both moving and enlightening. Conversations that day deepened our understanding of the tradition and significance of the moment.

Bishop Wells was ordained July 20, 2024, at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Ridgeland, and seated in St. Andrew’s Cathedral the following day. She is the eleventh Bishop of Mississippi, succeeding the Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage, who served from 2014 until formally passing the crozier to her.

A true Southerner, Wells grew up in Mobile, Alabama, in the Baptist tradition. Her education took her to Tennessee and Georgia before she settled in Mississippi. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Rhodes College and her Juris Doctor from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis. For 18 years she practiced employee benefits law at FedEx Corporation and Waring Cox, PLLC before answering God’s call to ordained ministry. She earned her Master of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary and her Doctor of Ministry from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

In her first year as Bishop, she has traveled the state extensively and feels deeply connected to Mississippi. She is committed to fostering community dialogue, racial healing, justice, and equity for all of God’s people. She has been impressed by the strong community engagement she’s seen



Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, Bishop Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

in congregations across the diocese, including the many food banks and feeding programs.

Wells leads by example. On a recent visit to a church serving 100 people daily, she arrived at 6:00 a.m. to help. With all duties assigned, she found her place serving syrup for pancakes—moving from table to table with a smile, asking, “More syrup?” It’s a perfect reflection of her hands-on, servant-leadership style.

Her crozier is itself a sermon—crafted by Gullah artist Thomas Williams, it commemorates both the date of her ordination, chosen in honor of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman, and four biblical women whose faith and courage inspire her ministry:

- The Samaritan woman at the well (John)
- The Canaanite/Syrophoenician woman (Matthew, Mark)
- The hemorrhaging woman (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
- Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the Resurrection

Symbols for each are incorporated into the design: a hand reaching for Jesus’ garment, a well, a loaf of bread, and a road traveled by Mary Magdalene as she shared the Resurrection.

This past year, Wells hosted former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for a powerful conversation on the 70th anniversary of Emmett Till’s death. Together, they reflected on the lasting impact of his murder, perceptions of Mississippi, and the Episcopal Church’s ongoing work as a source of healing.

Beyond her ministry, Wells is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, dedicated to lifelong sisterhood, personal growth, and community service. A classically trained soprano, she enjoys classical and R&B music, baking, and playing the piano. With her two daughters grown and living in other cities, she and her husband are happily settled in Mississippi.

In only a year, Wells has brought energy, vision, and compassion to her role—a truly extraordinary woman serving God’s people with grace and dedication.

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Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center celebrates the past, present, and future

By Charence Higgins
Contributing Writer

The Reed Center at Live Oaks was filled with smiling faces, clinking glasses, stunning attire, and inspiring words as Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (JHCHC) celebrated its 55th anniversary Thursday, August 7, 2025. The program facilitated by Alice Tisdale, publisher emeritus of The Jackson Advocate newspaper was themed: “Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future” and it truly did just that.

Psalmist and gospel artist Terrell Brinson lit up the night with his heartfelt renditions of “He’ll Fix It,” “Hold On,” and “Heaven”, each woven throughout the slate of speakers and presenters. There were thoughtful words and reflections from JHCHC Board President Alberta Johnson and a special presentation from The Honorable Congressman Bennie Thompson who always moves audiences with his passion and candor. Jackson’s newly installed mayor, John Horhn, followed giving a rousing proclamation on behalf of the City of Jackson. The history of the organization and its profound roots were shared through a thoughtful, thorough, and excellently executed documentary-style video.

A highlight of the evening was the reflection shared by CEO Dr. Jasmin Chapman. In her speech, the trailblazer iterated the purpose of the night’s festivities. “Tonight, we recommit ourselves to the work of the people and to the pursuit of healthcare for all,” she said. It is true that JHCHC has had a commitment to its constituents since its inception. Vast disparities have long existed in healthcare in the state of Mississippi and founder, Dr. Aaron Shirley, sought to change that by providing comprehensive, community-based care that increased access to those who otherwise would go uncared for. Resources of all kinds from water during Jackson’s water crisis to the first Covid tests and vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic have been made available to those in need. It is evident that JHCHC sets the standard for community aid in many facets and now at this 55-year juncture, Chapman states, “We honor the present—an age of innovation” as the organization continues to grow by updating technology and expanding pick-up centers.

When asked about the impact of JHCHC Dr. Keila Brown, a former employee said, “Jackson-Hinds is the organization where I started my career and to see how it’s evolved is an honor. As an African American woman, watching Dr. Chapman make history in this position and build upon the foundation of the organization is truly awe-inspiring. She daily affirms the mission of JHCHC to provide quality, comprehensive care to the insured, under insured, and uninsured.”

The night ended with a joyful celebration of those who have served in JHCHC for 30+, 40+, and 50+ years. Those who served for over 30 years include Ethel Singleton, Lillie Ervin, Mary Cross, Mark Propst, Lucille Jackson RPhD, Dr. Rose Straughter DMD, Dr. Lynda Jackson-Assad MD. Those who have served for 40 years or more include Caroline Patton RN; Dr. Linda Carson-Johnson, Sandra Gray RDH, Betty Rowan, Dr. John Patterson, and CEO Dr. Jasmin O. Chapman. Those esteemed few recognized for 50+ years include Maggie Bass and Nancy J. Stewart.

Profound final remarks were made by Board member Mr. Larry McMillan and a rallying cry led by the night’s host, Tisdale, urged the audience to chant “Jackson Hinds 55!” with growing enthusiasm officially ending the enjoyable evening. The words that resonated with all attendees were shared by Chapman, “Here’s to 55 years and a future just as bold, compassionate, and unstoppable. May the spirit of service continue to guide us all.”

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BILBREW AND JOHN RATLIFF



Auditor seizes hundreds of thousands from cities to pay for overdue financial reports

By Anna Wolfe
Mississippi Today

Jeff Goodwin, director of the state auditor's compliance division, was congenial while describing to Canton officials how the office has taken \$352,000 of the city's revenue to pay for past-due audits – the first time Auditor Shad White has exercised this authority.

"I didn't write the law. Auditor White didn't write the law, but we're charged with enforcing it," Goodwin said at the Canton Board of Aldermen meeting Tuesday.

Canton is one of 68 local governments across Mississippi that received an auditor's letter in March, putting officials on notice of their delinquent audits.

The notices went as far north as Farmington near the Tennessee line and as far south as Moss Point on the Gulf Coast. They spanned from mid-sized cities like McComb, to rural towns like Coffeeville, to tiny villages like Beauregard – a signal of widespread municipal finance concerns.

This is especially true in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, during which Congress dolled out billions to local governments nationwide, necessitating more accounting, and city and town halls dealt with the fallout of a reduced labor force.

Incomplete audits create a host of problems, including reducing a city's ability to borrow money and prohibiting it from drawing down federal grants.

Audits are important, despite not appearing urgent, said Billy Morehead, Mississippi College accounting professor and member of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board.

"All of a sudden, the can's



Jeff Goodwin, director of the state auditor's compliance division, speaks to the Canton Board of Aldermen during a meeting at Canton City Hall in Canton, Miss., Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025. CREDIT: ERIC SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

been kicked down the road and the municipality is at risk of losing a variety of funding, a lot of their federal funds, but also their credit ratings," Morehead said. "It could be catastrophic to some of these places."

The March letters required compliance within 30 days or the auditor would request the Mississippi Department of Revenue to divert sales tax dollars from the municipality – the estimated price of bringing the audits up to date, plus 50% of that amount the auditor is allowed to retain for its administrative cost of hiring the accounting firm and acting as a third party on the reports.

Jackson has faced scrutiny for falling behind on its audits, including one for 2023 which has yet to be complete, but the capital city did not receive a noncompliance letter. The auditor's office said it focused on municipalities that are as far behind as 2022.

Only Canton, a city of about 11,000 in Madison County, and Maben, a town of fewer than 1,000 in Oktibbeha County, have seen their funds diverted under this process so far. Maben's transfer totaled more than \$68,000. Holly Springs, Indianola and Tchula are not far behind.

The planned diversions total \$1.6 million, with Indianola facing the largest threatened seizure of \$675,000. That's more than half of the city's total annual sales tax revenue of about \$1.1 million. Holly Springs, which has been under investigation for its management of the local electric utility, faces a sales tax diversion of \$450,000, also roughly half of its annual sales tax revenue of \$900,000.

The auditor's office has chosen so far not to divert an additional total of \$900,000 from four other towns – Itta Bena, Okolona, Winona and McComb – which it said demonstrated a good faith effort to rectify their incomplete reports. WLBT reported that McComb hadn't completed an audit since 2020, and that residents "think someone is stealing from the city," according to a local official.

