



After 29 years, Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade calls it quits

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

After 29 years of dedicated service with the Jackson Police Department, culminating in two impactful years as its chief, Chief Joe Wade, is retiring, his final day set for September 5, 2025.

Wade’s career truly embodies the idea of “climbing the ranks.” Starting as a police recruit, he rose through every level within JPD until he became chief, proudly calling himself “home-grown” after graduating from the department’s 23rd Recruit Class in 1995.

A beloved figure in the community, Wade, restored morale in the department. He brought back experienced officers, bolstered staffing by hiring an additional 37 officers (bringing total to 258), and restored trust within the force. Under his leadership, crime dropped significantly, including a roughly 45% reduction in homicides so far this year compared to the same period in 2024.

Mayor Horhn’s Search for the



Chief Joseph Wade speaks at press conference.

Next Chief

Jackson’s new Mayor, John Horhn, has launched a national search to find Wade’s replacement. Leading this task force are two highly respected law enforcement veterans:

- Former U.S. Marshal George White
- Former Mississippi Highway Patrol Chief, Col. Charles Haynes

Their mission is to conduct a rigorous, nationwide search

while also evaluating public safety challenges in Jackson, including youth crime, drug crimes, departmental needs, and coordination among JPD, the Sheriff’s Office, and Capitol Police.

The process is expected to take 30 to 60 days, and the task force will actively seek input from residents, city leaders, and departmental staff to ensure a well-informed decision.

Interim Leadership by Sheriff



Tyree Jones and Joseph Wade

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Stronger than a storm: reflections from ‘Katrina Kids’



Brittany and her brother Silas, first day of school, 1 week before Katrina hit

By Brittany Dillard
Katrina Evacuee

COMMENTARY

Shoes, check. Uniform, check. School supplies, check. Book sack, check. A storm that felt like the end all and be all ... no comment.

One thing almost every grade school student had in common that fourth week in August of 2005 was that we were planning our second week of school, being kids and having fun. No one expected to run. No one knew nor expected what was coming.

“Last week I wore these shoes, so next week, I’m going to hop out with these shoes.” I laid them out that Friday night with care. As a 14 year old High School Freshman, fashions were on my mind. Books weren’t important until that first threat of a test. Friday, I was planning my outfit and Saturday I was saying goodbye.

“Stop. Step back and look at the house because it might be the last time you see it as it is,” said Gwen Sanford, my mom.

That woke me up. I looked down at my suitcase in my hand, Big eyed with shock, but then I brushed off the alarming feeling. “ We’ll be back, we always do,” I reassured myself. I looked at my brother who was two years younger than me. He seemed to be thinking the same thing.

“For me it wasn’t a big deal. I was thinking we were about to go to Missisisspi and cool out and then return home like we always did. It was just like the yearly vacation to our cousin’s house,” Silas Sanford said. Sanford, 33 from Mar-rero ‘The Westbank of New Orleans’ was 12 years old at

the time.

We pulled out of the neighborhood, merged onto LAPALCO Blvd, then the Westbank Expressway, then the Crescent City Connection bridge, which at the time was named the Greater New Orleans bridge. I believe we all took for granted the feeling of a smooth traffic flow until we hit the mighty traffic jam of thousands of other evacuees, which caused us to inch across the bridge for almost the entire duration of the trip. A trip that usually takes three and a half hours, took us a tedious 11 hours. We left our home August 28th at 10 AM and arrived in Jackson, MS at 11 PM.

For hours, when the traffic wasn’t at a standstill, we were going 5 to 10 miles per hour. No birds were in the sky, no wind was blowing, no tree limbs swaying. There was only stillness in the air. We were watching the weather change. We were watching the water beat up against the bridge. As night was falling and the city was inching away, there was seriousness in the air. A very pronounced quiet. In those hours, The Big Easy didn’t feel like the Big Easy anymore.

We were detoured. The usual route we took out of the city was closed, so we didn’t know where we were going, we just followed the flow of traffic. All we knew when we got to the state of Mississippi was that we were on Highway 49. We were anxious, worried and more than anything, exhausted.

Katrina
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If only gold décor evoked The Golden Rule or A Heart of Gold

Trump’s proclaimed Golden Age is surely gold for him, but he’s accountable to all American’s

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Gold bar playing cards, money clips, key chains, USB drives. His infatuation with gold is limitless. One seller on Ebay has the Donald Trump Never Surrender Gold High Top Sneakers for \$1,600. Seven months into his second term, If you are still trying to figure out what time it is, you can go to www.gettrumpwatches.com , where his Gold President 18K Plated Watch, 500 Limited and Numbered – is available for \$899.00. Oops, sorry, those are sold out. But you can still get a Trump Crypto President Jewel 47 - 18 Karat Gold Plated watch on pre-order for \$1,199. At <https://thedonaldtrumpstore.com>, you can purchase gold coins. While on the site you can also find Patriotic Headgear, Trump Dolls, and limited edition items like a



Trump blings out the Oval Office. PHOTO BY AARON SCHWARTZ/CNP/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

COMMENTARY

MAGA license plate holder. In the market for an original Trump Bible, Golden Age Edition Bible, Inauguration Day Edition Bible, or God forbid, a measly Platinum

<https://godblesstheusabible.com> he pivoted, so you can still order either a Presidential Edition Bible, Golden Age Edition Bible, Inauguration Day Edition Bible, or God forbid, a measly Platinum

Edition Bible – all are priced the same at \$99.99 before shipping.

There are reports that his personal 757 plane has 24 Karat gold

Gold
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Mounted

ON HORSE, BLACKBURN, MOUNTED BITTER KALLI

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Restaurant Review: A new venture by Chef Nick Wallace, The Hen and Egg

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

There’s a new light shining in Jackson, Mississippi, and it’s coming straight from The Hen and Egg, the first freestanding restaurant from Award-winning and James Beard contender, Chef Nick Wallace. Known for his standout appearances on Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen, Chopped (twice), Comfort Nation (twice), and Bravo’s Top Chef, Wallace has long been a trailblazer in the culinary world. With The Hen and Egg, he’s not just setting a new standard for Southern cuisine, he’s telling his life story, one plate at a time.

