



## Heritage or Hate in the seat of Rankin County

### Scheming in the midst of deep divisions over Confederate monument in Brandon



Brandon Police instructing all people standing – majority Black - out of the Boardroom and into the Civic Center across the hall.



Brandon Mayor Butch Lee and Alderman in session August 18, 2025.



Boardroom where Board of Alderman meetings are held, now with a new sign limiting seating to 70. PHOTOS: CHRIS YOUNG

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

By all accounts the public comments portion of Brandon's Board of Alderman meeting August 4th was contentious. Several people spoke emphasizing the important history and heritage represented in the 37-foot-tall Confederate Statue in Brandon's Town Square. Then there was Mrs. Angela English, President of Rankin County NAACP. Her message was personal, and stunning. As relayed to her by her grandfather who was 15 at the time, her great uncle – Mac Maclin - was accused of assaulting a young white woman despite not being in the same county at the time, tried and sentenced to hang in 1908. After hanging, her great uncle was dragged behind a pickup truck as white locals partied and had a picnic, and then what was left of his body was hung again, this time from the Confederate monument in question, which had been erected just one year earlier.



Janie McLaurin Wheaton,

#### COMMENTARY

She concluded her remarks, with these words. "We need to stop and start reconciliation processes. And the only way we can heal is to remove the salt that has been poured into our wounds for decades. We are tired and we want the statue removed. It's dead. it's a concrete monument. The man that's on it is dead. Dead things belong in a graveyard. There is a graveyard that it needs to be put in." The

entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om-wn44Nuxs>.

At the meeting there were more 200 people in attendance, as relayed to The Mississippi Link newspaper by numerous attendees. Isn't it ironic that for the August 18th meeting, a brand-new sign had been posted, limiting attendance to 70 people, and further that half the seating room had special "Reserved" signs on the chairs – supposedly for Police and Firefighter recognitions, although numerous White non-first responders were seated there, and further that a Brandon Police Chief directed all people standing to leave the room and go to the Civic Center across the hall where they could see and hear the meeting – 99 percent of whom were Black.

The scheming - what else could you call it – didn't end there. They never established the audio-video feed of the meeting across the hall in the Civic Center. A minimum of 35 people got iced out completely. No sound or video. Another issue, so willful, so deliberate by the white powers that be in Brandon – they accepted public comments only from residents residing in the 39042-zip code. The U.S. Postal Service indicates there are three zip codes for Brandon – 39042, 39043, and 39047. Brandon is the county seat of Rankin County, which makes their little zip code game yet again another piece of disenfranchising behavior.

Of the five speakers reg-

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## "This is where we came from"

### An unforgettable photograph taken on hallowed ground in Marks, Mississippi



Photograph by Jack Spencer with Rev. L.A. Stokes posing.

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

#### COMMENTARY

Admit it – you have it happen too; something just gets stuck in your mind, and you just can't shake it. Maybe you can't or maybe you don't want to. Maybe you hold on tight because it means something that you don't fully understand. Maybe it's something that should never be forgotten. That's the way it was for me with this photograph taken by nationally acclaimed photographer Jack Spencer in the 1990's in Marks, Mississippi. I came across it online in 2018 while doing research on Mississippi, knowing I would be moving here. I emailed Mr. Spencer and discovered purchasing a "print" was not something my budget could handle, and so I did the horrible - I clicked on it and sent it to my printer. By that method, it was of poor quality, but I framed it under glass and have kept it on my desk in front of me ever since. 100 percent genuine Mississippi in oh so many ways.

On August 14, 2025, me and my friend Joe "Joe Cool" Sanders from St. Thomas's Sandy Bottom, stood at the sight where the photo was taken approximately thirty years prior. You know that couldn't just happen by itself.

It took saints to intervene. Marks Mississippi is full of saints and a few of them selflessly marched in when we arrived on their doorstep unannounced.

We started at Delta Burial Corporation, 491 1st Street in Marks. This Black-owned funeral service is now celebrating it's 100-year anniversary - no one is ever turned down due to their inability to pay. Mr. Shelton Leonard stopped what he was doing to look at the picture and quickly narrowed it down to either Walter or LA Stokes doing the posing. He started calling helpers on the phone to unravel the mystery. He soon gave us directions to the Stineray Diner in the neighboring town of Lambert, to meet Reverend Larry Smith and his wife Earnestine, who operate a full-scale professional services business co-located with the diner. More saints.

They proclaimed the man in the photo to be Reverend LA Stokes, a travelling evangelist, who passed around 2008. "It's the baptismal pool where King wept," says Mrs. Earnestine Smith. What was that, I asked? "In 1968, right before King was killed, he came to Marks. He wept



Joe Sanders and Chris Young at Stineray Diner in Lambert, MS, August 14, 2025.

*Mississippi*  
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## Thee 1877 Project alumni survey highlights clear priorities for Jackson State's next president

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In a recent, representative survey of the Jackson State University alumni community, the results show a consistent, thoughtful vision for the qualities needed in the university's next—and 14th—president. With a margin of error of approximately ±5 percent at a 95 percent confidence level, the survey stands as a statistically solid reflection of alumni sentiment. This level of engagement demonstrates that graduates are informed, committed, and ready to work constructively with decision-makers in shaping the university's leadership future.

"Alumni want to be active partners in choosing a leader who will honor JSU's heritage while guiding it toward a strong future."

Leadership qualities ranked



by combined "Agree" + "Strongly Agree"

1. Effective advocacy for JSU at the state and national levels – 99.72 percent
2. Integrity and ethical conduct must be non-negotiable – 99.42 percent
3. Commitment to academic excellence and improving the student experience – 99.14 percent
4. Competence in assessing, evaluating, and transform-

- ing an organization – 99.14 percent
5. Strong track record of financial accountability – 99.13 percent
6. Building strong relationships with students, alumni, and government – 98.85 percent
7. Record of creating and leading high-performing teams – 98.84 percent
8. Visibility, approachability, and active engagement in cam-

pus life – 98.27 percent

9. Deep understanding and appreciation of HBCU culture, history, and legacy – 97.69 percent

10. Fundraising and capital development expertise – 97.41 percent

Top five most important leadership traits (Q11)

1. Unwavering integrity and ethics.
2. Financial accountability and budget management.
3. Appreciation for HBCU culture and legacy.
4. Commitment to academic excellence.
5. Relationship-building with students, alumni, and government.

These results point to a shared priority: selecting a leader who is ethically grounded, fiscally responsible, culturally con-

*JSU*  
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**Greater Mt. Calvary M.B. Church Annual Women's Day**

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**Lead Boldly**

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# Ethel Odessa Garrett Hawthorne

*May 28, 1940 - July 30, 2025*



Garrett Hawthorne

Ethel Odessa Garrett Hawthorne, lovingly known as “Dess” to some and “Lita” to others, passed away July 30, 2025, at the age of 85, in Elk Grove, CA. Ethel was the eldest daughter of eight children born to William Eugene (W.E.) and Zenova Garrett. She was more than a daughter and sister; she was a nurturer, a quiet strength (sometimes, out loud), a guiding light- mother, grandmother, auntie, friend, and lifelong servant of love. Dess touched countless lives with her

love, strength, generosity, and sense of humor. Ethel valued the three “F’s” - her faith, family, and friends.

Born beneath the Mississippi sun in Farmhaven in May 1940. Dess graduated from Farmhaven High School in 1957. Alongside her siblings, she worked hard on their family’s farm to ensure their self-sufficiency. By the age of nine, she had prepared her first full meal for a family of ten-an early act of care that blossomed into a lifelong passion for soulful cooking, always shared with open arms.

After high school, she attended Tuskegee Institute, where she met Ted Hawthorne in 1958. They married in 1959 when she was nineteen, beginning a journey from Florida’s Homestead Air Force Base to Los Angeles, where their first daughter, Adriane, was born. They later settled in Davis, CA, welcoming their second daughter, Stephanie. In 1991. She made her final home in Elk Grove, where her garden of love continued to flourish.

From humble beginnings, Dess developed a strong work ethic rooted in both hard work and heart work. A Pepperdine graduate, she taught high school English in Compton before transitioning to social work in Davis. While raising her family, she earned her MSW from CSU Sacramento. Even after retiring with distinction from the County, she continued serving as a consultant in home health and foster care. A true servant leader. Dess lived a life of purpose, faith,

and compassion.

Dess had a deep love for the Lord, with faith as her foundation. She passed it on with quiet conviction, often found by her children immersed in scripture and study. Though she rarely prayed aloud, her silent prayers guided Adriane and Stephanie like an unseen hand.

In 1987, she joined St. Paul Baptist Church, where she served others with grace and humility, living her faith through love, service, and leadership. A lasting influence, she planted seeds of faith that continued to flourish. She will also be remembered for her elegant hats, jewelry, timeless style, and her joyful rides around town in her Inca Gold Prowler with her beloved dogs, Moochie and Pepper.

Outside the sanctuary. Dess found peace in the soil. She loved to garden-roses especially. Her yard was a canvas of living beauty joyfully tended by hand. Her children grew up watching her nurture life in the ground. It’s only befitting that her casket be adorned with soft, off-white roses, a final tribute she requested to the petals she nurtured in life.

Adventurous in spirit. Dess never lost her sense of wonder. Her curiosity about people and cultures took her across the globe. She journeyed through Africa. Australia. Europe, and South America; also visited Aruba. Canada, the Caribbean, Hawaii, Mexico, U.S. Virgin Islands and crisscrossed the states many times over.

She didn’t just travel she embraced the experi-

ence. She tasted the food, spent quality time with local people, and loved to shop. Even quite the risk-taker, she went parasailing twice. Once over the waters in Mexico with her beloved granddaughter and again above the Bahamas floating, fearless, free.