Annual audit requirements were relaxed during the pandemic, Goodwin said, "But COVID has since passed."

"And so we're finding municipalities in circumstances where they can't borrow funds, they can't get grants, which is a jeopardy to the health, safety and welfare of the constituents," he

said.

In the case of Indianola, the audit delinquency caused the city to lose federal grants, such as a half-million dollar sidewalk project from the Mississippi Department of Transportation, according to reporting by The Enterprise-Tocsin, though it found a workaround by routing the money through the school district.

The auditor's office has the power to direct these diversions under a law passed in 2009. But this is the first time it has deployed this authority, assuming control of a city's funds and engaging a firm to conduct the audits.

"It's brand new, uncharted territory," Goodwin said, "The way the code reads, we have to estimate the fee and we have to put a 50% penalty on it. We don't want your money."

White, a Republican, has jokingly referred to his office as "MOGE," the Mississippi version of President Donald Trump former adviser Elon Musk's DOGE, or Department of Government Efficiency. The auditor was more rigid in his comments on the municipalities' overdue work.

"We've given cities plenty of chances to catch up on their audits," White said in a statement to Mississippi Today. "For the ones who have refused to get audited, their citizens deserve better, and my office will use the full extent of its legal authority to make sure the taxpayers get the transparency they deserve."

The auditor's office notably does not have the authority to audit municipalities itself, and legislators killed a 2024 proposal to permit the auditor to review and examine them.

The Mississippi Department

of Revenue declined multiple requests for an interview about the diversions, directing all questions to the auditor's office.

Under the law, the auditor's office has the power to choose the CPA firm to complete the past-due audits, enter the contract as a third party, and pay the invoices with the diverted revenue. Canton recently retained Tann, Brown and Russ in an effort to comply. The same firm has been working on the 2019 audit for Indianola since 2024. An accountant there declined to comment about their engagement or about the challenges surrounding municipal auditing.

It's difficult to find CPA firms that will conduct municipal audits, let alone one that will do it for a price some small towns are willing or able to pay. The number of students majoring in accounting has dwindled, despite an uptick in more recent years, Morehead said, and firms are still struggling to keep up with the demand.

"I know folks who are just exhausted," Morehead said.

In Tchula, one of the poorest towns in the nation on the edge of the Mississippi Delta in Holmes County, Mayor General Vann served 2017-21 and oversaw the last annual audit the town completed. He was elected again this year and took office July 1. Within a few weeks, Tchula had retained Watkins, Ward and Stafford, headquartered in West Point.

"The town finances are meager," Vann said. "But this is a priority and a necessity and it's something that you have to get done. And the price, you just have to bear it and come up with it. You don't have any choice."

The audits become even more

difficult to complete when municipalities haven't maintained proper recordkeeping – every transaction, deposit and debit in part because they're losing institutional knowledge inside their clerks' offices due to retirement and population loss.

"I think there's a brain drain," Vann said. "You have to have someone that knows how to keep a good set of books."

The auditor's office said it would be returning any unused money to the municipalities, but since the estimated cost of the audit assumes financial statements will be in a good enough shape to audit and that may not be the case, it could be unlikely there are any leftover funds.

"I do have concerns for you, each one of you," Goodwin told the Canton officials. "You're basing your decisions off of financial statements that will not be complete."

Alderwoman Shannon Whitehead, who was just elected in April, smiled, nodded and repeated "right" and "absolutely" during the presentation Tuesday.

Jason Camp, a Mississippi State University Extension specialist who specializes in municipal government, said in some cases, current municipal officials were not in charge when the audits fell behind, but someone has to hold them accountable for following the law.

"It does sound like the actions taken by the state auditor's office has made some urgency come into play with some of the cities who maybe didn't think it was such a big deal to be behind," Camp said in an interview with Mississippi Today. "They're now saying, 'Hey this is a serious issue, and we have to put resources towards getting us caught up.'"

Delta Blues Museum receives \$24,000 MAC Grant

Mississippi Link Newswire

Delta Blues Museum is the recipient of a \$24,000 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the more than \$1.7 million in grants MAC awarded in Fiscal Year 2026 and will be used to support Museum operations over the course of the two-year grant period. MAC's operating grants are available specifically for arts-focused institutions as operating support to assist organizations in maintaining their financial stability, building their organizational capacity, improving their artist programs, and broadening their programs throughout the community.

"We are deeply grateful to our state and national leaders who have made the arts a priority this year," said David Lewis, Executive Director for the Mississippi Arts Commission. "With funding from the Mississippi Legislature and with the continued support of the National Endowment for the Arts, MAC is providing 349 grants to individuals and organizations throughout Mississippi. These grants will foster creativity and make a meaningful impact on local communities and economies."

Museum Director Shelley Ritter underscores the importance of the state's arts commission. "MAC is an anchor for arts organizations, artists, and arts education in our state. We are grateful



for this generous support," Ritter offers, adding, "MAC's investment is key in helping the Museum continue to preserve blues culture and heritage, passing along its unique character and traditions to future generations of citizens."

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency serving more than two million people through grants and special initiatives that enhance communities, assist artists and arts organizations, promote arts education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. MAC is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation for Mississippi and other private sources. For more information, visit www.arts.ms.gov.

The Delta Blues Museum was established in 1979 by the Carnegie Public Library Board of

Trustees and re-organized as a stand-alone museum in 1999. It is Mississippi's first music museum.

A 2013 recipient of the IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Services--the nation's highest honor for museum and library service to the community--and a 2014 recipient of the National Arts & Humanities' Youth Program Award, the Delta Blues Museum is dedicated to creating a welcoming place where visitors find meaning, value and perspective by exploring the history and heritage of the unique American musical art form, the Blues. The Museum is also recognized as a Great River Road Interpretive Center. For more information on events or programs, please call (662) 627-6820, or visit the Museum web site at www.deltabluesmuseum.org.

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BET gutted, DEI killed, Media bought—Trump’s playbook in action

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Donald Trump’s first eight months back in the White House have erased any illusion of restraint. He is not just following the Project 2025 playbook — the authoritarian blueprint he once claimed to know nothing about — he’s executing it with surgical precision. From purging diversity programs to steamrolling media independence, Trump has unleashed a blitzkrieg of white nationalist policymaking under the guise of federal power. And now, with the blessing of federal regulators, he has the media — including Black-owned and Black-centered platforms — under his heel. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently approved the \$8 billion acquisition of Paramount Global — parent company of CBS and BET — by Skydance Media. The merger was greenlit just days after Paramount paid a \$16 million settlement to Trump, resolving a lawsuit over a “60 Minutes” interview with then-candidate Kamala Harris. Critics say the timing was no coincidence.

During a PBS interview, journalist Dylan Byers said plainly: “It certainly seems that way. All available evidence suggests that this was a



payoff dressed up as a settlement.” The fear, said Byers, is that this is the new cost of doing business in Trump’s America. “If you need any deal to get done, any merger, any acquisition, you might be forced to cough up — the number seems to be — \$16 million to the Trump Presidential Library.” Even more chilling is what the deal required: the gutting of DEI initiatives, the installation of a political ombudsman to monitor “bias,” and an additional \$20 million in PSAs dedicated to causes “near and dear to the president’s heart.” One lone FCC commissioner voted against the deal, citing “overreach by

the FCC and capitulation by Paramount.” Brendan Carr, FCC Chairman, was blunt in his public remarks: “President Trump is fundamentally reshaping the media landscape.” He applauded Trump’s direct attacks on legacy media giants like ABC, NBC, and CBS, now effectively under his influence.

That influence extends to content and culture. BET — a pillar of Black music, film, and storytelling — has abruptly suspended both the BET Hip Hop Awards and the Soul Train Awards indefinitely. It’s a blow many in the Black community see as part of a larger strategy: silencing Black voices while making media whiter,

safer, and Trump-approved. A viral video by TikTok user @TalkUrShxxtNene has ignited online conversations by connecting the dots that mainstream outlets have tiptoed around. “So, BET has suspended BET Hip Hop and the Soul Train Awards indefinitely,” the video begins. “Now I want everyone to pay attention to this s**t.” The post breaks down the timeline and details of the Paramount-Skydance merger, pointing out the suspicious coincidence of Stephen Colbert’s show being canceled, CBS executives changing their messaging, and the networks now reportedly having a “CC monitor for Trump.” “This is about

Trump making the guillotine whiter,” she says in the video. “Only white people should be seen. And they’re going to dismantle BET whether we realize it or not.” “Little by little, they’re going to take BET away from us,” she warns.