Inspired by the deep roots of family and food, The Hen and Egg is a love letter to the women who shaped Wallace’s culinary journey. The restaurant’s concept was born from childhood memories specifically, a morning 36 years ago when his grandmother, Mrs. Lennel, taught him how to pick dewberries and make preserves. The next day, she served him a warm, handmade biscuit with dewberry preserve, which he sandwiched together and ate like a burger. That moment, as he tells it, “changed my life... food was the light to happiness if you use your hands.” That single bite planted a seed that would grow into a nationally celebrated career.

At the heart of The Hen and Egg is a menu that honors those memories and none



Wallace

more so than the restaurant’s crown jewel: a one-of-a-kind cheeseburger named after Wallace’s mother. It’s not just a burger, it’s a tribute. Layered with flavors as deep and soulful as the story behind it, this burger is quickly becoming a must-try culinary experience for locals and travelers alike.

But Wallace’s mission extends far beyond the kitchen. As part of the Nick Wallace Culinary family, The Hen and Egg reflects his commitment to community empowerment and legacy building. In partnership with Hope Credit Union, Wallace is doing more than creating jobs, he’s creating opportunities. “Thriving,” as he says, “is just as important as surviving,” and this restaurant is a testament to what happens when purpose and passion meet.

Wallace’s career journey has taken him far, literally and figuratively. Twenty years

ago, he took a flight to Anchorage, Alaska. There, in a setting far removed from his Southern roots, he found his culinary voice while cooking alongside great chefs. He made Alaska his home for two years, embracing the challenge, the culture, and the growth that came with it. That experience helped mold the chef we see today, one who blends technique, storytelling, and soul into every dish.

With The Hen and Egg, Wallace adds another chapter to his growing culinary empire. While his Nissan Café by Nick Wallace has been thriving for nearly five years, The Hen and Egg marks a significant milestone as his first fully independent, freestanding restaurant. It’s more than just a restaurant, it’s a space filled with meaning, memories, and a vision for the future of Southern cuisine.

Chef Nick Wallace has never forgotten where he came from. And with The Hen and Egg, he’s inviting us all to the table not just to eat, but to feel, remember, and be inspired.

The food, as I describe it, is soul food reimagined, familiar in comfort, but elevated in technique and flavor.

This isn’t just a new restaurant. This is history in the making. Where food tells a story, every bite holds purpose, and where community is at the center of the mission. It is a must try. Pack an ounce or two of patience as the place is small, but intimate.



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A healthy community begins with the health of its people — and when you thrive, we all do.

It’s good to be **blue**.



MISSISSIPPI



Wade

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Tyree Jones

Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones has been appointed to serve as interim Chief of Police, a dual role that mirrors a precedent set in 2007 when Sheriff Malcolm McMillin held both positions.

Jones brings deep institutional knowledge; he spent 20 years with

the Jackson Police Department before becoming sheriff in 2021 and pledges stability and professionalism during the transition. He’s clear that he’s not seeking the permanent role and intends to maintain his sheriff duties with support from his trusted staff on both sides.

Highlights of Happenings:

Wade leaves behind a legacy of renewed trust, stronger staffing, and lower crime. Horhn’s appointment of a seasoned, multifaceted search team sets the stage for thoughtful leadership moving forward, while Jones ensures the department remains steady during the hand-off.

Katrina

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Destruction after Katrina hit



16 year old Sonnisha Amos (now 36) & Family did not evacuate



Current photo of Brittany with her mom, Gwen



Current photo of Christian Favorite in his barbershop

Amongst those thousands of evacuees was Christian Favorite, a teen from the Eastbank. We, unknowingly, would later meet in Richland, MS. Favorite and his family, like us, had no idea where they were headed. Their usual route to MS was closed and they too had to take a detour. We were all traveling MS HWY 49.

“I most definitely felt like it was going to be a turn around trip; like it was just an extended weekend. I don’t think anyone thought it would be life altering,” said Favorite. Favorite, 37 is from The Upper 9th Ward. He was 17 years old at the time. “I took a weekend bag. I told my brother ‘It’s not like we not coming back.’ I fully expected to go back home.”

Not everyone evacuated. 16 year old Sonnisha Amos from the 7th ward and her family waited out the storm at Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans.

“For every hurricane we would get a hotel because our house and our grandmother’s house sat high off the ground. We just thought it would be a normal little bad weather situation like it normally was when officials said ‘hurricane’, said Amos, now 36. Amos had a grand view of the happenings on the street below her during and after the destruction of the storm. “Before the storm hit, I saw people packing, evacuating; after the storm I saw people looting for fun but also for things they needed. They didnt have power. They didn’t have food. People were doing any and everything to survive. It also made me think about my classmates that couldn’t evacuate.”

Amos says one of the most important things she felt was safety. “I was with family and we were in a safe environment. They provided us with food and they provided my mom with milk and formula for my baby sister. I felt safe and secure.”

As soon as we received clearance to re-enter the city of New Orleans, that’s exactly what we did. We went home. We went to see if this nightmare flooding the news was real or if it was all just a bad dream. A bad joke. The city looked as if it hadn’t had any sun for months. Certain streets were closed because of blocked roads

from death and devastation. The scenes were horrific. Homes were completely uprooted or demolished, cars and boats were in trees. In our neighborhood, most houses were still standing but were ruined by flood water. Ours was one of them. The neighborhood looked defeated.

“Our neighborhood had a type of ‘life’ to it. You had certain people you saw every day, people at the corner store, the types of cars going up and down the street... but..from what I can remember when we returned, it felt..dead,” said Sanford. “You come back to your neighborhood thinking it’s going to be the same way you left, (people walking up and down the street, cars) but it was really lifeless and gloomy.”

Our house depicted that picture as well, fitting in like a piece of the neighborhood puzzle. It looked like it was just a frame, a book-mark, holding a spot for something that once was but now no more.