Loved ones to cherish her memory include beloved daughters: Adriane Nelson, Stephanie Hawthorne, Sacramento, CA: cherished grandchildren: Asia and Ryan Brown, Sacramento, CA: (soon-to-be) son-in-law, Claude Ciaybrook, Sacramento, CA; father of her children, Theodis (Ted) Hawthorne, Fair Oaks, CA: sisters and brothers: Coleman W. (Charzetta) Garrett, Memphis, TN; Minnie Garrett, Leland Socrates Garrett. Oleta G. Fitzgerald, Ayesha (Janola) Mustafa, Jackson, MS; aunts: Ola Crockett, Laurel, MS. Evie Dennis, Tampa, FL. Flossie Davis, Gary, IN; cherished sisters in law: Geraldine Garrett, Farmhaven, MS. Carol Garrett, Jackson, MS; sister-in-love: Lillian Garrett, Atlanta, GA: nieces, nephews, special cousins, other relatives, friends, and special caregivers.

Dess’ life was rooted and a wide-open story of grace, grit, and endless generosity. Grounded in faith, yet always reaching. Just like the roses she loved.

Dess’ presence will forever linger in her legacy-living on in us. around us. always. We miss you dearly, Mom and Lila.

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It’s good to be **blue.**




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## Rankin

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istered for public comments, just two were about the 118-year-old monument. Mike Lee, who emphasized he was no relation to Brandon Mayor Butch Lee, went on for two and a half times the allotted three minutes. Everything from his kin folk that served the Confederacy in the Civil War, to Lincoln's address, to Confederate soldiers being exhumed from rural cemeteries and then reburied in Arlington National Cemetery, etc. Even when the mayor told him his time had expired, he went on and on.

Janie McLaurin-Wheaton, a member of Concerned Citizens of Rankin County, came up next and spoke on removal of the statue. "Mike Lee and other historians would like to let you know why the Confederate statue should stay. I'm going to tell you why it should go. This statue has called so much pain. They want to tell

you about what their grandfathers and great grandfathers did. Our great grandfathers were out there also. They want to remove the books from the school, the library, and did. Well why do you want the statue to stay when you want to remove the books from the library and the schools that talk about Black history. It should go. It's time...Is that something that you would want for your grandfather that served in the war, or yours, mayor, or board? If history doesn't serve everybody, and we pay taxes - If it don't serve everybody then it shouldn't serve anybody - it should come down.

We heard about how African Americans served in the Confederate war, well don't tell me that unless you're going to tell me the whole thing. We didn't have a choice. We were killed. Our children were killed. They were hung, they were raped, they were

molested. It was the whole nine yards. Books were removed from schools, but you want that statue to stay. Where were the historians when the books were being removed? Why couldn't they come before you then and say leave the books alone because that's history. You're flip flopping. A young man spoke that was a principal (previous meeting) and he spoke on his own time. He wasn't at school. He didn't talk about school, you all asked us where we worked and where we lived and he answered that. But, you all sit there as low-down people and call his job, but he was speaking with freedom of speech. No fairness."

The entire August 18th Board of Alderman Meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gboltSSa190>.

## Mississippi

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Rev. Larry Smith and Mr. Jerry Polk - stepson of Rev. Stokes - posing at the baptismal pool in Marks.

when he saw the conditions in Marks," she said. Sure enough, the internet is full of citations of Dr. King coming to Marks - the poorest county in the nation - by invitation of his friend Reverend Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

(SCLC) and issued a call to action that a Poor People's Campaign Mule Train should originate in Marks and go all the way to Washington, D.C. to demand economic and human rights - a completely multi-racial effort.

Just one of the citations quotes the great Marian Wright Edelman - Founder of Children's Defense Fund - recalling King touring a Head Start program in Marks that lost its funding. "He saw a teacher, you know, carve up an apple and give it to about eight kids - a slice each - and he was in tears. He had to leave the center," per <https://www.npr.org/2018/05/13/610097454/how-a-mule-train-from-marks-miss-kicked-off-mlks-poor-people-campaign>.

Under the 107 degree feels-like heat last week, Reverend Smith who pastors Shady Grove M.B. Church, offered to show us to the sight and jumped in our car to provide the tour back in Marks. The generosity back at Delta Burial Corporation hadn't stopped though. Mr. Leonard kept on calling folks and soon located Mr. Jerry Polk, stepson of Reverend Stokes. By the time he arrived on the scene, Reverend Smith had shown us the general area depicted in the photograph, but Mr. Polk - another saint - brought us back one street further off Cotton Street, to Cook Street - and about 40 yards down on the left at the end of the street, there it was - what was left of it - 57 years after Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had stood there - and approximately 30 years after photographer Jack Spencer took the pictures.

Alongside the outdoor baptismal pool, I watched Reverend Smith closely. He was the elder in this group of men, all in our sixties. And then it came. He looked at me, gestured with his hand to the bottom of the pool and said, "this is where we came from." I nodded in solemn acknowledgement then turned away slightly so he wouldn't see the tears.

Back at the Stineray Diner, me and Joe Cool had the biggest and most delicious double-cheeseburgers ever, seasoned fries, and a couple of Coke's for lunch - it was nearly 3PM. Calling Mr. Jerry Polk later, I asked his perspective on the visit. "That's our traditions. I was very impressed to see the pictures. That was amazing to see my stepdad like that. Nobody ever comes down there to see it (baptismal pool) so I was proud to show it to you." When telling Mr. Polk how grateful we were that he was available and willing to help us, he wouldn't take an ounce of credit, "That's God. He knows about timing. He uses people and He used me. He puts us in places."

Those Mule Trains tried fifty-seven years ago, and we must never stop trying. So much blood, sweat, and tears. So much theft of peace and life. Why is it that certain groups - people with non-white skin - always have to strive so hard for basic equality and equity? Quitman County, where Marks is located, is now the 12th poorest out of well over 3,000 counties in America. Yet still, the people of Marks and Lambert stop what they are doing to help total

## JSU

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ected, academically focused, and skilled at fostering meaningful relationships. Alumni recognize that the success of the next president will be built on a foundation of trust, transparency, and collaboration across the JSU community and with the broader state and

national stakeholders. Thee 1877 Project looks forward to working alongside IHL and other decision-makers to ensure the process is inclusive and reflects the values and aspirations of the JSU family. Together, we can secure a leader who will protect and advance the university's mission for generations to come. Thee 1877 Proj-

ect is a coalition of committed and engaged alumni whose watchwords are partnership, advocacy, and accountability for Jackson State University and its students - and we are prepared to see this process through with clarity, resolve, and purpose.

# As Democrats return to Texas, Republicans gets closer to erasing the seats of four Black members of Congress

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA NewsWire Contributor

Republicans in Texas, on orders from President Donald Trump, are now closer to approving a new congressional map that would eliminate five seats' Democrats have won over several cycles. The hyper-partisan move is designed to assist Republicans in boosting their chances in the midterm elections in 2026, as Democrats in Texas ended a two-week boycott aimed at stalling the plan.

The Texas Republicans' reaction to their boycott turned bizarre as Texas Republicans who control the Texas House,

led by GOP House Speaker Justin Burrows, mandated that police would escort Democrats over the next two days if they wanted to depart the Capitol. Much like the rising levels of disrespect that white Republican lawmakers in the south demonstrated in Tennessee towards Black Democrats Rep. Justin Jones and Rep. Justin Pearson in 2023, Texas Republicans appear to be operating on a level of partisanship that is racially driven - though lawmakers on the right deny it.

Texas Democrats left the state to delay the play - but not to stop it - on August 3. A disagreement emerged among

the Democrats about whether to return with a segment of the group, arguing that winning national attention was the goal of their August 3 departure. Other Democrats in the Texas House regard the moment as a loss and say that a "moral victory" is not satisfactory.

"We killed the corrupt special session, withstood unprecedented surveillance and intimidation, and rallied Democrats nationwide to join this existential fight for fair representation - reshaping the entire 2026 landscape," said Texas Rep. Gene Wu, Chairman of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, in a statement on Au-

gust 18.

After leaving Texas for two weeks to stall the Republicans' redistricting plans, the Democrats have now returned. Their return means that Republicans can procedurally move forward with changes in congressional maps that are likely to flip and/or eliminate at least four seats now held by Democrats. They include the seats of Congressional Black Caucus Members Rep. Jasmine Crockett and Marc Veasey.

Texas Republicans also moved the seat of Rep. Al Green, a Black Democrat who protested President Trump during his address to Congress on

March 4, 2025, even further to the right. That change in the maps revealed on August 18 will make it even more difficult for Green to be re-elected.

Republicans are in the majority in the U.S. Congress with 219 members versus 212 Democrats. The 2026 elections in the U.S. House are all but guaranteed to be close. As President Trump's polling numbers fall, he remains fully aware that, as Gov. Newsom put it, his "presidency is over" if Democrats win the majority in the U.S. House starting in January 2027.

The moment represents one of the most unheard-of partisan moves in modern politics.

Texas Republicans are barely shielding the intended purpose of their unprecedented mid-decade redistricting. Congressional redistricting usually takes place every ten years in tandem with the annual CENSUS.

But the moves by Texas Republicans will be challenged in court. The question is, will the challenge be met with the same partisan results as the maps that have been redrawn - and if the case makes it to the U.S. Supreme Court, will they remain consistent with the previous precedents regarding racially redrawn districts?