Her video points to a larger agenda: the erasure of Black visibility in media, the collapse of Black cultural programming, and the sanitization of entertainment to reflect Trump’s white nationalist vision. “They’re eroding everyone else and leaving the white people there to sit,” she says. “Blue eyes and blonde hair are not the architects of beauty. That’s racism. That’s eugenics. And they’re going to keep throwing that in the entertainment space because everything is there. The media controls everything. And right now, Trump has it under his boot.” Under Skydance’s takeover — and with Trump’s hand guiding every major federal agency — CBS, BET, and other Paramount properties are being forced to undergo “comprehensive reviews” to ensure “viewpoint diversity.” Translated: no more liberal, inclusive, or racially conscious content that could offend MAGA sensibilities. During the same PBS segment, anchor Geoff Bennett asked Byers, “Is this sort of the

new template for future media deals — this sort of new era of political appeasement?” “Yes,” Byers answered. “As long as everyone plays ball — pay the settlement, dismantle DEI, install a political censor — then your deal goes through. This is the way deals get done, at least so long as Trump is in office.”

Black voices, Black spaces, and Black storytelling are being sacrificed in these deals. Trump’s administration has already gutted DEI efforts in federal agencies, banned references to systemic racism, and pushed new education guidelines that eliminate or sanitize discussions of slavery and civil rights. This isn’t just about Trump controlling the message. It’s about erasing communities and histories he sees as expendable. And doing so by leveraging the federal government, corporate media, and billions of dollars in hush-money settlements. The media — once a check on presidential power — is now a pawn in his political empire. As @TalkUrShxxtNene concluded in her viral takedown, “Don’t be stupid. Everyone likes to see the glass half-full instead of that b**ch half-empty. This is what erasure looks like.”

How Trump and his family made a billion off the White House

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Donald Trump’s second stint in the White House has proven to be a gold mine — for him. An investigation by The New Yorker has tallied more than \$1 billion in personal and family gains tied directly to his two presidencies, from foreign mega-projects to luxury perks and merchandise sales that blur, if not obliterate, the lines between public office and private profit. When Trump first took office in 2017, he assured Americans he would not “destroy the company he built” but would turn daily operations over to his sons. He claimed such a hand-off would avoid the appearance of exploiting the presidency. Eight years later, that promise is in shreds. The New Yorker reports that Trump and his family



have reaped massive windfalls, including Persian Gulf real estate and golf course contracts in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Dubai, and Qatar that would be incon-

ceivable without the presidency. Jared Kushner’s private-equity firm, Affinity Partners, secured a \$2 billion investment from Saudi Crown Prince Moham-

med bin Salman’s sovereign wealth fund, along with hundreds of millions more from the UAE and Qatar, generating hundreds of millions for Kush-

ner personally. Mar-a-Lago’s revenues have quintupled since Trump entered politics, producing at least \$125 million in extra profit from members willing to pay as much as \$1 million to join.

Trump’s personal merchandising empire — separate from his campaign store — has brought in \$27.7 million selling MAGA-style hats, koozies, and flip-flops. Donor-funded PACs have spent over \$100 million covering his personal legal bills. The Emir of Qatar offered him a Boeing 747-8 as a “gift” for his use after leaving office, worth an estimated \$150 million. A massive Hanoi golf and hotel complex, advanced by Vietnam’s Communist Party with “special attention” from the Trump administration, is projected to bring \$40 million

in licensing profits.

Major media companies — ABC, Meta, X, and CBS — have collectively paid \$63 million to Trump’s presidential library foundation to settle defamation claims that legal experts described as baseless but were resolved under the weight of presidential power. Meanwhile, Trump and his family have dived into cryptocurrency, NFTs, and token sales, pocketing at least \$14.4 million from licensing fees and digital currency holdings. Ethics watchdog Fred Wertheimer told The New Yorker that “when it comes to using his public office to amass personal profits, Trump is a unicorn — no one else even comes close.” The total haul stands at roughly \$1.02 billion — a sum no prior occupant of the Oval Office has approached.

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The Mississippi Link™

Volume 31 • Number 42

August 14 - 20, 2025

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Sports EditorTim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$50 per year; \$100 for two years or \$150 for three years.

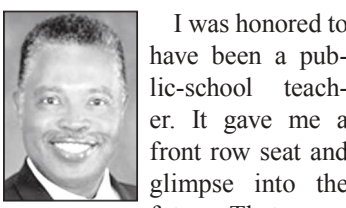
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Schools are opening and the Department of Education is wavering. That is a problem

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



I was honored to have been a public-school teacher. It gave me a front row seat and glimpse into the future. That was a long time ago.

Back then, my teacher friends and I were always excited about the beginning of a new school year. Students were excited to see us, and we were thrilled to see them. There were smiles all around.

The smiles all around part began when I was a young boy. The kids in my neighborhood in North Carolina didn't dread re-

turning for another school year. Our teachers welcomed us back and that set the tone for the entire year.

It is interesting that I became a teacher because of a teacher. While I had political science as my college major, my future goals changed prior to my senior year.

Going to law school was certainly in my plans, but being a teacher was in my heart. My high school history teacher was the unspoken role model that I had observed as he brought out the very best in his students. After college, I enrolled in a graduate teacher training program in Washington DC.

I became a social studies teacher in the District of Colum-

bia Public Schools. Humbly, as my tenure evolved, I became the senior class advisor and the tennis coach. It's not an overstatement to say that I enjoyed every minute of my teaching career.

Yes, I enjoyed having to create lesson plans with behavioral objectives and yes, I enjoyed the after-school faculty meetings. And I won't ever forget being a chaperone for school trips and the announcer for basketball games.

That's what teaching is all about in my opinion. It is being an intricate part of the school and students seeing that you care about them.

So here we are today, and another generation of young minds are starting their educational

climb. I know that students are still excited and want to learn all they can. Proudly, I have been in enough schools to make that assertion.

Parents and grandparents like us, are going to get those school supplies and to sign up to become volunteers. That is the way it should be. Nuclear and extended families must be a part of a child's education. When we set the foundation, they will have the building blocks to succeed.

Education standards and tests have changed over time. However, the one thing that hasn't changed is teachers' commitment. Like the song says, "and you can't change that".

With all that is happening in the world today, teaching our

children is still a high priority. They represent the future and all that is good about it.

Unless you have been without communication for the last several months, you realize the United States Department of Education is slowly sinking. How can that be? Once upon a time it was called the Office of Education. I received my graduate degree in education because of funding through a program called the National Teacher Corps. It was based upon the Peace Corps model.

The Department of Education is the umbrella that covers every level of education. Critics who say otherwise don't know and don't care. However, we the people do care.

Talking and writing to our elected state and federal leaders letting them know that shutting the Department of Education is a horrible idea. We must use our influence in a mighty way.

Teachers must teach our students and not have to worry about losing their positions. Nor should they worry about their schools closing or budget cuts. Students must not worry about having different teachers every week or having long-term substitute teachers.

These days ahead are way too important to play around with a venerable fortress like the United States Department of Education. Education is a key to a strong and sustainable society. Wouldn't you agree?

Wake-Up Call: How Democrats can use august recess to save their brand

By Kevin Harris
and Richard McDaniel
Democratic Strategists



Harris



McDaniel

There's an old saying in the hip-hop community: "Men lie, women lie, numbers don 't." In this political climate of lies, corruption, and misinformation, working families deserve numbers that work in their favor, especially when it comes to the economy and their wallets.

But the latest numbers tell a hard truth that Democrats can't ignore. A recent Wall Street Journal poll shows that out of every 10 Americans, more than 6 view the Democratic Party unfavorably. That's the worst showing in over 30 years. Put simply: for every person who likes what Democrats are doing, two others don't.

This should keep every Democrat awake at night: even when voters don't like how Trump handles the economy, they still trust Republicans more than Democrats to fix it. It's like saying you don't trust the mechanic who broke your car, but you'd still rather have him work on it than the other guy.

As Democratic pollster John Anzalone bluntly admitted: "The Democratic brand is so bad that they don't have the credibility to be a critic of Trump or the Republican Party."

No wonder Democrats lost ground in the 2024 election with every demographic except Black women. Trump made historic inroads with Black and brown voters, which says more about declining trust in the Democratic Party than any real enthusiasm for Trump.

Despite dismal favorability numbers, there's hope. The Wall Street Journal poll also found voters are willing to give

Democrats another chance if the party can prove it deserves one.

Congress is now in August recess, when members return home to reconnect with constituents. For Democrats, this month isn't vacation time; it's a lifeline. While Republicans flee tough questions, Democrats can prove they're listening through town halls, door-knocking, and direct engagement with working families who've lost faith in the party.