“It looked like our house... but lifeless.” she said. We were amongst thousands of New Orleanians trying to pick up the pieces. Heartbroken and heavy and amazed because although devastating, it was captivating. We had never seen sights like this before and we knew this was a mark in history. And we were the lucky ones. We were still breathing.

“Entering the city you saw the code markings on the houses, cars turned over, debris, just dissarray,” recalls, Favorite. “You saw people trying to salvage. Our house was there but there were code markings on it. “What stood out to me was the mold line. It was there... just chillin. The water rose to probably 6’8 on the wall.”

There wasn’t much Favorite and his family could salvage, but there were 3 interesting pairs of survivors that Christian found. “I had just gotten hired at 6 Flags and with my first check I bought 3 pair of shoes. Before the storm I left my shoes on my bed. When I went back home my mattress and my 3 pair of shoes had floated to another room but they were still there. Untouched in their boxes..They had survived.” Favorite’s family was able to rebuild their

Gold

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Trump

The Oval Office is now dripping in gold, while 57 percent of American workers live paycheck to paycheck. The number rises to 65 percent for millennials (1981-1996 – now the largest segment in our population, surpassing Baby Boomers in 2023), and even further to 72 percent for Gen Z (1997-2012), per Market Watch Guides. 20 percent of American employees run out of money between paychecks, per Next Gen Personal Finance.

No one could be more out-of-touch with everyday American’s than our own president, but it doesn’t matter because he has mastery of the secret sauce. He appeals to the grievances of people, mostly white people. He barks loud, he promises louder, he wails against fairness and equity – especially racial fairness and equity – we see how many people of color are in his cabinet. He takes on the perceived “boogeymen,” like immigrants. He claims to take on government debt and spending – but ramrodded an extension of tax cuts for the wealthy, partially funded by slashing Medicaid by \$1.02 trillion and ultimately adding \$3.4 trillion to our national debt in the next ten years, per www.kiplinger.com. So much gold for some, but truly no heart of gold, and certainly no golden rule. The poor, disabled, marginalized are not visible – it must be the blinding glare from all the gold.

There is nothing golden about sending an armed force into American cities without invitation. Nothing golden about shoving 150,000 federal employees out of work, www.huffpost.com. Or about politicizing the FBI or Department of Justice, which we have a painful history with. There is nothing golden about attacking American citizens who speak out democratically. Nothing golden about pardoning insurrectionists and then firing those who prosecuted them. Or about filling the most critical positions in government with meritless loyalists.

There is nothing golden about taxpayer-funded vendettas against critics or political adversaries. Nothing golden about cutting billions in medical research if you claim to care about humanity . Certainly nothing golden about an elected president lying incessantly to those who elected him.

On Friday, August 22, 2025, inside the Oval Office, president Trump claimed “I’m the chief law enforcement officer,” while wearing one of his new - Trump Was Right About Everything - hats. So long, Department of Justice. No need for them when the chief executive’s blazing ego convinces him he knows it all.

On August 19, 2025, Trump posted on Truth Social, “The Museums throughout Washington, but all over the country are, essentially, the last remaining segment of ‘woke,’ The Smithsonian is out of control, where everything discussed is how horrible our country is, how bad slavery was, and how unaccomplished the downtrodden have been.” To him it’s not filthy and disgusting to shower the oval office in gold, but it is filthy and disgusting to tell the truth of slavery in America. Does that truth make him uncomfortable, or is he indifferent to it?

Trump’s approval rating in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll taken Aug. 13-18, is at 40 percent - a low point for his second term. His disapproval rating has increased two points from July, to 54 percent, with a two-point margin of error. Not so golden when less than 50 percent of voters elected him, and now seven months on the job, only 40 percent approve of his job performance.

bathroom fixtures and the Manhattan penthouse is decorated with 24 Karat gold furniture. It should come as no surprise that in his final term – he’s decided to bling-out the Oval Office with gold, just like a Saudi King. The simple décor of his predecessor, Joe Biden, is gone. Ornate gold trim, gold trophies, gold gilded seal, gold urns, and gold adornments. The crown molding now has gold trim, and the curtains are now gold. We’re reminded of the expression – you look really good on the outside, how are you really on the inside?

There is brokenness on the inside. American’s and others around the world are now being dragged into that suffering. When you type – characteristics of leadership - into your computer browser, the screen is filled with words like humility, integrity, sincerity, patience, self-awareness, positivity, and empathy. Yet, what we see with our supreme leader is greed, gluttony, grandeur, tyranny, retribution, disdain, rage, distraction, and cruelty.

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21st Annual Canton Gospel Music Celebration

Special to the Mississippi Link

The 21st Annual Canton Gospel Music Celebration (CGMA) & Scholarship Awards took place Sunday, August 24, 2025, at the Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church, in Canton, MS. This celebration is sponsored by the Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) and other local sponsors.

Award-winning singer, writer, and producer Paul Porter served as guest host and musical guest.

Rev. Dr. Vorneal Lipsey, Sr., 87 years 'young', was presented with the Lifetime Music Achievement Award as lead singer of The Songbirds of the South, for over 60 years.

CGMA members Minister Jearlean Jones & Georgia Sims were honored for serving twenty years and CGMA Junior members Abigail and John Woodard, III, were honored as the youngest members since 2018.

Musical guests included recording artist Benjamin Cone, III and Worship, The Sons of Judah, and the CGMA Children's & Youth Mass Choir, directed by Stephen Johnson and Alisa Patrick-McDonald.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of five music scholarships to students of Madison County, MS. To date, CGMA has awarded 193 music scholarships totaling over \$38,500.00.



Members of The Canton Gospel Music Association PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Felony disenfranchisement a factor in judge’s ruling on Mississippi Supreme Court districts

The practice of stripping voting rights away from people for life is a holdover from the Jim Crow era. The framers of the 1890 Mississippi Constitution believed Black people were most likely to commit certain crimes

By Taylor Vance
Mississippi Today

The large number of Mississippians with voting rights stripped for life because they committed a disenfranchising felony was a significant factor in a federal judge determining that current state Supreme Court districts dilute Black voting strength.