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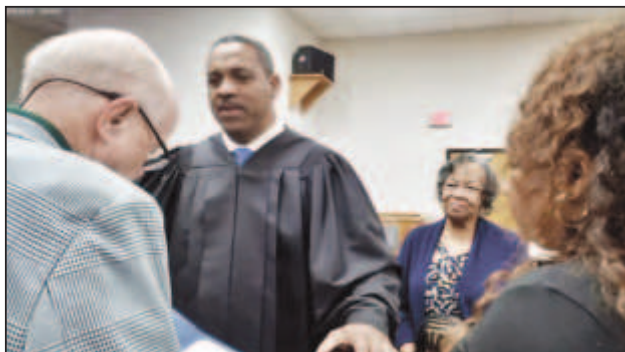
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# Judge Kenny Lewis swearing in ceremony

At its August 14th board meeting, the City of Byram Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the appointment of Hinds County Justice Court Judge Kenny Lewis as the City of Byram Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem.

PHOTOS BY AMIAS LEWIS



Back row from left to right: Alderwoman Ward II, Diandra Hosey; Alderman Ward III, Robert Amos; Alderwoman Ward I, Erma Johnson; Alderwoman Ward IV, Teresa Mack; Alderwoman Ward V, Roschelle Gibson ; Alderman an Ward VI, Chris Carson; Alderwoman At-Large, Roshunda Harris-Allen

Front row from left to right: Mayor Richard White, Judge Kenny Lewis, Vickie Lewis, Cali Lewis, Clara Lewis

# Greater Mt. Calvary M.B. Church Annual Women's Day

Sunday, August 17 • Greater Mt. Calvary M.B. Church

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



# Federal judge blocks Mississippi's DEI ban law indefinitely

By Devna Bose  
Mississippi Today

The state law that bans diversity, equity and inclusion programs in Mississippi public schools and universities has been blocked for the foreseeable future.

U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate granted a preliminary injunction in the case this week, which prevents the law from being enforced until there's a final ruling. Wingate previously granted a temporary restraining order in late June, which expired August 18, 2025.

"(The law), if it lives down to the fears it has generated, has generated, has a mouthful of sharp teeth which could inflict deep bites," Wingate wrote in his order.

Joshua Tom, legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi and one of the lawyers in the case, said in a statement that he was "pleased" with Wingate's ruling.

"The State's attempt to impose its preferred views — and ban opposing views — on Mississippi's public education system is not only bad policy, it's illegal, as the court has preliminarily found," he said.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs, including professors, parents and students, and lawyers from the state attorney general's office met in court in early August to make their cases for and against the preliminary injunction.

The plaintiffs' attorneys ar-



gued that House Bill 1193 violates the First and Fourteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution by prohibiting discussions about race, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation in classrooms, and that the law was dangerously vague, potentially opening the gates to a

flood of complaints against educators and students.

They said the law would ban discussions and books about the Civil War, women's rights and slavery, and other topics that are essential to understanding the country's history.

Witnesses called to the stand

testified that the law was having a "chilling" effect, just weeks before classes were set to start at colleges across the state. Professors from the University of Mississippi said the policy was preventing them from finalizing their syllabi.

A Jackson Public Schools par-

ent said the law made her scared for her children, worried that if they shared too much about their home life, they would be punished in some way — the process for "curing" violations was unclear to witnesses.

Attorneys from the state attorney general's office, whose

argument centered around the plaintiffs' "overwrought" reading of the statute and public employees' lack of First Amendment rights, did not present enough evidence to counteract the plaintiffs' claims, Wingate said. He wrote in his order that the witnesses' testimonies were enough to justify a preliminary injunction.

"It is an enormous relief that the court has sided with academic freedom, free speech, and due process in its recent decision," said Deanna Kreisel in a statement. Kreisel is an associate English professor at the University of Mississippi and a member of the United Campus Workers, one of the plaintiffs in this case.

"The fight is not over, but at least for the time being, the students of Mississippi can continue to learn in an environment free of ideological constraints and partisan censorship," Kreisel said.

Wingate's ruling preventing state officials from enforcing the law will be in effect until the overall litigation is concluded. Attorneys for the plaintiffs and the state defendants will now move to discovery, where they collect evidence before a bench trial.

After Wingate conducts the trial, he will issue a final ruling.

An aggrieved party can appeal Wingate's ruling to the conservative U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## AccelerateMS announces "Mississippi Reconnect Program 2.0" to boost employment and workforce skills

The Mississippi Link Newswire

AccelerateMS has officially announced the relaunch of the Mississippi Reconnect Program 2.0, a bold initiative designed to re-engage unemployed and significantly underemployed Mississippians through accelerated training and career-connected learning in high-demand industries. The program will begin accepting applications in October for early January program start dates.

"Mississippi Reconnect is more than a training program—it's a pathway to opportunity," said Shelika Hooker, Director of Grants Management. "By focusing on the skills employers need most, we're empowering individuals to reenter the workforce with the tools to succeed in sustainable, high-quality careers."

The program offers funding for short-term training opportunities lasting from 40 to 320 hours (up to eight weeks) and, in some cases, degree programs tied to critical-need occupations. All training aligns with specific priority occupations identified by AccelerateMS, ensuring that participants gain skills directly relevant to Mississippi's most pressing workforce needs.

Recognizing that career advancement often requires more than a single credential, Reconnect-funded programs must include clear pathways for continued education and upskilling.

The initiative goes beyond compliance-based certifications to deliver industry-specific skill development leading directly to employment in high-wage and high-demand sectors.

The program will be available to secondary schools' education institutions offering blended workforce training aligned with priority occupations, in

partnership with local workforce development areas, community colleges, and universities.

Participants may include unemployed or underemployed individuals, secondary students aged 16 and older, and those facing barriers to employment. Training may be delivered by secondary schools offering pathways aligned with priority occupations, institutions of higher education, community colleges, private training providers, or career and technical education centers. Collaboration with local workforce development areas is strongly encouraged to broaden access, strengthen program delivery, and maximize impact.

The Mississippi Reconnect Program 2.0 aims to boost the number of Mississippians prepared for high-priority careers by expanding training capacity in critical occupations and offering accelerated programs that lead to credentials and employment. It focuses squarely on serving targeted populations while fostering strong partnerships between employers, industry, and training providers to build sustainable career pathways. Additionally, the program emphasizes meaningful work-based learning experiences to connect participants directly with high-value opportunities.

*AccelerateMS serves the people and businesses of Mississippi by developing and deploying workforce strategies to connect individuals with transformative, high-paying careers. By leveraging resources and partnering with organizations that hold complementary missions, AccelerateMS effectuates positive change, creating sustained individual, community, and statewide economic prosperity.*

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# The wide-reaching impacts of Trump's Tariffs

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

**Briefing Introduction:** On April 2, President Donald Trump announced, "Liberation Day," signaling his intent to impose tariffs on at least 90 countries. Trump has said his sweeping tariffs plan will generate revenue, while also countering allegedly unfair trading practices. In this week's national briefing, speakers will discuss whether the President can successfully negotiate his tariffs plan, especially in the key economies of China, India, Brazil, and Mexico. Speakers will also discuss the impacts of tariffs for American consumers, the labor force, and small businesses.

Weekly briefing moderator, Sunita Sohrabji, is also co-producer of the weekly national briefing series, along with Pilar Marrero. She introduced the panelists for this session and invited Dr. Neale Mahoney, Director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Professor of Economics at Stanford, to begin. "Today the tariffs are higher than they have been since the 1930's and ten times higher than they have roughly been for most of my lifetime; recent data shows businesses and especially small businesses are severely impacted (roughly half of all impacts are on small businesses making it harder for them to operate).

Tariffs are a tax on consumer goods. We are expecting to see higher prices on the labor market and job growth was steadily increasing until January of this year. Many firms have frozen the hiring process. If you think back to October of 2024,



Dr. Neale Mahoney. PHOTO: WWW.STANFORD.EDU.

you may recall that the tariffs and the uncertainty has squandered this advantage. Last year the economy grew at a rate of 2.5percent, this year it stands at 1.2percent. Last year consumer spending was at 3 percent, this year it is flatlined. Inflation decreased last year, this year, there's an uptick. This is self-inflicted. If we turn the page back on tariffs by locking them in or rolling them back, I think the economy would slowly recover...sadly we are seeing distractions by Trump on the economy and efforts to bury the less flattering data," Mahoney shared.

Included among the many questions from 72 media outlets on the call, Mahoney took a question from The Mississippi Link newspaper. "It seems like we hear a lot of people saying - well we just need to give this time, these tariffs, it's just a cycle we are going through, it's not that big a deal. Do you find that is a dangerous mindset?" Mahoney replied, "Yes

and I think one of the reasons why is that the uncertainty is paralyzing the economy. If you are a small business and you don't know what your costs will be for your inputs you will be reluctant to hire a new worker or expand your facility. If you are a consumer and you don't know if layoffs are coming, you're going to hold off on a vacation, a night out, or a new car purchase. This environment we are in with on-again off-again tariffs, I understand that the administration frames this as sort of the art of negotiation but it's really freezing the economy in troubling ways."

Dr. Anil Deolalikar, Professor of Economics at the University of California Riverside, and Founding Dean Emeritus, UCR School of Public Policy, spoke on the likely impacts of these tariffs on the major economies of the U.S. India, Brazil, and China. And on the topic of tariff negotiations with these emerging economies. "We don't really know the exact impacts without



Dr. Anil Deolalikar. Photo: www.provost.ucr.edu.



Dilawar Syed. Photo: www.sba.com.

knowing where the tariffs will end up...these countries are large and domestically focused and will be a smaller percentage of their GDP's...the tariffs are only on goods, not on services...U.S. exports because of total GDP of these counties are 2 percent for India and Brazil and 3 percent for China. There are many carveouts, including cell-phones. The Chinese economy has slowed, unemployment, especially for youth is increasing. My bottom line is that US and China are extremely likely to negotiate a truce because they are so interdependent. With India and Brazil, it is less so."