To prove our value, Democrats must remember that being anti-Trump isn't enough. We've run on that message for three presidential elections, losing twice while Republicans secured governing majorities.

Instead, Democrats need to say what we're for and what we'll do once we have power again. In 2006, Nancy Pelosi led Democrats back to power with her brilliant "Six for '06" campaign, focusing on wages, retirement security, affordable healthcare, and college.

Democrats must meet voters where they are. This means maintaining a consistent drumbeat message on affordability instead of responding to daily Trump controversies. Working-class voters, including Black and brown Americans who form the backbone of our coalition, are stressed about rising costs. We can't only oppose tariffs because Trump supports them, we must oppose them because they make everything from groceries to cars more expensive. We can't just oppose ICE raids because they're cruel, we must oppose them because they disrupt supply chains and raise prices for working families.

Democrats need to model courage over fear. Pete Buttigieg recently noted Democrats have been "too attached to a status quo that has been failing us." He's right. Democrats should stop letting fear police our messaging and start taking bold positions that serve work-

ing families and communities of color. It's time to be unapologetic about who we're fighting for.

While Democrats debate messaging, Republicans are executing a comprehensive strategy to lock in power for decades. Trump's team is putting "maximum pressure" on red states to redraw congressional maps before 2026, with Vice President JD Vance personally visiting Indiana to push redistricting efforts. Beyond Texas, Republicans are targeting Ohio, Missouri, Florida, and other states, potentially netting 10 or more House seats through gerrymandering alone.

Even more concerning, Trump has announced plans for a new census designed to exclude undocumented immigrants from congressional apportionment, a move that would fundamentally reshape representation and strip seats from diverse, Democratic-leaning areas.

This is the Republican playbook. Change the rules when you can't win the game fairly. While they're playing chess, too many Democrats are still playing checkers.

This August recess isn't just an opportunity, it's time to make a stand. Democrats must use this month to build the coalition and trust needed to counter an unprecedented assault on democratic representation. The question isn't whether Democrats can recover. The question is: when will we start capitalizing on Trump's overreach by speaking plainly about what we're for, who we're for, and what we'll do if we have power again?

Kevin Harris and Richard McDaniel are veteran Democratic strategists with over 100 political campaigns between them, including the past five presidential elections. They co-host "Maroon Bison Presents: The Southern Comfort Podcast.

You have not because you ask not

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



I believe most if not all have heard the popular saying: you have not because you ask not which derives from the bible – James 4:2. James expresses this sentiment because people often don't receive what they desire because they fail to ask God for what they want. If you read further in verse 3 when people fail to ask God for what they want – they take matters into their own hands by getting what they want even if that means fighting, stealing, lying, murder, taking someone's spouse, coveting and envying what others have, to fulfill their desires etc. James is simply encouraging people that one should not have to resort to doing any of this foolishness if you simply trust God by asking God to give it to you instead (just gave a pastor an idea of what to preach about – share your love offering with me is all I ask).

The concept, you have not because you ask not can be applied in marriages which will require both spouses to communicate with each other.

Why is communication important in marriage?

- James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed... the Greek word for confess is ekzomologoeo, a word that means to declare, to say aloud, to exclaim, to divulge, or to blurt.

Healing begins with communication. God say confess, (communicate) your faults to each other, then pray for each other, and consequently, the reward will be healing. God reassures you that expressing your faults to each other (good and the bad) is a set up for praying, healing, reconciliation, and restoration.

- Builds trust
- Increasing bonding
- Reduces the M&M's in marriage: miscommunication, misunderstanding, and misinterpretation
- Promotes physical and

emotional intimacy

- Set up for an overall healthy and loving marriage:

What Should Spouses Communicate About in Marriage?

- Everything!
- Aspirations for marriage
- Individual aspirations
- God/Religion
- Tithing/Charity
- Finances: saving, paying off debt, retirement plans, etc
- Changes of life: PMS, Midlife Crisis, Perimenopause, Menopause
- Sex – Yes, I said Sex – the good and the bad!
- Children – every aspect for every age
- Parenting styles
- Family matters – immediate and extended family
- Mental/Physical Health
- Life Insurance
- Hurts/offenses
- Triggers/temptations (must be mature for this)
- Vacations
- Personal hygiene
- House choices
- Tide VS. Gain
- Everything! Everything!

Why do spouses avoid communication?

- Mistrust
- Fear judgement
- Fear being misunderstood
- Guilt
- Fear Gaslighting
- Avoid confrontation
- Fear making things worse
- Fear separation/demise of the marriage

How should spouses communicate with each other?

- Create a safe space – judgmental/bible thumping free zone
- Be real
- Reduce or eliminate the M&M's in marriage
- Respect
- Respectful tone – sometimes it's not what one say that evokes confusion – it's how it is said... a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger – Proverbs 15:1
- Listening
- Don't make presumptions/assumptions
- Patiently
- Listen carefully
- Ask questions for clarity

Communication is vital in a marriage. The same efforts that are made to communicate,

for instance, with your doctor; these same efforts need to be made with your spouses. How can a doctor know what medicines to prescribe you if you don't explain your symptoms and ask him/her to treat it? This is the same principle that must be applied in marriage. How can a spouse know how to meet your needs if you are not willing to communicate and ask them? For instance, if you feel that your husband isn't affectionate enough – talk to him about it and ask plainly what you desire him to do. Your spouse cannot read your mind and sometimes they can be ignorant/naive in not understanding how to meet your needs, desires, etc. Therefore, I do not care what it is – even the tough stuff like finances, children – you MUST communicate.

In conclusion, when spouses fail to ask for what they want/need from each other, James emphasized that it can lead to trouble like physical/emotional affairs (will try to get needs met elsewhere – you know Sister Cheeks do not mind fulfilling your husband's desires), married on paper but living your own lives in the same household, separation and death of your marriage, and worse. If you have communicated to your spouses and they refuse to acknowledge you, empathize, make improvements, change, etc. pray consistently and seek professional help. And if professional help doesn't help continue praying and asking God what is best for you and your marriage. Remember, applying the you have not because you ask not biblical concept can be a vital tool in having a loving, happy, and healthy marriage.

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

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If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.	Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified. 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City reserves the right to reject any and all bids CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 8/7/2025, 8/14/2025, 8/21/2025	NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY CITY OF JACKSON Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 175-278, located on Gum Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us. BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.	Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified. 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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16		17	
			18			19		
	20	21						
22				23		24	25	26
27			28		29	30		
31					32			
33					34			

ACROSS

1. Advise
5. Excuse me!
9. Elite intellectuals’ society
11. Thin
12. Wins
13. ___ skin cap
14. Often poetically
15. Large (abbr.)
17. Farm credit administration (abbr.)
18. Discuss again
20. Cowboy shows
22. Pole
23. Letter afterward
24. Brim
27. Self-esteem
29. Cut of beef
31. European monetary unit
32. From that time
33. Not as much
34. Avidity

DOWN

1. Convexity
2. Shallow area
3. Tiny insect
4. Eastern Standard Time
5. Most basic
6. Horses feet
7. Cain’s eldest son
8. Asian starling
10. Napping
16. Haunting beings
18. Road (abbr.)
19. Like
20. Knave
21. Bad smells
22. Spin
24. Solitary
25. Ancient Indian
26. Rind
28. Distress call
30. Laundry detergent brand

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

			1			7		
	2			8			5	4
	7				3		6	9
		7						6
			5			9	1	
6				1			4	5
	8							
			4	5				
3		1						

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Crossword Solution

U	R	G	E			A	H	E	M
M	E	N	S	A		B	O	N	Y
B	E	A	T	S		C	O	O	N
O	F	T		L	G		F	C	A
			R	E	H	A	S	H	
	R	O	D	E	O	S			
R	O	D		P	S		L	I	P
E	G	O	S			T	B	O	N
E	U	R	O		S	I	N	C	E
L	E	S	S			Z	E	A	L

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Sudoku Solution

8	6	4	1	9	5	7	2	3
9	2	3	6	8	7	1	5	4
1	7	5	2	4	3	8	6	9
5	1	7	9	2	4	3	8	6
2	4	8	5	3	6	9	1	7
6	3	9	7	1	8	2	4	5
4	8	6	3	7	2	5	9	1
7	9	2	4	5	1	6	3	8
3	5	1	8	6	9	4	7	2

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Week of August 10, 2025

P R E S E R V E D

Back to school and back to prayer

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Last week, I shared a Back-to-School declaration. This week, I share my Back to School Prayer. What's the difference? The declaration shares positive thoughts and affirmations. On the other hand, the prayer is communication with God. Each year around this time, I share a Back-to-School prayer. There are so many things that stir up confusion and can distract from the excitement of the beginning of a new school year. My hope is that this prayer provides inspiration and opens up a pathway to communicate with God. This year, I'm adding a few scriptures that I hope will encourage.