U.S. District Judge Sharion Aycock, who was appointed to the federal bench by George W. Bush, last week ruled that Mississippi’s Supreme Court districts violate the federal Voting Rights Act and that the state cannot use the same maps in future elections.

Mississippi law establishes three Supreme Court districts, commonly referred to as the northern, central and southern districts. Voters elect three judges from each to the nine-member court. These districts have not been redrawn since 1987.

The main district at issue in the case is the central district, which comprises many parts of the majority-Black Delta and the majority-Black Jackson Metro Area.

Several civil rights legal organizations filed a lawsuit on behalf of Black citizens, candidates, and elected officials, arguing that the central district does not provide Black voters with a realistic chance to elect a candidate of their choice.

The state defended the dis-



tricts arguing the map allows a fair chance for Black candidates. Aycock sided with the plaintiffs and is allowing the Legislature to redraw the districts.

The attorney general’s office could appeal the ruling to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. A spokesperson for the office stated that the office is reviewing Aycock’s decision, but did not confirm whether the office plans to appeal.

In her ruling, Aycock cited the testimony of William Cooper, the plaintiff’s demographic and redistricting expert, who es-

timated that 56,000 felons were unable to vote statewide based on a review of court records from 1994 to 2017. He estimated 60% of those were determined to be Black Mississippians.

Cooper testified that the high number of people who were disenfranchised contributed to the Black voting age population falling below 50% in the central district.

Attorneys from Attorney General Lynn Fitch’s office defended the state. They disputed Cooper’s calculations, but Aycock rejected their argu-

ments.

The AG’s office also said Aycock should not put much weight on the number of disenfranchised people because the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals previously ruled that Mississippi’s disenfranchisement system doesn’t violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Aycock, however, distinguished between the appellate court’s ruling that the system did not have racial discriminatory intent and the current issue of the practice having a racially

discriminatory impact.

“Notably, though, that decision addressed only whether there was discriminatory intent as required to prove an Equal Protection claim,” Aycock wrote. “The Fifth Circuit did not conclude that Mississippi’s felon disenfranchisement laws have no racially disparate impact.”

Mississippi has one of the harshest disenfranchisement systems in the nation and a convoluted method for restoring voting rights to people.

Other than receiving a pardon from the governor, the only way for someone to regain their voting rights is if two-thirds of legislators from both chambers at the Capitol, the highest threshold in the Legislature, agree to restore their suffrage.

Lawmakers only consider about a dozen or so suffrage restoration bills during the session, and they’re typically among the last items lawmakers take up before they adjourn for the year.

Under the Mississippi Constitution, people convicted of a list of 10 types of felonies lose their voting rights for life. Opinions from the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office have since expanded the list of specific disenfranchising felonies to 23.

The practice of stripping voting rights away from people for life is a holdover from the Jim Crow era. The framers of the 1890 Mississippi Constitution believed Black people were

most likely to commit certain crimes.

Leaders in the state House have attempted to overhaul the system, but none have gained any significant traction in both chambers at the Capitol.

Last year, House Constitution Chairman Price Wallace, a Republican from Mendenhall, advocated a constitutional amendment that would have removed nonviolent offenses from the list of disenfranchising felonies, but he never brought it up for a vote in the House.

Wallace and House Elections Chairman Noah Sanford, a Republican from Collins, are leading a study committee on Sept. 11 to explore reforms to the felony suffrage system and other voting legislation.

Wallace previously said on an episode of Mississippi Today’s “The Other Side” podcast that he believes the state should tackle the issue because one of his core values, part of his upbringing, is giving people a second chance, especially once they’ve made up for a mistake.

“This issue is not a Republican or Democratic issue,” Wallace said. “It allows a woman or a man, whatever the case may be, the opportunity to have their voice heard in their local elections. Like I said, they’re out there working. They’re paying taxes just like you and me. And yet they can’t have a decision in who represents them in their local government.”

Statement on Bluesky blocking service in Mississippi

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jordan Center for Journalism Advocacy and Innovation is deeply concerned by Bluesky’s decision to block access to its social media platform in the state of Mississippi following enactment of a new state law mandating age-verification for users.

“While Bluesky has explained that compliance would compromise user privacy and the security of its decentralized system, the result is that residents of one of the 50 states are now barred from a widely used digital forum for public discourse,” said Steven L Herman, the center’s executive director at the University of Mississippi School of Journalism & New Media.

Bluesky is a relatively small but fast-growing network built around principles of decentral-

ization and user control. Larger platforms—such as Meta’s Facebook and Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter)—have not taken similar steps, even though they too are subject to the same state law.

“This contrast underscores the precarious position of smaller technology companies when confronted with sweeping regulatory mandates: they may lack the technological or legal resources and infrastructure to adapt without undermining their core values or exposing users to risks,” said Herman.

In its statement on Friday announcing the action, Bluesky noted that complying with Mississippi’s HB1126 would mean building verification and compliance infrastructure beyond the resources of the social media platform’s small team, “which

is focused on developing safety tools and features for our global community, particularly given the law’s broad scope and privacy implications.”[[https://bsky.social/about/blog/08-22-2025-mississippi-hb1126]]

The law includes potential penalties for noncompliance of up to \$10,000 per user. [[https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/HB1126/2024]]

The implications for free speech and access to information cannot be overlooked, according to the Jordan Center.

“For decades, the United States has criticized governments that restrict or fragment the open flow of information online. In countries such as China, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, geo-blocking—whether imposed directly by governments or implemented by companies under

state pressure—prevents access to platforms that facilitate open conversation. To see this happening at home, even if driven by legal and technical constraints rather than overt censorship, raises troubling questions about the trajectory of digital rights in this country.”

HB 1126, known as the “Walker Montgomery Protecting Children Online Act,” was prompted by the suicide in 2022 of 16-year-old Walker Montgomery of Starkville, Mississippi, after an online predator attempted to blackmail him with the threat to release a sexually explicit video of him. An FBI investigation revealed that those preying on the teen were overseas and other instances of predatory activity on minors in Mississippi were also reported.