Dilawar Syed, who holds an MBA and is the former Deputy Administrator, US Small Business Administration, discussed the tariff impacts on small businesses. "The largest job creators in America are from small businesses. You need certainty and clarity, and we don't have that right now. 97 percent of all importers in the U.S. are small businesses, two-thirds of U.S.

small businesses export and so tariffs are a small business problem. Does anyone in this administration understand how to run a business? Small business sentiment is at its lowest in 15 years, and that includes the Great Recession and the pandemic. 58 percent are saying they are worse off today than they were a year ago, and here we have a President that ran on improving the economy. The SBA is not helping when they usually do. 43 percent of SBA workforce has been laid off. I want people to know that your voice matters. We are a democracy."

Marcus Bowers, Co-founder of She's Happy Hair in Houston, was the final speaker. "I like to tell people that I'm a globalpreneur, not an entrepreneur. In 2012 we jumped into the beauty supply and hair industry when it wasn't an industry and so we created one. Instead of marketing the product only, we started marketing the product, services, the operations and

expectations; customers started flocking to us. We even finance hair extensions now. We cornered the market with \$75 bundles, and we had great volume. We created a Happy Kit, certain lengths, 18, 20, 22-inch lengths. With tariffs we must deal with suppliers. I don't expect raw product to ever be made in the U.S.; American workers don't want to do those jobs. Packaging and branding could be done here, but that's about it. We have diversified our supply chain and now do less business with India and more with China. During COVID they said we were not essential, but they were wrong. Even though people weren't going into the office, they still wanted to look their best online, Zoom calls, etc."

This week's national briefing can be viewed in its entirety at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/the-wide-reaching-impacts-of-trumps-tariffs-plan>.

## From 'I will survive' to 'I approve': Gloria Gaynor joins Trump Honors

By Stacy M. Brown  
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Gloria Gaynor, the disco legend whose 1978 anthem "I Will Survive" became a rallying cry for empowerment and resistance, will now stand center stage at Donald Trump's first Kennedy Center Honors since seizing control of the institution. Gaynor's acceptance of the award from a president rejected by 92 percent of Black women voters is a stunning turn for the 81-year-old

performer — one that critics say undercuts the very spirit of her signature song. Trump unveiled this year's honorees — Gaynor, KISS bassist Gene Simmons, and actor Sylvester Stallone — in a made-for-TV spectacle, boasting he was "about 98 percent involved" in picking them and rejecting others for being "too woke". His involvement breaks with decades of tradition, when honorees were selected by a non-partisan committee, and underscores how the event has been re-

shaped to serve his political and personal brand.

Simmons' inclusion is especially jarring. Once friendly with Trump from his Celebrity Apprentice days, Simmons has since accused him of unleashing open bigotry. "Once upon a time, you were embarrassed to be publicly racist... now it's all out in the open because he allowed it," Simmons told SPIN, adding that Trump "got all the cockroaches to rise to the top". Despite that history, Simmons will take

the stage this December under Trump's banner. Stallone, a loyal Trump supporter and one of his so-called Hollywood "ambassadors," will also be honored. The appearance gives the "Rocky" star a national platform to promote his ratings-challenged television series.

Trump's control over the Kennedy Center began with a boardroom purge earlier this year. He fired longtime president Deborah Rutter, ousted Biden-appointed board members, and made him-

self chairman — the first sitting president to do so. Rutter accused Trump's team of making "false allegations" and distorting audited financial reports. The upheaval has triggered boycotts by major artists and cancellations of high-profile productions, including "Hamilton." The Kennedy Center Honors were once a rare bipartisan celebration of American cultural achievement. Under Trump, the ceremony is now a curated display of loyalty, where politics takes the lead over artist-

ry. For Gaynor, whose defining hit once symbolized resilience in the face of adversity, this December's performance will carry a far different message — one of approval for the very man her core audience overwhelmingly rejected.

"When you get into a position of power, it does affect lives," Simmons has said of Trump. However, this year's honors will show just how far that influence can reach.

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# What if the government gave you public money to spend at Disneyland?

By Bobby Harrison  
Mississippi Today



A new grassroots movement is developing that would allow public money to follow what we'll call the "recreator," or a person who participates in recreational activity.

It makes sense. Why should a person be forced to provide his or her hard-earned money to support local and state park systems if they are not using them?

Would you like to take your kids to Disneyland, but you're worried about how much it will cost your family? That's OK, the government can give you back some of the tax money you paid to keep your town's public parks open and subsidize your trip. You don't use those local parks much anyways, and you

could argue you'd personally get more out of the Disney trip.

Or, instead of paying for the parks with your tax money, take it to help purchase a gym membership or in-home exercise equipment — maybe even a backyard swing set. Instead of paying for public libraries, your tax funds could be used to purchase the books you want to read.

These ideas, of course, should read as extremely unserious. As much as we may like to pay lower taxes or have the public subsidize our vacations and lifestyle habits, most would agree a family trip to Disneyland or these other expenses would be an egregious use of money intended to improve our communities.

But these exact ideas are being increasingly touted by state leaders as part of the argument

used by those supporting vouchers or even tax credits to provide public funds to allow students to attend private schools.

They argue that the tax dollars intended to boost public school should instead be spent by the parents of the students and not the government. After all, it's their money. The parents of students should be able to use those funds to educate their children anyway they see fit.

To go a step further, the "school choice supporters," as they call themselves, also contend that there should be no accountability for the schools or other entities receiving those education dollars. Trust in the parents is apparently the only accountability that the government needs.

Never mind the wild possible scenarios that could play out. Let's say parents get mad

because their child's grades are slipping. The parents with a voucher to a private school tell the administrators they are transferring little Johnnie unless little Johnnie makes certain grades. The easy solution for the school administrators could be to give little Johnnie that grade demanded by the parents so that the school can continue to collect the public education dollars.

This "parents know best" argument neglects the important fact that there are many taxpayers who are paying to support the public schools who have no children. Taking this argument to the extreme: perhaps people who do not have school-age children should be able to keep their funds rather than funding schools where they have no personal connection.

That counter argument, of course, is also ridiculous and

ignores the premise that was established at our nation's founding. Americans don't pay taxes for individual purposes. They pay taxes for the common or societal good.

The primary goal of taxes is to ensure a better school system not just for one student, but for the general public.

The goal of taxes is not to provide a good park in your neighborhood or a smoothly paved road in front of your own house — though that does seem to be the goal of some Mississippi lawmakers recently — but to provide good, safe public spaces and an adequate transportation system for all of us.

Granted, those goals are not always achieved, especially in many communities across Mississippi. But if there is no tax money to pay for public schools, public parks, public libraries,

public law enforcement, we all suffer. Better public schools in particular can only build a better community, a better economy and a better state.

People want to live in areas where there are good schools, good parks, good libraries, good transportation systems and other public services.

If we pull tax revenue out of the coffers they were intended to support, what are we left with? It's worth considering what our public school system — and our communities in the present and future — would look like with even fewer public resources.

This column was produced by Mississippi Today, a nonprofit news organization that covers state government, public policy, politics and culture. Bobby Harrison is the editor of Mississippi Today Ideas.

# Doctors want lower drug costs -- but not like this

By Peter Rheinstein  
President of the  
Academy of Physicians



Roughly 30 percent of American patients have skipped doses of their medicines, cut pills in half,

or declined to fill a prescription due to cost concerns in the past year.

These affordability struggles aren't merely personal tragedies. They're a threat to public health. My fellow doctors know all too well what happens when patients don't adhere to their prescribed treatment regimens -- their health spirals, and they often need more expensive interventions.

Reforms to make medicines more affordable are urgently needed. But unfortunately, both Republicans and Democrats keep embracing a proposal that, though well-intended, would unintentionally make American patients, doctors, and biotech workers worse off.

President Trump's recent most-favored-nation executive order -- which calls for capping U.S. drug prices at the lower levels charged in European countries -- is merely the latest example of an idea that's been floated in various forms by members of both parties for years.

It'd be far better for the White House and Congress to work together on alternative reforms -- which already have bipartisan support -- that'd make drugs more affordable without jeopardizing patients' access to current or future treatments.

Most other developed countries, like the United Kingdom and Germany, restrict access

to innovative therapies in the name of cost containment. In those nations, many groundbreaking medicines -- especially for cancer, rare diseases, and neurodegenerative conditions -- are either not covered or only accessible after long delays.

Adopting similar pricing here would deter biotech companies from making the massive, risky investments required to develop new treatments for our patients. One recent analysis projected that price controls of the scale envisioned by the White House could slash research spending by 60%, leading to hundreds fewer new drug approvals over the next two decades. As a result of not having those new lifesaving treatments available, American patients could collectively see nearly 1 billion years shaved off their lifespans.

But patients wouldn't merely lose access to yet-to-be-developed drugs. They'd also struggle to obtain existing, already-approved ones -- because the price controls would also slash insurer reimbursements to doctors and clinics, putting many of them out of business and depriving patients of local treatment options.

Doctor's offices, clinics, and other providers of injectable and intravenously administered medicines are already set to lose up to \$37 billion in reimbursement on a few dozen drugs selected for Medicare's existing price negotiation program. Indexing drug prices -- and thus reimbursements -- to the much lower prices in Europe would multiply those losses, and leave patients unable to obtain treatment.

The prospect of cutting off drug access is especially con-

cerning in today's geopolitical climate. A congressional commission recently warned that China is "quickly ascending to biotechnology dominance." During my 25 years at the Food and Drug Administration, I saw the origins of this "ascension" firsthand.