"Heavenly Father, we come to you thanking you for your many blessings. You are so worthy of honor, praise, and glory. First, God we know that nothing surprises you. During this time of uncertain-

ty, remind us of Isaiah 46:10 which says that you know the end from the beginning. We rest on the assurance that you know what is best in all circumstances. All you ask is that we trust you.

1 Corinthians 14:33 reminds us that you are not the author of confusion but that you are the God of peace. We pray that the truth of this scripture will influence the decisions of the administrators and government officials regarding the safety of students, staff, and faculty at all levels of education from day-care, pre-K, K-12, and higher education. Let Godly wisdom and truth prevail. We come to you now praying for our children and students who will be attending school face to face and virtually this academic year. Let there be peace in the hearts of students, faculty, administrators, and staff in classrooms, administrative offices, and school buildings. We ask for an extra measure of your grace, mercy, and protection.

We also ask God that de-

spite what goes on around them you would grant students a supernatural ability to focus on the academic subjects they have to learn. Give instructors

innovative ideas and methods to creatively motivate students to learn even the most difficult topics. We pray that the learning environment is a place of safety, connection, and inspiration. We declare that frustration and discouragement will not distract students and educators from their purpose. We bind up anything that comes to disrupt the educational environment. Classrooms will be secure places of love and protection regardless of what may be taking place in the world outside.

We pray that you will give parents and guardians of students confidence that their students will remain safe. For any anxieties that may arise, remind them to cast their cares on you as it says in 1 Peter 5:7. Allow them to rest in the confidence that your Godly presence will be there

to cover and protect their children whether they are in the classroom, participating in extracurricular activities, in the cafeteria or on the playground.

God, you are sovereign, and we thank you for the promise in 3 John 1:2 says that you would have us to be in good health. Let this school year be one where good health, joy and hope prevail!

In Jesus' name we pray... Amen! May you have a blessed and amazing school year!

Additional Scriptures for Study: Philippians 4:6, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 16:3, Joshua 1:9,

Colossians 3:23, Colossians 3:17, and Philippians 4:13

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

In Memoriam

Celebration of life Marguerite Love

March 5, 1931 - July 27, 2025



Love

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing. But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates." - Proverbs 31:30-31

On March 5, 1931, our mother and grandmother, Marguerite Jones Love, daughter of the late Martin and Louella Thomas Jones, was born in Hinds County, MS. She departed this life at the age of 94 on July 27, 2025, at her home.

At an early age Mrs. Love accepted Christ Jesus as her per-

sonal Lord and Savior while at Big Creek Baptist Church. She moved her membership to Fairfield Baptist Church in Jackson where she was active in the choir, in children's ministries and as an usher. Finally Mrs. Love joined College Hill M.B. Church where she faithfully remained a member until her homegoing. At College Hill she taught Sunday School and led the Nursing Ministry.

Mrs. Love was untied in holy matrimony to Andrew Love, Jr. To this union came the blessings of Margaret Love Davis (Donald), Andrew Love III (Michelle), Steve Love (Berlina), Martin Earl Love, Penelope Love Davis (Wilfred), and Larry Donnell Love.

Mrs. Love was preceded in death by her husband and three sisters - Helen Marie Hill, Edna Lee Evans, and Hester Mae Watkins.

Her memory will be cherished by her sixteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

We will miss her love and laughter, but we rejoice in her homegoing.

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Hear today, thrive tomorrow

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Sound is more than just vibrations. Hearing allows us to engage with loved ones, detect danger and enjoy life’s simplest pleasures, from music to a bird singing. Yet, despite its deep impact on our quality of life, hearing is often taken for granted until it’s diminished.

How Do We Hear?

Hearing is a remarkable process that transforms sound waves into meaningful information. It begins when sound waves enter the outer ear and travel through the ear canal to the eardrum. These vibrations cause your eardrum to move, which in turn sets the tiny bones of the middle ear, the malleus, incus and stapes into motion. These bones amplify the sound and transmit it to the cochlea in the inner ear.

The cochlea is a spiral-shaped, fluid-filled structure lined with thousands of tiny hair cells. As the fluid moves, it stimulates these hair cells, which convert mechanical vibrations into electrical signals. These signals are then sent via the auditory nerve to your brain’s auditory cortex, where they are interpreted as sound.

Our ability to distinguish pitch, volume and direction depends on the precise coordination of these structures. Damage to any part of this system whether from loud noise, aging or infection can impair hearing. Fortunately, technologies like hearing aids and cochlear implants can help restore sound



perception.

Hearing connects us to the world, enabling communication, alertness, and emotional resonance. Understanding how we hear not only deepens our appreciation of this sense but also highlights the importance of protecting it.

Hearing is one of the most vital senses, essential to human communication and cognition. According to the World Health Organization, over 1.5 billion people globally live with some degree of hearing loss.

The implications extend beyond the ears:

Social isolation and loneliness: Difficulty hearing can lead people to withdraw from conversations and social gatherings.

Cognitive decline: Multiple studies link untreated hearing loss with increased risk of dementia and reduced brain function.

Workplace challenges: Communication barriers may affect

job performance and safety.

Mental health impacts: Anxiety, depression and frustration often accompany auditory difficulties.

For older adults especially, hearing loss can sneak in gradually, masking its effects until the social and emotional toll becomes hard to ignore.

While aging is a leading factor, other preventable risks play a substantial role:

Noise exposure: Loud music, machinery, concerts and headphones at high volume can damage tiny hair cells in your inner ear.

Ear infections: Untreated infections may result in lasting damage.

Medications: Certain drugs called ototoxic medications can harm the auditory system.

Cardiovascular health: Poor circulation can affect your inner ear’s delicate structures.

Environmental toxins: Exposure to pollutants like heavy

metals or certain chemicals may impair hearing over time.

Emerging research reveals fascinating connections between auditory health and brain function. The brain works hard to fill in gaps when hearing declines and this added cognitive load could accelerate aging. Hearing aids don’t just improve sound clarity they help maintain neural connections and ease mental fatigue. Prominent researchers in auditory neuroscience, emphasizes that “treating hearing loss is one of the most modifiable risk factors for reducing dementia risk.”

Hearing can be protected, nurtured and even enhanced with conscious habits. Here are evidence-based strategies to consider:

- 1. Turn Down the Volume**
Keep personal devices below 60% of maximum volume. Use noise-cancelling headphones to avoid cranking up sound in noisy environments.
- 2. Wear Protective Gear**
Use earplugs or earmuffs in loud settings like concerts, construction sites or while mowing the lawn.
- 3. Practice Good Ear Hygiene**
Avoid inserting cotton swabs deep into the ear canal. Gently clean the outer ear and seek medical help for buildup or discomfort.
- 4. Get Regular Hearing Checkups**
Screenings can detect problems early, especially for those over 50 or at higher risk.
- 5. Adopt a Heart-Healthy Life-**

style

Physical activity, balanced nutrition and managing blood pressure support inner ear circulation.

6. Limit Exposure to Ototoxic Substances

Discuss medication risks with your healthcare provider, especially if you’re prescribed chemotherapy, diuretics or antibiotics known to affect hearing.

7. Embrace Assistive Technology

Modern hearing aids and amplifiers are discreet, powerful and customizable.

Smartphone apps can help amplify sounds or translate speech into text for ease of communication.

Technology brings both opportunities and challenges. While streaming music and video calls boost connection, they also introduce risks of prolonged high-volume exposure. Education and awareness campaigns especially among youth and workers in loud settings are vital to fostering responsible habits.

Public health initiatives can amplify messages about hearing protection, just as they’ve done for vision and oral health. Employers can also play a role by providing protective gear and safe work environments.

For older adults, hearing isn’t just about detecting sounds it’s about staying engaged and independent. Age-related hearing loss or presbycusis, may be gradual but deeply disruptive. Simple conversations become challenging and background noise can

overwhelm speech clarity.

Hearing aids and cochlear implants provide life-changing support, but stigma and cost remain barriers. Advocates are working to expand coverage and reduce the shame often attached to hearing loss.

We can all contribute to inclusive environments:

Speak clearly and face others when talking.

Minimize background noise during group gatherings.

Offer written materials or captions when presenting.

Schools, workplaces and care facilities can adapt to meet auditory needs. By normalizing hearing aids and celebrating age-friendly tech, we foster a culture of accessibility and empathy.