Earlier this month, the U.S.

Supreme Court declined to not to weigh in on the numerous state-level age verification laws being reviewed across the country.

The Mississippi law, approved with good intentions, unfortunately could be the catalyst for other legislatures to pass regulations that could carve the American internet into a patchwork of uneven access and protections, disproportionately harm communities in already underserved areas, including rural counties that are often “news deserts,” where social media platforms help fill critical gaps in the local information ecosystem.

“Laws that inadvertently encourage companies to restrict access do little to advance the public interest and may, in fact, erode democratic participation,” said Herman.

The Jordan Center urges poli-

cymakers, technology leaders and civil society to work together on solutions that strike a better balance between safety and openness. Mississippi residents deserve the same access to platforms of civic conversation as their fellow citizens in every other state.

Contact: Steven L Herman, exec. director, Jordan Center for Journalism Advocacy & Innovation +1-213-445-0472 stevenh@olemiss.edu

The Jordan Center for Journalism Advocacy and Innovation is located at the University of Mississippi’s School of Journalism and New Media. The views of the Jordan Center do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Mississippi or the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

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Trump Threatens to cut money for Baltimore bridge collapse allocated under President Biden

By Lauren Burke
NNPA

On March 26, 2024, a container ship the size of three football fields named Dali struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The bridge collapsed into the Patapsco River in Baltimore. The catastrophe shutdown thirteen percent of Maryland's economy, according to officials, six people were killed. The cost to replace the bridge is close to two billion dollars. Maryland Governor Wes Moore called the event a "global crisis" that impacted 8,000 jobs. But over the last week, the collapse conversation gained traction because of the latest political football tossed into play by President Donald Trump, who has traded barbs with Gov. Moore on social media.

August 25, President Trump said, "I gave Wes Moore a lot of money to fix his demolished bridge. I will now have to rethink that decision," even though the money to fix Key Bridge was allocated under President Biden. Trump's re-



marks came after a running series of replies from Trump and Moore, and the Maryland Governor picks up the pace of an aggressive social media strategy that put Trump on defense — much like what California

Governor Gavin Newsom has been doing after Texas's racial congressional redistricting round threatens the seats of five Democrats, all at the request of Trump. "There is nothing that has Donald Trump's signature

that has anything to do with the Key Bridge," Gov. Moore said during an interview on Roland Martin Unfiltered August 25.

Moore asserted that more than 8,000 jobs were impacted by the Key Bridge collapse,

and the economic impact is \$15 million per day. Officials in Maryland proclaimed the Key Bridge would be rebuilt by 2028. "When they told us it would take 11 months to clear the channel, we did it in 11

weeks. We did it by putting on a case study of showing what it looks like to work together in a time of crisis. We received a 100 percent cost share between the federal government and the state of Maryland that was passed by both Republicans and Democrats in Congress and signed by the former President, Joe Biden. There is no money that Donald Trump 'gave us,'" Moore said emphatically.

Whether Trump can interfere with the project is unknown, but it is unlikely. Trump is now on the brink of sending the National Guard into the city of Chicago — a move that Illinois Governor and Chicago's Mayor are pushing hard against, after sending the National Guard in to "police" Washington, DC. Trump has been fully focused on targeting Black elected officials around the nation, including DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and Gov. Moore in Maryland.

Trump's threat to deploy troops to Chicago sparks fear and defiance in a city on edge

Residents, leaders and anti-violence advocates say federal troops would undo years of progress as crime in Chicago hits historic lows

The Associated Press

President Donald Trump's threats to deploy National Guard troops to Chicago sent ripples through America's third-largest city as many residents defended their home against Trump's escalating rhetoric toward its violent crime, including claims it is a "killing field."

The threat of federal troops stirred a mix of fear, frustration and defiance for residents as they pointed to historic drops in violent crime. Groups constantly pressing for police reform said sending troops who lack training in de-escalating violence or any knowledge about the nuances of neighborhoods still grappling with violent crime would undo progress made in recent years.

The sentiment was echoed by people going about their day — commuters heading to work, cyclists weaving through traffic, and friends pausing to take photos along Michigan Avenue — who said the presence of troops would only heighten tensions, not ease them.

"It's a direct affront to the progress our communities have made," said Bradley Johnson, who leads BUILD Chicago. The anti-violence organization focuses its efforts on neighborhoods on the city's West Side that have seen persistent crime, even as rates overall have fallen.

"It's not a war zone," Johnson said. "They're vibrant resilient communities where young people deserve opportunities and not intimidation."

Trump has focused on Chi-



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson speaks during a news conference at River Point Park, Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, in Chicago. AP PHOTO/NAM Y. HUH

cago

On Tuesday, Trump called Chicago a "hell hole" and repeated that Chicagoans are asking "Trump to come in" to reduce crime in the city. The statements echoed comments earlier this month when Trump indicated Chicago may be next for a federal crackdown, claiming Chicago is "a mess" and residents are "screaming for us to come."

Trump has long singled out Chicago, making it a recurring theme on the campaign trail in both 2016 and 2024. He has drawn controversial comparisons between the city and war zones like Afghanistan, and in 2017, he vowed to "send in the feds" in response to gun violence.

But data paints a more nuanced picture of crime — one that varies dramatically block

by block and that has seen recent progress.

Violent crime in Chicago dropped significantly in the first half of the year, representing the steepest decline in over a decade, according to city data. Shootings are down 37%, and homicides have dropped by 32%, while total violence crime dropped by over 22%.

"The empirical data is very clear that the Chicago trend is extremely positive," said John Roman, who directs the Center on Public Safety and Justice at the University of Chicago. "... Chicago is doing better than the rest of the country on a lot of really important measures."

Still, the city's most ardent defenders acknowledge gun violence still plagues parts of the city in recent years, particularly in warmer months. Chicago saw about 570 homi-

cides in 2024, according to city data. Shooting lethality — the rate at which shooting victims die from being shot — has increased in recent years, as has the number of high-capacity magazines recovered by Chicago police at shooting scenes, according to the University of Chicago Crime Lab.