Over the past decade, the Chinese Communist Party has increased its biopharmaceutical research and development spending 400-fold -- and tightened its grip on global supply chains.

Relying on China for existing and future treatments would be disastrous from a national security perspective.

There are better ways to make medicines affordable -- without cutting off access to them and ceding biotech dominance to our rivals.

For example, policymakers could crack down on pharmacy benefit managers. These supply chain middlemen don't invent or administer medicines -- yet they siphon off tens of billions of dollars in drug payments each year.

Legislation to curb the power of PBMs already commands bipartisan support in Congress.

Patients and doctors are counting on Washington to get this right.

*Peter Rheinstein, M.D., J.D. is president of Severn Health Solutions, past president of the Academy of Medicine of Washington, DC, chairman of the United States Adopted Names Council, chairman of the American Board of Legal Medicine, a delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates, and a former president of the Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research. This was originally published by The Well News.*

# The man in the mirror

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



I already know some of you groovy readers immediately thought about the King of Pop, Michael

Jackson. Look, I understand if Michael came to your mind -- he was one of the greatest singers and dancers to ever be born. And most of his mega musical hits contain powerful and profound lyrics that not only made you rock, spin, moonwalk, and kick but his music made one think about humanity and society. For instance, "Man in the Mirror," was explosive and dynamic because it emphasized change when considering how one see children hungry and choose to look the other way instead of helping. Further, he also expressed if one want to make the world a better place, then the change must first start with the man in the mirror. I believe the song's message is still relevant today even for marriages.

We all naturally look in mirrors some of us several times a day to ensure that we look to perfection in every way; want to ensure that our trousers, skirts, blouses, makeup, is on just right. If we see something we don't like and/or want off, want on -- many will go to extreme measures to make changes like getting snatched, stanky big butt lifts, face lifts, lip fillers, extreme weight loss measures (I'll stop on this note right here), etc. We will even risk being late to our own funerals to get that perfected look... Should spouses take this same approach in marriage? Should spouses look at themselves several times until they go out of their way to make positive and extreme changes as it relates to communication, intimacy, etc. If

we were in church, I would say, "turn to your neighbor and tell them, I need a mirror, turn to your other ...and tell them... I..."

What spouse should look in the mirror?

To help foster a loving, healthy, and happy marriage each spouse including the perfect ones must examine and evaluate themselves individually. I am going to warn you in advance what you see in your mirror may scare you.

How often should a spouse look in the mirror at themselves?

Daily!

Why are mirror self-reflections vital in marriage?

Holds each spouse accountable

Promotes humility

Serve as a model for your spouse

Self-Healing

You grow in oneness

Improves communication

Builds trust

Can reduce selfishness

Increases intimacy

Provokes needed change

Makes for a healthier and happier marriage overall

Overall, mirror self-reflections permit one to look at their own faults instead of pointing out their spouses' faults and shortcomings. Matthew 7: 3-5 states: "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, let me remove the speck from your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." A speck in Greek means blot, spot, speck, blur, blemish and a plank in Greek means a board. God is basically asking how can a spouse judge, criticize, and antagonize their spouse's

faults when you have a board full of faults in your own eyes -- remove your board of faults and when you remove it and can then see clearly, then pull the speck (the spot) out your spouse's eye.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson made it so clear -- if you desire change like in your marriage -- you must look at the man/woman in the mirror first! How do you provoke change with you first? First, pray for yourself consistently and ask God to help you see your own faults and go out of your way to change for the better even if that means repenting, confessing, and apologizing. Secondly, pray for your spouse and marriage consistently and fight for your marriage even if that means letting the marriage die in order to let it live again, seeing a professional Marriage Counselor, reading articles like this, etc. However, in some instances, the mirror reflections may lead you both on separate paths if that is God's will. Unfortunately, every marriage will not survive due to the lack of self-reflections and so much more. Lastly, please examine your own marriage in your own mirror -- warning: what you see may scare you! No one has time to examine anyone's else's marriage -- take that time and pray for all marriages; my marriage and yours are still together only because of God's grace!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letstay2gether4ever, Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email: letstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

**LEGAL**

**Advertisement For Bids  
AUTOMATED FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM  
City Project No. RFP#2025-02**

Sealed proposal will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, September 23, 2025, firm fixed price basis to provide and implement an automatic farebox and ticketing system for its fixed route, paratransit, and future micro-transit pilot services. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to provide, integrate, test, and implement the desired system, supporting software and hardware, which will provide the required functionality. The system shall be built on a proven and secure operating system, database, and application software. The Contractor shall provide support services and train the appropriate City and transit operations contractor personnel to use and maintain the system from a user and system maintenance standpoint. Contractors may submit proposals for "equivalent" solutions that may alternate manufacturers, and it is 100% the responsibility of the Contractor to prove that any alternate solutions fully meet or exceed the capabilities power end to end security solution. for the public transportation system in the City of Jackson (as specified) necessary for Request for proposal (RFP)#2025-02.

The term of the contract will be for ten (10) years.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for AUTOMATED FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM, Request for Proposal (RFP)#2025-01."

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a nonresident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Christine Welch, Deputy Director  
Office of Transportation

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025, 9/4/2025, 9/11/2025, 9/18/2025

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

**I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**  
A. CASE NO. HPNC-25-28  
LOCATION: 1066 MANSHIP ST (PARCEL (19-9)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: SAMUEL POTE  
REQUEST: REPLACE SIDING ON WEST ELEVATION OF THE HOME.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-25-30  
LOCATION: 1346 LINDEN PL (PARCEL (15-103)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: KERRY TURNAGE  
REQUEST: DEMOLISH THEN RECONSTRUCT THE SIDE AND REAR PORCH USING LIKE KIND MATERIALS. THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN SIZE.

C. CASE NO. HPNC-25-31  
LOCATION: 1327 PEACHTREE ST (PARCEL (15-75)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: JANELLE HEDERMAN  
REQUEST: REPLACE CURRENT CONCRETE TILE ROOF WITH BRAVA COMPOSITE HALF BARREL TILE.

D. CASE NO. HPNC-25-32  
LOCATION: 1201 ROSE HILL CIR (PARCEL (16-59)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: AINSLEY SMITH  
REQUEST: REBUILD CARPORT DESTROYED BY A FALLEN TREE.

E. CASE NO. HPNC-25-33  
LOCATION: 1200 ST ANN ST (PARCEL (17-56-1)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: LEONIDAS MENESES  
REQUEST: REPLACE WINDOWS WITH NEW ALUMINUM CLAD WINDOWS.

F. CASE NO. HPNC-25-34  
LOCATION: 1214 LYNCREST AVE (PARCEL (17-49)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: CHRISTOPHER GARNES  
REQUEST: RECONSTRUCT REAR BEDROOM AND DECK DESTROYED BY FALLEN TREE. WILL EXPAND BEDROOM AND DECK.

**II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

**LEGAL**

**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 175-272, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

8/7/2025, 8/14/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**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 175-208, located on Nichols 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

8/7/2025, 8/14/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4300**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Hardy Coins has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property located at 1210 Summer Rd. (Parcel 822-299) to allow for an automotive service and repair establishment (motor cycle repair) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

120 FT N & S X 152.7 FT E & W BEG 605 FT E & 18 FT S OF NW COR LOT 6

BLK 1 VAN WINKLE EST PT 2 LESS TO ST #822-299 \*1210 SUMMER RD\*

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO AUGUST 20, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 31ST day of July 2025.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

8/7/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
SIGN VARIANCE FOR GRAY DANIELS CHEVROLET**

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR GRAY DANIEL CHEVROLET TO REPLACE THE 120 SQUARE FOOT DAMAGED FACE OF THE EXISTING NON-COMFORMING 47 FOOT TALL PYLON SIGN WITHIN A C-3 ZONE THAT ONLY ALLOWS PYLON SIGNS TO BE 35 FEET IN HEIGHT TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, September 9, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**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 175-277, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

8/7/2025, 8/14/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

8/7/2025, 8/14/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4299**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Melvin Gray has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a private stable within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 4549 Raymond Rd. (Parcel: 848-155), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Beginning at a point East line of the Jackson, Raymond road which point is 446 feet West of and 367 feet North of the Southeast corner of the North Half of Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, and run thence South 16 degrees East 546.4 feet, thence South 1140 feet, thence North 89 degrees and 15 minutes East 284 feet more or less to a point on the East line of said Section 28, thence North 752 feet, thence West 152.4 feet, hence North 00 degrees and 37 minutes West 475.5 feet, thence North 16 degrees West 536.4 feet to a point on the East line of said road, thence South 60 degrees west along the East line of said road 165 feet to the point of beginning, containing 8.46 acres more or less and all being in the Southeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter (SE ¼ of NE ¼), and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼) of Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO AUGUST 20, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 31ST day of July 2025.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

8/7/2025, 8/21/2025

**LEGAL**

**Advertisement for:  
RFP 2025-20-26  
Mathematics High Dosage Tutoring**

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

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning all listed projects will Via TEAMS (see below for link) on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via TEAMS: [https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDA3MTVhNjQ1MTM1Ni00OTIzLTkxMGUyYWNhZDg3ZTY1MmMy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bb1de%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZDA3MTVhNjQ1MTM1Ni00OTIzLTkxMGUyYWNhZDg3ZTY1MmMy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bb1de%22%7d)

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

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

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

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

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

**LEGAL**

**Advertisement for:  
Bid 26-3273  
Callaway Field House Roof**

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference for this bid will be in person on Thursday, September 04, 2025, at 2:00 P.M at Callaway High School 601 Beasley Road Jackson, MS 39206. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

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

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

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

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

**LEGAL**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN  
PRADO LOFTS AT MEADOWBROOK PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council (the "Governing Body") of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City"), will hold a public hearing on September 9, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the regular meeting place of the Governing Body at the City Hall of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on the Tax Increment Financing Plan, Prado Lofts at Meadowbrook Project, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, August 2025 (the "TIF Plan"), for consideration by the Governing Body and requesting that the TIF Plan be approved in compliance with The City of Jackson, Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan, and further, to designate the project described in the TIF Plan as appropriate for development and tax increment financing.