Hearing connects us not just to sound, but to each other. Protecting it means valuing life’s shared moments, from whispered encouragements to booming laughter. Whether you’re a teen blasting music or an older adult hesitating to get tested, now is the time to tune into your auditory health.

Let’s hear the call literally and figuratively for awareness, prevention and inclusion. Because life is better when it’s heard clearly.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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‘Even Me 2.0’ shines light on HIV’s disproportionate toll on Black women and older adults

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

A decade after its acclaimed debut, the award-winning documentary *Even Me* returns with a powerful sequel, *Even Me 2.0: Unfinished Business*. Debating on Prime, the new film revisits the lives of older African American women living with HIV, an often-overlooked group at the center of a crisis that still grips Black communities across the United States.

Created by San Diego State University researcher and filmmaker Dr. Megan Ebor, *Even Me 2.0* follows a suspenseful journey to reconnect with the original cast, capturing the emotional and, at times, heartbreaking outcomes of their stories. The film provides a rare longitudinal lens into the evolving HIV epidemic and confronts the per-



sistent stigma and systemic inequities that continue to shape the lives of Black women aging with HIV. “Older adults are often left out of these conversations,

leading to misinformation and a lack of support or treatment,” Ebor said in a recent interview. “By openly talking about sexual health, we encourage testing, prevention, and support for people living with HIV, regardless of age.”

The timing of the film’s release coincides with a troubling reality highlighted by the latest data from AIDSvu, a leading public resource that visualizes HIV-related data to promote informed public health decisions. Although Black Americans comprise just 12 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 38 percent of new HIV diagnoses and 39 percent of people living with HIV (PLWH) in 2022. Black men and women had the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses among all racial and ethnic groups in 2022. For youth aged 13–24, Black Americans made up half of all new HIV diagnoses, far outpacing other

demographics. Despite these alarming figures, Black individuals represented only 14 percent of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) users in 2023, pointing to a dangerous gap in prevention access.

The problem goes beyond treatment access. According to AIDSvu data, Black people living with HIV report the highest levels of stigma and the lowest rates of viral suppression. In 2022, 22 percent of Black PLWH in the U.S. also reported unstable housing or homelessness—the highest rate among all races and ethnicities. Dr. Ebor’s research explores how these structural and social barriers intersect with age, race, and gender. Through her film and faith-based partnerships, she seeks to advance HIV education and eliminate stigma. She described her work as a departure from the top-down approach, instead elevating the voices of those

directly impacted. “This approach is about amplifying lived experience to promote health and wellness within their communities,” she said.

The return of *Even Me* comes as advocates and researchers urge a renewed national focus on Black communities in the HIV response. Earlier this year, during National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, AIDSvu Principal Scientist and Emory University Professor Patrick Sullivan stressed the need to remain focused. “Our role is to make sure there’s a transparent view, and to just keep shining that light,” Sullivan remarked. *Even Me 2.0* aims to do just that. Through raw storytelling and intimate reconnections, the film reframes public health dialogue and reminds viewers that HIV remains a pressing—and preventable—crisis in Black America.

Delta health group breaks ground on clinic expansion to offer dentistry, physical therapy

Sophia Paffenroth
Mississippi Today

Delta Health Alliance is starting construction on a center in Leland that will offer dentistry and occupational, physical and speech therapy – with options for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

It will be a \$10 million addition to the comprehensive Leland Medical Clinic that has served the region since 2013.

The expansion is made possible by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to Delta Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization that works to improve access to health services in the mostly rural, impoverished part of the state.

The decision to focus the new center on rehabilitative therapies and dentistry was born from the need providers saw in the main clinic, said Karen Matthews, CEO of Delta



State Rep. Willie Bailey, Bill Kennedy, Mississippi’s USDA rural development director Dane Maxwell, Delta Health Alliance CEO Karen Matthews, Lamar Liddell, Myrtis Tabb and Joyce McNair break ground for expansion of a medical clinic in Leland, Miss., on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025. CREDIT: COURTESY OF DOMINIQUE CHEEKS/DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

Health Alliance.

“Dentistry is just very hard to come

by in the Delta for our population,”

Matthews said. “And people des-

perately need it. Also with physical, occupational and speech therapy – it’s very hard to come by. And when people can get it, the wait is just extremely long.”

While construction of the new building will take approximately a year, Matthews said patients can make dental appointments immediately to be seen in the clinic’s mobile van.

A sliding fee scale is available to people whose income is less than about \$31,000 annually for one person or \$53,000 for a family of three – below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Fees start as low as \$3.

That’s available for patients who are uninsured, as well as those who have what many call “junk” insurance plans, said Hilary Meier, head of Leland Medical Clinic.

“Anybody can apply for the sliding fee scale, even if you have insurance,

because a lot of people have really high deductibles or co-pays,” Meier said. “If they qualify then they can be in that sliding fee scale for any of the services we provide at the clinic.”

In addition to flexible cost options, the clinic also offers free transportation to those who need it with a van that picks up patients up to 45 minutes away. That service will also be available for the new Delta Cares Center.

“Our mission for Leland Medical Clinic is to be able to serve everyone in the community regardless of their ability to pay or not, and to be able to offer high-quality services to everyone,” Meier said. “So that will expand into this new building, as well, and with the additional services that we’re going to be able to offer our community.”

Habitat for Humanity fights blight, offers homeownership in north Jackson

By Maya Miller
Mississippi Today

Teresa Buck steadies her hand as she aims a screwdriver toward the frame of what's to become a bedroom wall. In north Jackson's Broadmoor neighborhood early on a Saturday morning, Buck and more than a dozen volunteers, mostly women, drilled away at fresh lumber, laid glue and lifted frames, following the blueprints for Buck's future home.

Hopefully by the new year, she will be crossing the threshold of her new house built by Habitat for Humanity, something the 32-year-old has been waiting for since she first applied last fall.

"I'm getting nervous because I'm fixing to be on my own," Buck said. "I've never been on my own."

Buck isn't new to the Habitat for Humanity model for homeownership. Her mother purchased her first home from Habitat for Humanity in 1999, and they've been living in Jackson's Midtown neighborhood nearly her entire life. She said that by buying a home on her own, she's taking a leap of independence. Buck has three children and wants to set an example.



"I want to learn how to be responsible so I can show my kids how to learn to be responsible and not to depend on somebody else," she said.

Choosing to build in Jackson wasn't a hard decision for her, she said. She wants to remain close to her mother and keep her children at the same schools.

"This is my home. I know the crime and stuff is bad, but this still is my home," Buck said. "I love Jackson. I was born and raised here, and I don't

want to leave Jackson."

Merrill McKewen, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area, said that one of the missions of the nonprofit organization is to improve the living conditions for families and create successful homeowners. Habitat operates in the Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties, and since its formation nearly 40 years ago, it has built more than 660 homes.

"Every morning at least 2,500 people

wake up in a safe, decent, affordable house because of Habitat," McKewen said.

This work means transforming blighted properties and empty lots and offering 30-year, zero interest mortgages on them. McKewen stresses that Habitat for Humanity is an economic engine and doesn't give homes away for free. Homeowners spend up to 80 hours working on their home and at least 125 "sweat equity" hours volunteering.

"It's a passion to help my brothers and sisters in Christ get a chance to fulfill a dream. It's something that they qualified for, worked for, and that they take the responsibility for. That's why it's a hand up, not a handout," McKewen said.

She said it's rare that a homeowner faces foreclosure and has to move, but it happens.

"My saddest day on the job is when I have to go stand in court in front of a judge to have them evicted, or sometimes they just abandon the house," she said. "As tragic as that is, we then take the house, refresh it, bring it up to the standards of which we're building now, and sell it to another qualified Habitat

homeowner."

In recent years, Habitat for Humanity has built 28 houses in the Broadmoor neighborhood where Buck will live, and McKewen said the work will continue. Placing Habitat builds in the community encourages neighbors to invest into their own homes. She hopes that impact can be felt for generations to come.

"I would like to buy 15 blighted properties or receive them if people bless us. If we could get 15 properties in the Broadmoor area, we could probably get close to the commitment I made pre-COVID, which was to impact 100 houses in the area," McKewen said.

In building her first house, Buck said she hopes to impart a legacy for her children. She wants them to grow and thrive in the city that she loves, all while living in a safe neighborhood. She already imagines herself on her porch or watching her children play at the nearby park.

"This will be my property in 30 years that I can call my home," Buck said. "This is going to be mine, and I could leave it for my kids if they want it."

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Jackson Public Schools announces new Principal of Powell Middle School

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Desma Kelly as the principal of Powell Middle School for the 2025–2026 school year.