Crime in Chicago represents persistent, localized challenges, said Kimberley Smith, director of national programs for the University of Chicago Crime Lab. The neighborhoods with the highest homicide rates experience about 68 times more homicides than those with the lowest rates.

Rene Cardona, a maintenance worker born and raised in Chicago, acknowledged these inequities in exposure to violent crime while maintaining that he feels safe in Chicago

generally.

"It depends where you're at and what time it is," he said. "Overall, Chicago's a pretty good place to live ... There's more good people than bad people here."

Crime has fallen in Chicago through groups' efforts

Smith attributes much of the drops in violent crime to a focus in Chicago on the systemic drivers of violence, rather than the militaristic approach Trump has touted in Washington, D.C. She encouraged more federal investment in researching these types of violence-prevention strategies, calling Chicago "a hub for innovation in gun violence prevention."

Jahmal Cole, founder of the community organization My Block, My Hood, My City, said Trump's comments "erase this work being done on the ground by local leaders, community organizations and residents themselves" to combat gun violence.

"As for Trump's remarks, it's worth remembering that rhetoric alone doesn't improve public safety," he said. "We need smart, community-focused investments, not sensationalism."

As a show of unity against the move, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a potential 2028 presidential contender, convened roughly 100 elected officials, pastors, business leaders and activists at a splashy news conference against the backdrop of gleaming skyscrapers along the Chicago River. The attendees Monday ranged from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, to the Rev. Michael

Pfleger, a well-known Catholic priest in the city.

"Take the wasted money in sending the National Guard and the wasted money used on threatening commercials by your Homeland Security secretary and use it on real violence and prevention programs that will bring peace," Pfleger said.

Residents reject Trump's statements

Art Jarrett, a business owner just south of downtown, also pointed to Trump's business presence in the city, saying: "He can't think it's that big a killing field; he wouldn't have built a building here."

"He's full of crap," said Jarrett, who has felt safe in the 57 years he has lived in Chicago.

Pastor Donovan Price, a local advocate for gun crime victims, said Trump "unequivocally does not know what they're talking about" when it comes to crime in Chicago. He said federal troops threaten to undo progress toward reducing crime.

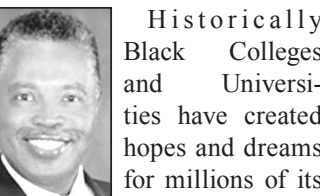
"When things are finally starting to turn around, you have someone come up with something totally unnecessary that could perhaps change the tide," he said. "He's trying to strike the hope out of the hearts of good people in our city."

Sydney Aldrich, 26, said deploying federal troops isn't the answer and hoped to challenge the harsh narrative of violence that so often defines her city in the news.

"We have a lot of community members around town that are supportive of one another, and we watch out for each other," she said.

The HBCU Living Legends Gala honored the past and celebrated the future

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



Historically Black Colleges and Universities have created hopes and dreams for millions of its graduates. These academic chambers of knowledge are proud beacons of light going through, at times, uncharted waters. The popularity of HBCUs is at an all-time high. Enrollments continue to trend upwards for them. Publicity about their achievements continues to make national headlines. It has given our institutions the notoriety that they so richly deserve. Programs and events affirm that HBCUs have a glorious and wonderful history. Their

futures in shaping tomorrow's leaders are strong and resilient. Most of us know someone with an HBCU connection. We talk about them with pride. All of us have stories about our back-in-the-day college experiences. Whether they were about a teacher or maybe a classmate, we remember them fondly. Saturday, August 16th, The HBCU Living Legends Scholarship Gala 2025 was held at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem North Carolina. It was a celebration that honored alumni from North Carolina's eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Three alumni were selected from each school. A companion goal was to provide scholarships to students attending those institutions. They

were all academically talented students with lofty ambitions and stellar credentials. The atmosphere was filled with joy and thanksgiving. Those in attendance came in with a shared purpose of recognizing the importance of the Tar Heel state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. A video greeting by Josh Stein, the 76th Governor of North Carolina underscored the value of HBCUs within the higher education system in the state. Whenever longstanding and successful programs have occurred, there are always visionaries behind them. Their will and wisdom serve as building blocks. William Hairston was the driving force behind the HBCU Living Legends initiative. Hairston is a noted entrepreneur and

civic leader in Winston-Salem NC. He and a group of volunteers wanted to showcase and celebrate the legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities by honoring selected alumni as living legends. Their organization's statement further says, "Some Living Legends are nationally known, and others are phenomenal people who are authentic achievers at the local and state levels in industries, professional genres and importantly, community service." Hairston said, "Our committee identifies HBCU alums who have excelled at high levels. All these men and women are truly servant leaders." Scholarship dollars are also an important part of this organization's founding. As a result,

high achieving students receive monies that will help them in their educational journey. The creators and volunteers of the HBCU Living Legends Scholarship Gala 2025 are to be commended and congratulated for understanding the importance of education in the African American community. The guest speaker for this grand occasion was Garry L. McFadden, the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County (NC). He is the first African American to hold this post. His message was impactful as he talked about his background and the difference an HBCU made in his life. He is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte NC. The HBCU Living Legends Gala has garnered the attention of education and corporate leaders in many parts of the coun-

try. Sponsors have continued to provide support for this event. Many of the students have received job offers and internships because of them. Vanessa Hairston, one of the early visionaries and the wife of William Hairston said, "We have been fortunate to receive sustainable support over the years since the inception of this event. Companies see our HBCU graduates as leaders in their respective fields." Congratulations and kudos to all the honorees and scholarship recipients. Their competence, compassion and unwavering commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities are lauded and to be applauded. Being an HBCU ambassador is a role they have embraced, and they are sharing their excitement with the world.