The general scope of the TIF Plan is a proposal that the City, acting on behalf of itself and Hinds County, Mississippi (the "County"), will issue tax increment financing bonds (the "TIF Bonds"), in one or more series in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), in order to provide funds necessary to pay for the cost of acquiring and constructing various Infrastructure Improvements (as defined in the TIF Plan) in connection with and in support of the Project (as defined in the TIF Plan).

The TIF Bonds shall be secured by a pledge by the City of the incremental increase in ad valorem tax revenues on real and personal property located in and constituting the TIF District, as described in the TIF Plan, and will never be a general obligation of the City secured by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City or create any other pecuniary liability on the part of the City other than the pledge of the incremental increase in the ad valorem taxes set forth above. The City intends to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement or a Regional Economic Development Act Agreement with the County in order to support the Project and allow for efficient use of proceeds of the TIF Bonds. The TIF Bonds will likewise never be a general obligation of the County secured by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the County. If deemed necessary and appropriate, the City and the County may require additional security from the developer of the Project.

Construction of the Infrastructure Improvements and payment of the TIF Bonds issued pursuant to the TIF Plan will be paid as hereinabove set forth and will not require an increase in any kind or type of taxes within the City or the County.

Copies of the TIF Plan and the Redevelopment Plan are available for examination in the office of the City Clerk in Jackson, Mississippi.

The City and the County may exercise their authority under Chapter 45 of Title 21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "Act"), individually or jointly, pursuant to an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as authorized by Sections 17-13-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, or pursuant to a Regional Economic Development Act Agreement as authorized by Sections 57-64-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

This hearing is being called and conducted, and the TIF Plan has been prepared as authorized and required by Sections 21-45-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

Witness my signature and seal, this the 12th day of August 2025.

*/s/ Angela Harris*  
City Clerk, City of Jackson, Mississippi

8/21/2025

**SECTION 901**

**ADVERTISEMENT  
CITY OF JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
MONUMENT STREET  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of the bridge located on West Monument Street, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, on September 23rd, 2025, in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

- 1) Removal/Replacement of the Monument Street Bridge in its entirety plus related approach work.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be 50 working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction-related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover (Manager) in the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

**LEGAL**

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON SWAN LAKE DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal. Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City Clerk Office, City Hall - 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on \_9/11/2025\_ at 10 am.. in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4th Floor; Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications may be procured through the following:

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CIVILTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852 Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com), upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities.

Henry Chia  
Department of Public Works

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

**LEGAL**

**Advertisement for:  
RFP 2025-21-26  
Data Management and Analytics Platform**

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Thursday, September 17, 2025 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning all listed projects will Via TEAMS (see below for link) on Friday August 29, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via TEAMS: [https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_NDRIN2M0ODQ1NmY5MS00MWM1LWE4NDQ0OTF1ZDZkOWIzZDdl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bb1de%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_NDRIN2M0ODQ1NmY5MS00MWM1LWE4NDQ0OTF1ZDZkOWIzZDdl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bb1de%22%7d)

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025



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Week of August 17, 2025

## Brooklyn's Black church choirs persist amid attendance decline, gentrification

By Fiona Murphy  
Religion News Service



**Soloist Jessica Howard sings at Concord Baptist Church of Christ in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn in New York, on July 20, 2025.**  
FIONA MURPHY/RELIGION NEWS SERVICE VIA AP

my lineage singing.”

Founded in 1847, Concord Baptist Church is Brooklyn's oldest historically Black congregation. At the time, a nearby neighborhood known as Weeksville, now considered part of central Brooklyn, was the second-largest free Black community in the United States before the Civil War, said Amanda Henderson, collections historian at the Weeksville Heritage Center.

Louise Nelson, a Brooklyn native and church historian of the Berean Baptist Church in Crown Heights, said music was the foundation of the early church, and that remains true for churches in the borough today.

“The songs that uplifted us and kept us going through the midst of our misery — music is who we are,” Nelson said. “I don't think you can have a church today without the music because it brings unity in that idea that we can all do it

together.”

According to Pew Research Center data, between 2019 and 2023, Black Protestant monthly church attendance fell from 61 percent to 46 percent — the largest decline among major U.S. religious groups. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend, and its impact is visible in the thinning choir stands.

Glenn McMillan, Concord's director of music ministry and a musicology teacher at the City University of New York, who has worked in New York City church choirs since 1994, recalls a time when historically Black churches in Brooklyn regularly had multiple choirs at each parish.

“In the last 20 years, the members of church choirs started getting older because this generation does not see church as important as it was back in the day,” McMillan said. The choir at Concord has shrunk from about 50 voices before the pandemic to 30 today, McMillan said. Back in 2006, the choir featured 100 voices.

According to research published by covidreligion-research.org in June, Black Protestants attended church on Zoom more than other denominations during the pandemic, and they have been the slowest to return to in person worship.

“The internet has taken over and streaming has taken over,” McMillan said. People don't go

into the building as much as they are streaming it.”

For Mike Delouis, 38, St. Teresa's longtime cantor and a son of Haitian immigrants who was baptized at the church, the loss is personal.

“Singing for me is not about performance but about participation,” said Delouis, who juggles three services most Sundays between St. Teresa and the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Prospect Heights. “St. Augustine said singing is praying twice.

Jesteena Walters, 55, has been part of Bedford Central Presbyterian Church in Crown Heights since she was an infant. She began singing at age 6 in the junior choir, and when she turned 18, she transitioned to its Gratitude choir, which her older siblings also joined. “It was the young hip gospel choir of the church,” Walters said.

Today, Gratitude no longer exists in the same way. Its members are older and often reunite only for special occasions, such as singing at funerals.

McMillan emphasized that choirs continue to play a central role in Black church life, even as congregations decline in membership. “Choir singers are some of the most faithful churchgoers,” McMillan said. “A choir is a community within the church community, and whenever you have a really consistent and strong choir,

P R E S E R V E D

## Character still counts

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



With so many news stories about leaders (political and religious) falling from grace and others condemning their actions, one question remains: How can you avoid getting into a similar compromising situation? It's not as simple as saying, “I would never ever do \_\_\_\_\_.”

Sometimes we may find ourselves unknowingly in a compromising situation...and unsure of how to handle it. Sure, prayer always works...but what if you pray but you still find yourself tempted and falling to that temptation?

We must believe that God wants us to develop Christ like character so that no matter what the situation, we will make wise decisions, which helps increase our faith and strengthens Christian walk. I Corinthians 15:33 says, “Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” A big part of keeping your character is being careful who you spend time with.

Ephesians 4:22-24 shows that we should strive toward Christ like perfection, portray humble obedience and practice purposeful worship. Striving towards Christ like perfection simply means that our goal is to be more like Christ in our thoughts and actions but realizing that we may sometimes fail. Failure, however, means that we have one more chance to try to get it right. One example of being humbly obedient is when you get to work 10 minutes early because you are thankful that you have a job rather than 10 minutes late and muttering, “They ought to be glad I'm here.”

Superficial holiness, good works, and church attendance cannot substitute for Christ like character. Superficial holiness has the big bible on the living room

table...but the pages are so dusty because it hasn't been picked up and read since 1985. Holiness by its nature is about what is on the inside and not what shows on the outside. Christ-like character shows the most when we are by ourselves because it's easy to fake it when we are around others.

1 Peter 2:2 shares what prevents us from having Christ like character: We don't want to mature spiritually. When God has been planning a graduation in direction and purpose for us, often we don't cooperate because we still want to be in control of our lives. Having Christ like character means that we surrender our will to God's will.

Focusing on building stronger intimacy with God (prayer, fasting, studying God's word) is just one way we can develop Christ like character. Other ways include building relationship and fellowship with Christ-like believers and seeking Godly counsel.

It is also important for us to develop Christ like character because it prepares us to be useful for the Kingdom and allows us to be more effective witnesses for Christ. Galatians 5:22-25 mentions the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) which are the foundations for Christian character. Just like building your house's foundation with cheap materials or with shoddy workmanship will ultimately result in damage to our house, so will building your character with things that are not Christ like.

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](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda

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# When stretching hurts: The hidden risks behind a common fitness practice

By Vince Faust  
Tips to Be Fit

Knowing when to seek medical attention is essential not just for your health, but for avoiding unnecessary stress, expenses or risks. Whether you're dealing with a sudden injury, a nagging illness or unusual symptoms, making an informed decision can be life-changing. How do you make the decision to see your doctor or head straight to the emergency room?

Medical situations range from mild and manageable to severe and life-threatening. It's helpful to think of health problems in three general categories:

Severity Level Action to Take:

Minor (low risk) Home care or primary care, Common cold, mild sprain, minor rash

Moderate (needs care soon) Call doctor or visit urgent care

Fever lasting >3 days, new or worsening pain

Severe (life-threatening) Go to ER or call 911 Chest pain, severe bleeding, trouble breathing

When to Call Your Doctor

Your primary care provider is your go-to for non-emergent health concerns. They know your history and offer continuity of care.