With over 20 years of experience in public education, Dr. Kelly has served in a variety of leadership roles, including teacher, assistant principal, principal, and Director of Career and Technical Education. She now brings her extensive expertise and passion for education to Powell Middle School.

Throughout her career, Kelly has championed academic achievement, led impactful professional development, and fostered strong community partnerships. She holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College and is widely recognized for her



Kelly

transformative leadership, dedication to equity, and commitment to student success.

Jackson Public Schools welcomes Kelly to her new role and looks forward to the continued growth and excellence she will help inspire at Powell Middle School.

JSU’s Jessica Murphy named 2025 distinguished technology educator

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University proudly announces that Jessica Murphy, Ph.D., professor in the Industrial Systems and Technology Program, has been named a 2025 Distinguished Technology and Engineering (DTE) Professional by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA). The prestigious honor was presented at ITEEA’s annual conference held in St. Louis.

The DTE designation recognizes educators who have demonstrated a high level of professional competence and leadership in technology, innovation, design and engineering education. Murphy’s recognition reflects her continued excellence in research, teaching and community-centered technology initiatives.

“I endeavor to perfect my initiatives of producing future generations of professionals, with high competencies in Technology and Emergency Management, to meet community needs,” said Murphy.



Murphy

“In promoting technological capability and professional and social proficiency through research endeavors, we can assuredly help students make a smooth transition to work and make a meaningful impact on society.”

In addition to the DTE honor, Murphy also received the Professional Practice Award from Epsilon Pi Tau International Technology Honor Society. Established in honor of the organization’s founder,

William Everett Warner, the award celebrates distinguished achievement in the technology field.

Murphy currently serves as the principal investigator and director of the Community Resilience Project at Jackson State University. Supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Scientific Leadership Award, the initiative focuses on disaster preparedness training and education across Mississippi, with a focus on

vulnerable communities.

The project integrates faculty expertise from Emergency Management Technology, Computer Science, Journalism and Media Studies, Health Policy and Management and the National Weather Service of Jackson, Miss. Through CRE-ATE (2021–2025) scholarships, the program empowers students across disciplines to support disaster response and recovery efforts.

Murphy’s leadership and innovation have garnered additional honors, including the Excellence for Women Technology Excellence Award (Fall 2024) from the Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering and the Prakken Professional Cooperation Award (Spring 2024) from ITEEA.

Jackson State University commends Murphy’s outstanding contributions to education, research and public service, and celebrates her national recognition as a leading force in technology and emergency management education.

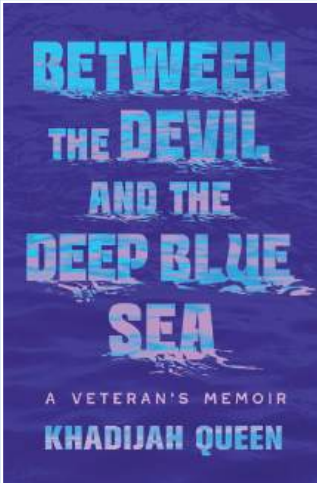
JPS serving the community

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Bridney Pope, principal of Peebles Middle School, along with her administrative and leadership team members, Dean Eddie Wells and Dean Joselyn Butler, spent one day canvassing neighborhoods door-to-door in search of scholars who have not been attending school. This intentional outreach aims to meet families where they are and provide support to help overcome any barriers that may be preventing scholars from attending school. Over the course of days, they visited 35 homes within the Peebles school zone.

August is National Truancy Prevention Month, and Jackson Public Schools urges all parents, guardians, and family members to play an active role in keeping children engaged and in school, at every grade level. #TruancyPreventionMonth #WeAreJPS





BOOK REVIEW:

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA: A VETERAN'S MEMOIR

BY KHADIJAH QUEEN

C.2025, LEGACY LIT

\$30.00 • 348 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Keep your head down. Stay steady, mind your business, and don't compare yourself to others. You are where you are for a reason, don't lose sight of it. There's a prize at the end, and endurance is the only way to get it. You have a job to do and, as in the new memoir "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" by Khadijah Queen, you'll do it until you can't.

Khadijah Queen hated Inkster, Michigan.

She had begged to stay in L.A. but her mother ignored her pleas and moved the family to Inkster to take care of the at-risk children of Queen's addicted eldest sister. Not old enough to stay in "Cali" by herself, but old enough to work and contribute to the household, Queen rushed to sign up for classes at a local Michigan college because she knew education was the only way to escape the situations that had her family in a stranglehold.

Alcoholism, drug abuse, no money, problems came like

storms and when those problems forced her to drop her classes, she decided to join the Navy. A few years of service, she knew, and her college education would be free.

Happily, Boot Camp wasn't so bad.

There were a handful of Black recruits and personnel who held Queen up when she felt sad and they gave her hope. She learned in Navy Boot Camp that she was a leader, but she wasn't fully ready for it. She wanted to serve on a submarine and once there, she tried

to just do her job but her white male shipmates made it difficult.

She endured their hazing and sexual harassment. She endured their racism and juvenile jokes. She endured a noose left laying on her study manuals.

Less than six months aboard, she says, "my anger had become a living thing, and even though I didn't want it, I kept that anger close. It leapt ahead of me when it had to."

Prepare to be stunned.

From the first few pages to this book's roaring end, "Be-

tween the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" grabs readers by the throat and doesn't let go. You plainly see author Khadijah Queen's need to get away from near-poverty; it paces like a lion in a small cage. You'll cringe at her maturity that doesn't quite go far enough because you've probably been there, too. When she's about to get in trouble for speaking her mind or because she's impatient, you'll squirm, knowing what's coming. Authentic language puts you in uniform. Tragedy will hurt your heart. So will some of the

people in this book when you learn what happens to them, but the story would be lesser without the rich presence of each of them and without Queen's no-nonsense-ness, her boiling impatience, and her profanity-laced honesty.

Veterans may have some things to say about this one-of-a-kind book, as will feminists, and neither of them, nor you, should miss it. Start "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" and it'll keep your head down good.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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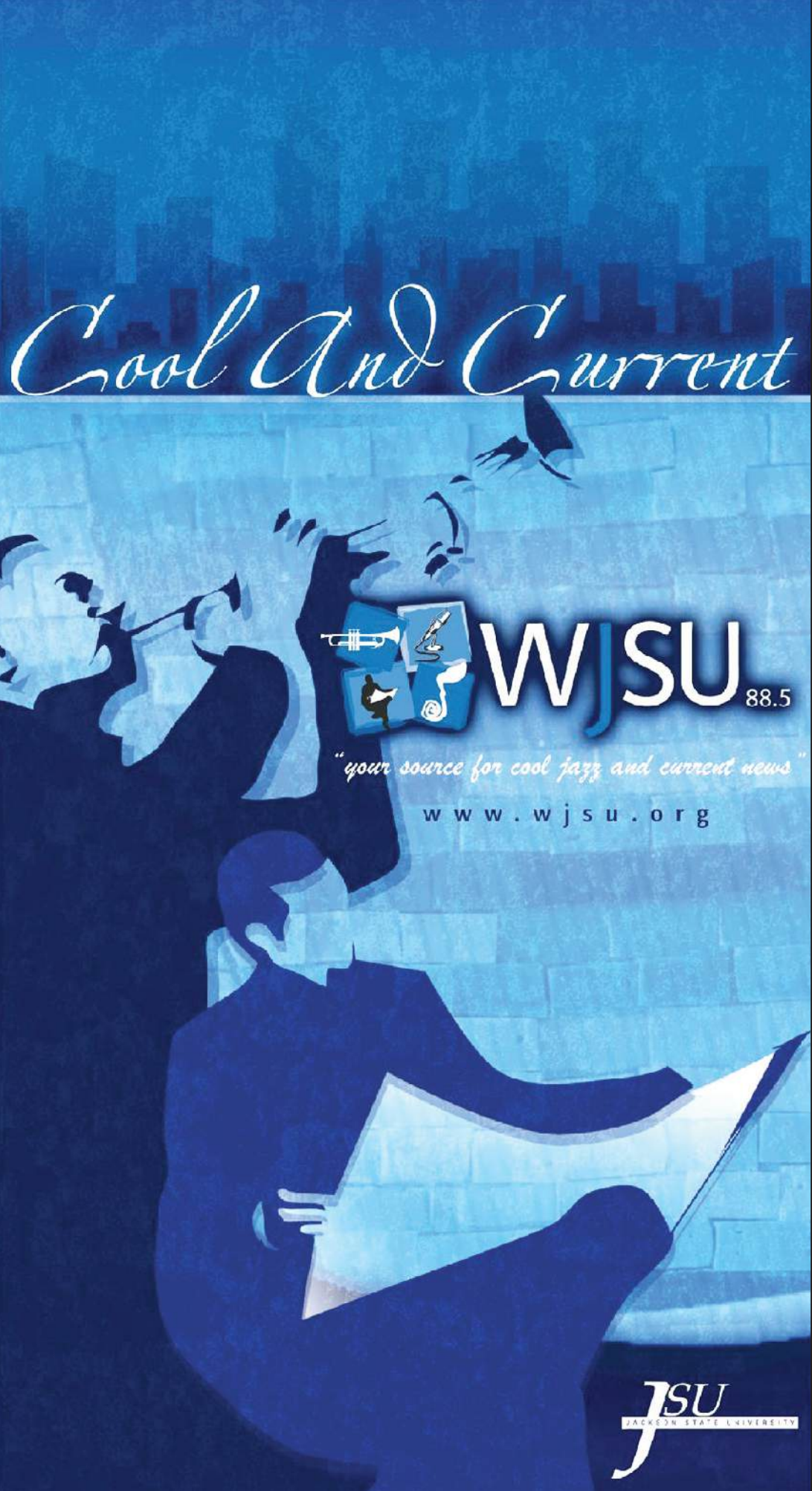
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District Hosts Inspiring 2025 Convocation