Redistricting, The Black Press and the Black vote

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



By now, we all are aware that the President of the United States is leaving no stone unturned in his effort to hold onto power by attempting to increase Republican seats in the House of Representatives in the coming Midterm elections. While historically, Congressional Districts are redrawn after the 10-year census, mandated by the Constitution, we have just seen the Republicans in Texas redraw their districts in an effort to create five additional seats in the House of Representatives. At present they hold control by less than five seats. The process of drawing boundaries so as to limit the voting strength of

some i.e., Blacks and Browns, while increasing the voting power of what would otherwise be a smaller number of Republicans. This is called gerrymandering. In response to this effort, the State of California, which has a Congressional Delegation of 52 with 12 Republicans, has, by special order of the Governor and the legislature, moved to redistrict California so as to convert as many as possible of those Republican seats to Democratic, thereby neutralizing the Texas effort to keep control of the House. The Republicans are attempting to identify other states in which to repeat this effort. If this is to be one of our first steps in stopping Trump, then every voter needs to be not only informed but also prepared to vote against this effort to change our representation in the House of Representatives. It is the Black Press and not social media that will keep our communi-

ties informed on this effort that seeks to set us back to pre-Voting Rights Act. The idea is to undo our social and economic gains. This is a continuation of what he is doing in every area of government. His cuts to healthcare and the dismantling of social services are but a small example of what he has in mind for those who are not among his supporters. As the Black Press leads the charge to keep us informed, we must act on the information provided by our papers. We must energize those among us who think voting is unnecessary. We must do our part to stop every plan he brings that violates our constitutional rights. Redistricting must become one of our chief weapons against Trump as we seek to make sure that no one he supports gets elected. Let's not sit this one out and find ourselves put out.

Sweet Tea

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



One of the most delightful staples of the deep south is sweet tea. Southerners love their sweet tea; some have it at breakfast, lunch, dinner and sometimes they have it for all three meals plus some. My greatest memory about sweet tea is centered around my grandparents who were married over fifty years – my mother's parents. My grandmother, who we passionately referred to as, "Granny," brewed sweet tea every day in the deep rural - country of Union Church, MS for she and her husband. She put her heart and soul in every ounce of making the tea – she had the perfect glasses with the curvy designs, and she didn't have a fancy ice maker as many do today. But she had the perfect ice tray produced ice cubes and sliced lemons that made her tea perfect. Granny always had a glass pitcher of sweet tea prepared for their evening porch dates. My grandparents would gather on their front porch every evening to relax and rest from a day of granddaddy working on his farm and his city job and granny would take a brief break from her housemaker duties like washing, hanging clothes on the lines, cleaning, shelling peas, cooking, etc. My granddaddy sat in his rocking chair with one leg swinging on one of the arms and my grandmother would ease back in her rocking chair – rocking away as if she had no worries or concerns. The sounds of pouring tea, shaking glasses of iced sweet tea, sipping tea, the creaking of the rocking chairs, colorful conversations, flirting, and laughter filled their home with joy. This past weekend, my mother and I took our teen almost adult daughter thrift shopping – I am quite surprised that she and her friends loves thrift shopping. In fact, they often plan thrift shopping adventures as if they are going to a concert, the skating rink, or mall. Nonetheless, she shopped and thrifted this past weekend until she dropped. She was so amused about her new fashion attire... smiling from ear to ear and I was too because she spent her own earned money from doing hair (braids). After her big shopping day, we went to McAlister's and ordered their famous sweet tea – it was perfect. My husband was grilling so my mother saved her sweet tea for dinner at our home.

We arrived home and eventually my husband completed his grilling and cooking– let me tell you, well type – I have not had good barbeque like that in a while. We had ribs, sausage links, grilled corn on the cob, baked beans, and potato salad – Chef Moe-R-Dee did his thing well. My mother eventually retrieved her sweet tea from our fridge, and it was the perfect beverage to accompany this meal. My husband saw it and immediately expressed that he wanted one too. When my husband and I renewed our vows several years ago – I made a promise in my vows that I would give my husband sweet tea and unsweet tea. In other words, I told him that I would not be perfect in our new beginning – there would be days that I bring sweetness to his life and other times – I would be unsweet, but I would try to pour more sweet tea than unsweetened tea in our marriage. So far, I have fulfilled my promises. I took my mother home, and she encouraged me to pick up my husband and get him a sweet tea. I called my husband and told him to ride with me because I wanted to get him a McAlister's sweet tea. I literally fulfilled my vows. In conclusion, I know many health fanatics have frowned upon my reflections of sweet tea because of your green tea consumption, juicing efforts, etc. However, please let me clarify – we do not consume sweet tea often and thank God we mostly try to adhere to a Mediterranean Diet. But, buying my husband a \$3 to \$4 cup of sweet tea made his day, his weekend. Look, it doesn't take much to make your spouse happy – the small stuff matters too. Your spouse thing may not be sweet tea – maybe it's carrots, grilled asparagus and green tea or cupcakes, Cheesecake, body massage, buying flowers, washing and cleaning their vehicle, etc. whatever it is – do it especially if you both are trying to have a healthy and happy marriage. Like my grandparents, my husband and I enjoyed our sweet tea and rocking too if you know what I mean.

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: letstay-together4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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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 from alternative 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

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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 for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

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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/l/meetup-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-8dd6-4c8b69bbf1de%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 for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

8/21/2025, 8/28/2025

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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/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDRiN2M0ODQiNmY5MS00MWM1LWE4NDQ0TFIzZDZkOWIzZDdl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0d7dadf-39df-4e2c-8ff6-f5256d542f94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2286627f22-2fef-4b6f-8dd6-4c8b69bbf1de%22%7d

Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us 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.

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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

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LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on September 9, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Proposals will be received for lease purchase interest rate financing for the purchase of, public safety vehicles.

Please submit two (2) copies of sealed proposals, marked; "RFP#94654-090925 Lease Purchase Financing Interest Rate Proposal." Proposals should be mailed to the following address prior to or on September 9, 2025.