Consider calling your doctor if you experience:

- Persistent fever over 101°F (38.3°C) for more than 72 hours

- Unexplained fatigue, weight loss or changes in appetite

- Moderate pain that's new or worsening

- Mild to moderate asthma flare-ups

- Symptoms of a urinary tract infection (painful urination, frequent urge)

- Minor injuries like sprains, small cuts or burns

- Mild allergic reactions (itching, localized swelling)

Benefits of calling your doctor first:

- Lower cost than ER visits

- Personalized advice based on your health history

- Better follow-up care and medication management



When to Go to the Emergency Room  
Emergency rooms are for life-threatening or rapidly worsening conditions that require immediate care.

Head to the ER (or call 911) if you have:

- Chest pain or pressure, especially with shortness of breath or sweating

- Stroke symptoms (sudden confusion, slurred speech, numbness on one side)

- Severe abdominal pain or vomiting blood

- High fever with stiff neck, confusion or rash

- Difficulty breathing or wheezing

- Head injury with loss of consciousness or vomiting

- Severe allergic reactions (difficulty swallowing, swelling of face or throat)

- Serious burns or injuries with heavy bleeding

- Suicidal thoughts or acute mental health crisis

Don't drive yourself if you're experiencing stroke or cardiac symptoms. Call for emergency services.

Urgent Care: A Middle Ground  
Urgent care centers bridge the gap between your doctor and the emergency room.

Visit urgent care for:

- Minor fractures, sprains or cuts needing stitches

- Ear infections, sore throats or mild fever

- Mild breathing difficulties in asthma or COPD

- Skin infections, minor burns or painful rashes

- Eye redness or discharge

Urgent care clinics often have shorter wait times, cost less than ER visits and are open after hours.

Special Considerations for Older Adults

Age and existing health conditions can change the equation. For older adults, even mild symptoms can escalate quickly. Many older adults down-

play symptoms so it's crucial that caregivers and loved ones take changes seriously.

Seniors should seek medical attention promptly for:

- Fever or confusion (could indicate infection or sepsis)

- Falls, even without visible injury

- Unusual fatigue, weakness or dizziness

- Shortness of breath, especially with swelling or weight gain

- Changes in cognition or mood

Chronic Conditions & Ongoing Illness

If you live with a chronic illness like diabetes, asthma or heart disease, you may already have a care plan. But certain warning signs mean it's time to act.

Contact your doctor or seek emergency care if you experience:

- Blood sugar above 300 or below 60 and feeling dizzy or confused

- Sudden increase in blood pressure or heart rate

- Missed doses of essential medication with new symptoms

- Difficulty breathing despite inhalers or oxygen

Recognizing Subtle Warning Signs  
Not every medical emergency looks dramatic. Some symptoms are subtle but serious.

These red flags should not be ignored:

- Sudden trouble speaking or understanding

- Chest discomfort that radiates to your jaw, arm or back

- A sense of doom or sudden anxiety with physical symptoms

- Blurred vision or difficulty moving one side of the body

- Unexplained bleeding, bruising or pallor

Making Smart Decisions: A Checklist

Before you decide whether to wait it out, call your doctor, or head to the ER, ask yourself:

- Is my condition worsening quickly?

- Do I feel dizzy, confused or short of breath?

- Am I in severe pain?

- Have I lost consciousness or vomited blood?

- Could this be a stroke or heart attack?

When in doubt, prioritize safety. It's better to seek care and be reassured than delay and risk complications.

Coping with Medical Anxiety  
Many people hesitate to seek care due to fear, cost or embarrassment. But there's no shame in advocating for your health. If you're unsure, consider:

- Calling a nurse advice line or telehealth service

- Asking a trusted friend or family member for help

- Keeping a symptom journal to track changes

Knowing when to seek medical care is an act of self-respect. Whether you're managing chronic pain, watching for infection or responding to an injury, trusting your instincts and knowledge can keep you safe and well.

Timely action can save lives even if the situation feels uncertain.

# Get Back-to-School Ready with free or low-cost health care for your kids

StatePoint

It's back to school time and there is so much for families to do to get ready for the school year ahead, from getting school supplies to signing up for after school programs.

Making sure kids have health care needs covered should be a part of those preparations.

Free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) can help children be prepared for the school year. When enrolled, kids up to age 19 have access to a comprehensive range of health services, including well-child and sick visits, emergency visits, dental and vision care, behavioral health care and more.

If a kid needs a physical for afterschool activities, it's covered. If a child has a fever, the doctor's visit and prescriptions to get them back to school are covered. If a child has an accident, the emergency care they need to get back on their feet is covered.

When kids have health insurance, they are less likely to miss school due to sick days, less likely to be distracted by pain or vision problems, and more likely to be able to focus on learning. This leads to more participation in the classroom



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) JACOB LUND / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

and a better chance of finishing high school.

Medicaid and CHIP Support Students

Whether a child is learning

their ABCs or getting ready to earn their high school diploma, access to health care services at any stage of schooling keeps them healthy. Having

health insurance can help connect families with a consistent health care provider, which means having a doctor or practice to call for preventive treat-

ment, annual physicals or sick visits. It can also reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 37 million

children and teens across the United States.

The ABCs of Getting Insured with Medicaid and CHIP

Enrollment is open year-round, meaning families don't have to wait for a special time of the year to get covered. Medicaid and CHIP eligibility varies by state, depending on family income and household size. In most states, children up to age 19 with a family income of up to \$80,000 per year (for a family of four) may qualify. Families can apply online, over the phone, by mail, or in-person with their state's Medicaid office or visit the "Find Coverage for Your Family" section on InsureKidsNow.gov. Coverage must be renewed each year, and it's important for families to make sure their address, email, and phone number stay up to date with their state Medicaid office so they can receive communications about important renewal information. For more information, call 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669).

Communities can work together to make sure children get the health care they need to succeed this school year.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

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# Yolanda Clay-Moore selected to join The Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Yolanda Clay-Moore, Marketing Director for the Mississippi Mass Choir and Director of External Affairs, Partnerships & Alliances for Visit Jackson, has been officially selected as a member of the Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy (SAGMA). This prestigious honor recognizes her ongoing contributions to gospel music and her commitment to preserving and promoting the genre's legacy.

The Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy is composed of industry professionals, artists, producers, and key influencers who shape the direction of gospel music and honor excellence through the annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards. Membership is by invitation only and reflects a high level of achievement, credibility, and dedication to the gospel music industry.

In her role with the Mississippi Mass Choir, Clay-Moore has been instrumental in elevating the choir's national profile, developing impactful marketing campaigns, and coordinating media relations for milestone events. The Mississippi Mass Choir, a Grammy-nominated and multi-Stellar Award-winning ensemble, continues to inspire audiences worldwide with its timeless gospel sound.



Her leadership in the tourism and hospitality industry with Visit Jackson has also expanded her influence, allowing her to create meaningful connections between gospel music, cultural heritage, and destination promotion.

"It is truly an honor to be welcomed into the Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy," said Clay-Moore. "Gospel music has always been a cornerstone of my personal and professional life. This opportunity allows me to contribute to an industry that not only uplifts and inspires but also preserves a vital part of our cultural



## The Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy

history. I am grateful to be part of such an esteemed group of music professionals."

As a SAGMA member, Clay-Moore had the privilege to participate in voting for the 2025 Stellar Gospel Music Awards taped August 16, in Nashville. She will also have a hand in shaping the Academy's initiatives, and engaging with fellow members in advancing the mission of gospel music worldwide.

*Yolanda Clay-Moore is an accomplished public relations and marketing professional with over two decades of experience in tour-*

*ism, media relations, and event promotion. She serves as Marketing Director for the Grammy-nominated and multi-Stellar Award-winning Mississippi Mass Choir and Director of External Affairs, Partnerships & Alliances for Visit Jackson, Mississippi. Her work bridges cultural storytelling, destination marketing, and faith-based music promotion. Yolanda is married to professional bassist Cornelius "CC" Moore, and together they have a blended family with nine children.*

### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON

The City of Jackson will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2025-2026 on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located in City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

The City of Jackson is now operating projected total budget revenue of \$307,415,674 (24.8 percent) or \$76,245,241 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$291,494,777. Of that amount, (26.5 percent) or \$77,137,310, is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy. The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for fiscal year 2025-2026 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property unless the assessed value of your property has increased for fiscal year 2025-2026. Any citizen of City of Jackson is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for fiscal year 2025-2026 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

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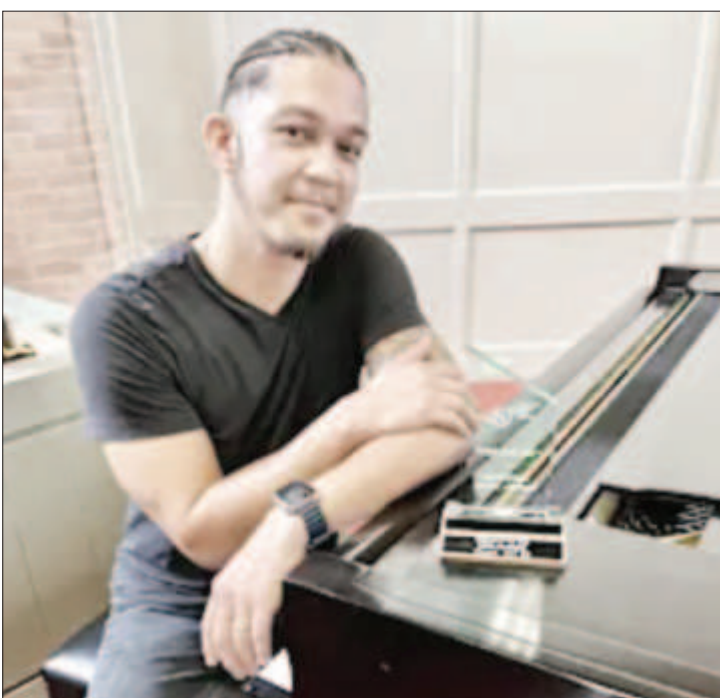
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## Casey Elementary teacher honored as Gospel Musician of the Year



McLaughlin

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Jackson Public Schools proudly congratulates Mr. Carroll McLaughlin, music teacher at Casey Elementary, on being named “The Jackie” Musician of the Year at the 47th Annual Mississippi Gospel Music Awards July 27, 2025.