The Hinds County School District (HCSD) officially launched the 2025–2026 school year with its annual Convocation, held at the Raymond High School Performing Arts Center. The event brought together every HCSD employee, along with team members from Durham School Services and Chartwells Food Services, in a celebration of unity, purpose, and excitement for the year ahead.

Serving as Mistress and Master of Ceremonies were two of the district’s distinguished honorees: Teacher of the Year Ms. Pertrina McIntosh of Raymond High School and Principal of the Year Dr. Arthur Jones of Byram Middle School.

The convocation was well-attended by dignitaries, including the Hinds County Board of Education: Dr. Linda Laws (President), Dr. Carolyn Samuel (Vice President), Ms. Robbie Anderson (Secretary), Ms. Kayla Banger, and Mrs. Mary Killingsworth.

Former Superintendent Dr. Clyde Muse delivered a heartfelt message of encouragement, inspiring the district family as they embark on a new academic year.

The event also welcomed state and local leaders who have shown strong support for public education in Hinds County. In attendance were:

Congressman Bennie Thompson
Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons
Public Service Commissioner De’Keither Stamps
Senators David Blount, Hillman Frazier, and Sollie Norwood
Representatives Robert Johnson, Ronnie Crudup Jr., Stephanie Foster, Gregory Holloway, Fabian Nelson, and Zakiya Summers

Mayors from municipalities served by HCSD also joined the celebration, including:

Mayor LeKentric Caston – Edwards
Mayor Bruce Hopkins – Terry
Mayor Richard White – Byram
Mayor Calvin Williams – Utica
Mayor Randall Harris – Raymond
Mayor Alisa Butler-Kidd – Bolton

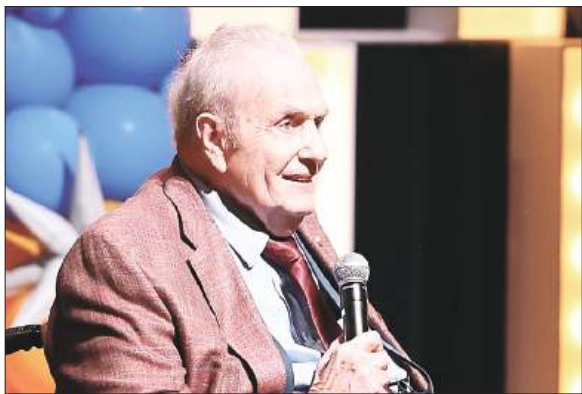
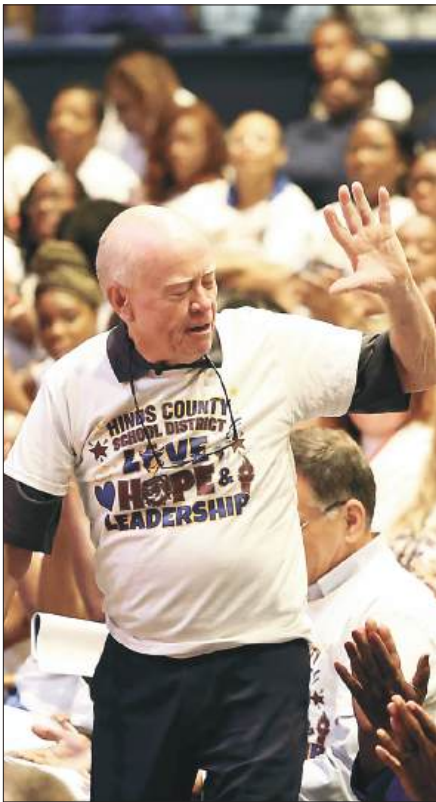
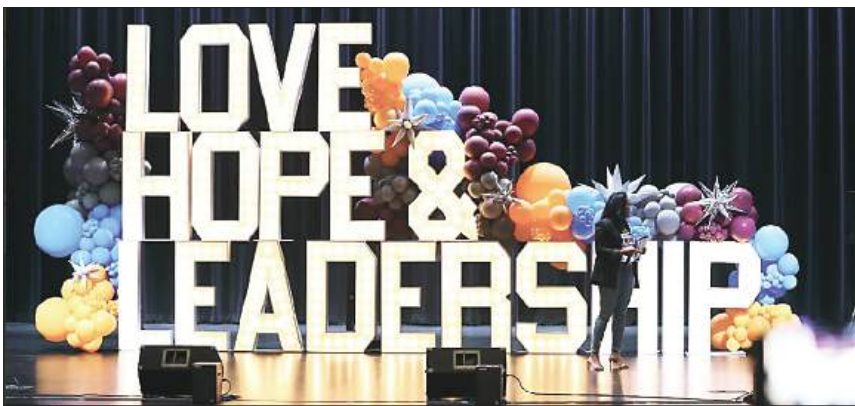
The convocation marked the official introduction of Dr. Mitchell Shears, the newly appointed Superintendent of HCSD. Dr. Shears unveiled the district’s new theme for the year: Love, Hope, and Leadership—a message that resonated throughout the event in every song, speech, and performance.

Adding energy and creativity to the day, schools competed in a lively TikTok dance-off. Utica Elementary/Middle School claimed the top prize, igniting friendly competition across campuses. The Raymond High School and Terry High School cheerleading teams also energized the crowd with spirited performances.

One of the most memorable moments came when Dr. Shears took to the stage to sing “I Need You to Survive” by Hezekiah Walker, expressing his deep commitment to unity and support across the district. His performance underscored his vision for a district where every student and staff member feel valued and connected.

The celebration concluded with a rousing performance from the Raymond and Terry High School drumlines, ending the convocation on a high note and setting the tone for an exciting year ahead.

With renewed energy, inspiring leadership, and a clear vision, the Hinds County School District is stepping confidently into the 2025–2026 school year, united by love, driven by hope, and committed to leadership.



St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church Women's Day Celebration

Mississippi Link Newswire

August 10, 2025, St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church joyfully celebrated its Annual Women's Day under the inspiring theme, "Sister Strength: Led by God to Serve," drawn from 1 Peter 4:10–11. This year's program honored the strength, service, and spiritual gifts of women, highlighting their vital role in the church and the community.

The featured speaker, Sis. Carshena Bailey, delivered a powerful and heartfelt message that blended biblical teaching, encouragement, and a call to action. She reminded the congregation that women's strength is not self-made but divinely supplied—rooted in God's presence, sustained through trials, and expressed in service to others. Using passages such as Proverbs 31:25 and Psalm 46:5, she called on women to embrace their God-given gifts, steward them faithfully, and serve in ways that bring glory to Christ.

The celebration was filled with uplifting worship, fellowship, and

a spirit of unity. Women from across the congregation, adorned in white, filled the sanctuary with praise. The Mistress of Ceremonies, Sis. Lynsey McQueen, guided the program with grace, ensuring every moment reflected the theme's call to faithful service.

Women's Day was the culmination of a weekend of activities, including a Wellness & Self-Care Pre-Women's Day Brunch August 9. Attendees enjoyed chair exercises, line dancing, motivational speakers, and a healthy brunch—promoting both physical well-being and sisterly connection.

From the powerful worship service to the warm fellowship, the 2025 Women's Day at St. Luther M.B. Church was more than an annual tradition—it was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to empowering women to rise, serve, and glorify God in all things. This year's celebration not only honored the past legacy of faithful women but also inspired the next generation to step boldly into their calling.