This prestigious award honors outstanding contributions to gospel music in Mississippi, and McLaughlin’s achievement highlights not only his personal excellence, but also the passion and inspiration he shares with

his students every day.

Known for his dynamic teaching style and dedication to using music as a pathway for student growth and creativity, McLaughlin continues to make a lasting impact both in the classroom and on stage. His recognition as Musician of the Year is a proud moment for the entire Casey Elementary community and for JPS.

We celebrate McLaughlin for this remarkable honor and thank him for the joy and excellence he brings to our scholars.



McLaughlin

## Everything you need to know about head start

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Head Start programs prepare America’s most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school. To achieve this, Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

The Head Start program encompasses Head Start Preschool programs, which primarily serve 3- and 4-year-old children, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Head Start programs operate in every state, many tribal nations, and several U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico. Head Start services are delivered nationwide through 1,600 agencies that tailor the federal program to the local needs of families in their service area.

To reach the children and families who need Head Start

services the most, programs are designed according to community needs. Directly funded at the local level, Head Start programs tailor their programs as appropriate for families in the designated service area. These programs may be provided in different settings and hours according to the needs indicated by their community assessment.

Since 1965, Head Start programs have reached 40 million children and their families. Children who enrolled in Head Start programs are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college, have improved social, emotional, and behavioral development, and are better prepared to be parents themselves than similar children who did not attend the program. Children enrolled in Early Head Start programs have significantly fewer child welfare encounters related to sexual or physical abuse between the ages of 5 and 9 than

those who don’t attend.

Research consistently shows a broad pattern of impacts for children at the end of their Head Start enrollment. While these benefits may appear to diminish in the early grades, economic benefits emerge as children become adults. The Head Start program’s two-generation design — coupled with research-based, high-quality comprehensive services — has the power to change the trajectory for children’s outcomes.

Does my family qualify for the Head Start program?

Your family qualifies for the Head Start program if your household income is at or below the poverty level. Check the Poverty Guidelines to see if your family qualifies. Families who receive public assistance (TANF, SSI, or SNAP), and those with children in foster care or children who are homeless, also qualify regardless of income.

How do I apply for the Head

Start program?

Talk to your local Head Start program. They’ll help you find out if your child qualifies, give you the forms you need, and tell you what documents you’ll need to submit. If there is no space for your child, you can ask to be added to the waiting list.

How to Find Your Local Head Start Program

Use the Head Start Center Locator to find a Head Start program near your home. Watch this video if you need more help using the Locator. Call the phone number listed to find out the next steps in the process. If you need more help to find a Head Start program near your home, call (toll-free) 1-866-763-6481 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET or use the “Contact Us” link at the top of the page.

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

## National Truancy Month Spotlight: JPS Dropout Prevention Team

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

As we continue recognizing August as National Truancy Month, we want to spotlight the incredible work of the JPS Dropout Prevention Team, a dedicated group providing support and resources to keep scholars engaged in school and on the path to graduation.

During the 2024–2025 school year, the team conducted 1,784 home visits to connect with scholars and families across the district. Their efforts were instrumental in helping 115 scholars return to school, many of whom had been absent since the first day of classes.

The Dropout Prevention Team plays a vital role in identifying, supporting, and re-engaging scholars at risk of dropping out. They assist families with registration, ensure proper school placement, and closely monitor scholars with chronic absences—all in support of JPS’s strategic goal to maintain a chronic absenteeism rate of 30 percent or below.

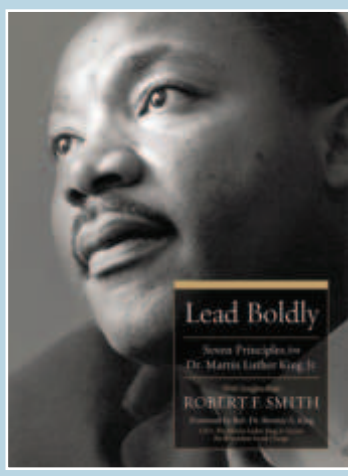


Left to right: Stephen Johnson, Caleb Blake, Teresa Coleman, Nicholas Johnson, and Fabian Wilson

Beyond the numbers, their wins include re-engaging unhoused families and celebrating their academic progress at the end of the year. Their vis-

ible presence in neighborhoods across Jackson has built trust and opened doors to reconnect scholars with valuable educational opportunities.

If you know a scholar who is not currently enrolled or attending school, please contact the JPS Dropout Prevention Team at 601-960-8852.



# BOOK REVIEW: LEAD BOLDLY: SEVEN PRINCIPLES FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BY ROBERT F. SMITH C.2025, HARPERCOLLINS LEADERSHIP \$31.99 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Watch and learn.  
If you've ever had to do something thorny or tricky, something you've never done before, that's how you get good at it: you watch a video online or see someone do it in person before trying it and putting your own spin on it. See one, do one, show one, they say. As in the new book "Lead Boldly" by Robert F. Smith, it's always best to learn by example.

Though he was there at the March on Washington in Au-

gust of 1963, Smith doesn't remember it. He was an infant in his mother's arms then, but he grew up on stories of that day, and other accounts of Dr. Martin Luther King's efforts. He cut his teeth on tales of Jim Crow, the Green Book, and the lack of generational wealth. Understanding this history is why, in his business, he reaches for the seven principles that King taught.

Leaders, he says, know the importance of equal opportunities and they work to change wealth gaps, and to raise up future generations of Black

citizens – often through CDFIs (Community Development Financial Institutions), which help underserved areas.

Leaders build community, then they work to move everyone forward by encouraging STEM education in local schools, and by ensuring that the latest technology is within reach of all citizens. They meld both sides of America into one cohesive citizenry to harness the power of togetherness, and to create equity and opportunities. Leaders build bridges between their group and others, and they

work to keep them strong. A good leader is brave enough and willing enough to step up and declare that something's wrong, and to see that that thing is fixed.

And finally, you can "lead boldly" by taking the reins, gathering your team, and continuing on with efforts to better all citizens in all corners.

Looking for some inspiration from the C-Suite?

You might find it inside "Lead Boldly," but you might also notice that what you'll read here is somewhat inadequate. Rather than hearty information, it's a lot

of opinion – valid opinion, but opinion nonetheless – that may work better for younger, up-and-comers. Worse: there's really not enough of it.

That can be frustrating. Author and head of Vista Equity Partners Robert F. Smith starts each chapter with a different speech by King, and he then makes each relevant for anyone who hopes to make change. After those rousing words, though, readers may be left wanting more direction. You'll be fired up... and then cooled down quick, probably because

this book is relatively short, at just 240 pages, roughly half of which is speech transcripts. That leaves the other half to cover a lot of ground.

Which it does, but just not enough.

This isn't a bad book; it's full of great information but it feels incomplete. Perhaps the best way to get the most out of it is to study the speeches and use Smith's lessons as a launching pad. Do your own homework and then let "Lead Boldly" inspire you further.



## ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

# Hinds County School District Recognizes Achievements and Participation at August Board Meeting

The Hinds County School District spotlighted excellence in education during its August School Board meeting, honoring students, teachers, and community members for their exceptional accomplishments and contributions to the success of the 2025 district convocation.

The meeting, held at Raymond High School’s Performing Arts Center, opened with an invocation from Reverend Douglas Lacey, Sr. of Ratliff Chapel M. B. Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Leo Norman, an 8th-grader at Bolton-Edwards Middle School.

Superintendent Dr. Mitchell Shears personally recognized each honoree. “These recognitions highlight the incredible talent, leadership, and school spirit found across Hinds County Schools, Shears said. “It is important to celebrate the individuals who go above and beyond to inspire others and contribute to the success of our district.”

Among the honorees were teachers Chiquita Nichols and Kamekia Hodge, both of Terry High

School, who earned the distinction of Master Teacher of Economics from the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, reflecting their dedication to excellence in financial literacy education.

The next recognition celebrated students who played a role in the success of the 2025 district convocation. The combined cheerleading squads and drum lines from Terry High School and Raymond High School were commended for their high-energy performances that set the tone for the event. Kaydan Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance in English, while Lilliana Balderas delivered it in Spanish, both earning praise for their participation. Carter Reid-Bates captivated

the audience with his performance of the national anthem, and the Terry High School JROTC was commended for their professional presentation of the colors.

Student government leaders were also in the spotlight, with Cailynn Williams of Raymond High School and Chyle Horton of Terry High School recognized for delivering warm and engaging words of greeting to convocation attendees. Vocal performances added a memorable touch to the

program, with Olivia Stewart of Byram Middle School delivering a heartfelt rendition of Put a Little Love in Your Heart, and Tristyn Carter of Raymond High School offering an inspiring performance of Yes, There Is Hope. Additionally,

school board members were recognized for their commitment to professional growth. As required by Mississippi law and the Mississippi School Board Association, each board member must complete at least six hours of continuing education annually.

“Our students and staff remind us every day that excellence isn’t just an aspiration - it’s who we are,” Shears said. “We look forward to seeing their continued success and contributions in the year ahead.”





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