City of Jackson, Mississippi
Attention: Municipal Clerk Department
219 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov, and can be obtained by contacting the City of Jackson, Mississippi as follows: Department of Administration

Attention: Courtney Bell
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 960-2005

8/28/2025, 9/4/2025

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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, 8/28/2025

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Advertisement

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is soliciting proposals from qualified proposers for the purpose of selecting a Service Provider with which to negotiate a contract for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services for the City of Jackson (as described in the RFP). Through this Request for Proposals, the City will select the disposal facility and method of disposal to ensure disposal capacity in accordance with the provisions of Mississippi law, particularly, the Solid Wastes Disposal Law of 1972, Section 17-17-1 et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

Proposals will be received by the City of Jackson at the office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, until 3:00 P.M. Local Time, September 30, 2025.

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 conducting business with the City.

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package: "Proposal for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services. Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by no later than 3:00 p.m. Local Time, on September 30, 2025. Interested firms may obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals at no charge from the City's Website at <http://www.jacksonms.gov/bids> or from:

Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
City of Jackson
Department of Public Works
Warren Hood Building
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
lweathers@jacksonms.gov

You may also obtain a copy of the RFP and submit your proposals electronically through Central Bidding.

For electronic submissions, proposals may be submitted through Central Bidding: <https://www.centralauctionhouse.com>. Electronic submissions shall be the complete original (non-redacted) version of the proposal including all attachments in a searchable format, preferably in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF®), and labeled accordingly.

Selection of a Service Provider for contract/agreement negotiations will be based on an objective evaluation of the following criteria:

Service Provider's innovative approach to encourage and maintain a sustainable solid waste system (10%)

Service Provider's experience, qualifications and references, including compliance history and ability to fulfill legal responsibilities in providing the services (25%)

Expertise of key personnel to be assigned to the contract (10%)

Service Provider's financial responsibility and capability to provide the requested services (20%)

Cost proposal (35%)

Following the evaluation of the proposals, the City's Evaluation Team may request the top-ranking firms(s) to make an oral presentation and/or be interviewed. If a determination is made that presentations are necessary, the requested Service Providers will be contacted to arrange a mutually acceptable date and time that will be promulgated by the Contract Administrator.

The City reserves the right to reject all proposals without awarding a contract.

8/28/2025, 9/4/2025

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: 1201ROSE 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 ALUMINIMUM CLAD WINDOWS.

F. CASE NO. HPNC-25-34
LOCATION: 1214 LYNCREST AVE (PARCEL (17-49)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: CHRISTOPHER GARNESS
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

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LEGAL

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.

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 maybe 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, upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at 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

Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
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Terry Road
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DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

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P R E S E R V E D

FaithBit: Measuring your Faith

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



One of my favorite recent Christmas gifts is a FitBit tracker. Like so many others, my goal in using the FitBit was to track my daily steps, improve my health and possibly lose weight. What I didn't realize until I began using it was that it tracked more than just how many steps I took each day. Once I downloaded and opened up the application on my smartphone, I was amazed at how many other things it tracked including how many miles each day I walked, how the number of steps I took translated into calories burned as well as how many minutes I was active each day.

Since I've never been a

very physically active person, the information is especially helpful and keeps me focused on my health goals. Even more exciting for me is that when I reach my daily step goal, I earn badges that show up on my FitBit dashboard. One thing I realized by wearing the FitBit is that I actually take more steps every day than I thought. And by knowing how many steps I take, it encourages me to take even more steps every day.

After feeling the vibration on my wrist when I reached my daily step goal one day, I thought about how cool it would be if there were a device that could track our daily steps of faith. Like the FitBit activity tracker, it could help us see how these daily steps of faith impact the other areas of our lives. For example, we could make goals for daily steps of faith and when we

meet those goals, our FaithBit would let us know in some tangible way (text message, wrist vibration etc). Having these reminders would help us see that we actually take more steps of faith every day than we realize. Perhaps by knowing how many steps we take (big and

small), we'd be encouraged to take even bigger steps of faith and see that the more steps of faith we take, the stronger our faith becomes.

Just like the seemingly small steps we take every day physically have potentially large impacts on our overall health, the similarly small steps of faith we take every day can also potentially have large impacts on our spiritual health. These steps of faith impact our spiritual maturity, spiritual growth, as well as the depth of our spirituality. One daily step of faith might

be as simple as being consistent in our time of prayer and devotion.

Matthew 17:20 says "... Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." This scripture reminds us that it is important to take steps of faith no matter how big or small. It's not the size of the step that you take, it's that you take a step of faith and continue walking in your faith journey.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda

American Baptist College announces Derrick Jackson as the school's 11th president



Jackson

American Baptist College News

Derrick Jackson has been appointed by the American Baptist College Board of Trustees as the school's 11th president. The announcement was made to the College's faculty and staff by Board Chair Dennie Marshall and is effective immediately.

According to Marshall, the board quickly recognized that Jackson, who had served as interim president since July 1, was the right person to assume the presidency on a permanent basis.

"Derrick Jackson's background as a business leader, pastor, and educator make him an ideal fit for ABC," said Marshall. "The next president needs to be focused on increasing enrollment, raising funds, engaging alumni, and strengthening ABC's relationship with the National Baptist Convention USA. President Jackson is in a unique position to make all of those things happen."

Jackson is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Gallatin, Tenn., where he has served for 24 years. He is also accomplished in various business and entrepreneurial endeavors, serving as executive director of the Sunday School Publishing Board and co-owner of several other ventures. He holds a Bach-

elor of Business Administration degree from Prairie View A&M University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Keller Graduate School of Management, as well as a Master of Theological Studies degree from Vanderbilt University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lipscomb University.

"I am grateful," Jackson told Marshall and the board. He then said to ABC's faculty and staff, "There are a lot of good things we can do together. I'm thankful for the work of our former president, Forrest Harris, and look forward to continuing the momentum around the energy and synergy already in place. I'm looking forward to continuing what we've started together."

Jackson added, "Nashville needs ABC, and so does the country and the world."

Marshall said there were 26 qualified candidates who applied for the presidency through a nationwide search and noted how that speaks highly of ABC's stature. In the end, the decision to appoint Jackson is one the board felt confident in.

"The Board of Trustees is excited," he said. "We're ready to get alumni and other supporters involved in raising friends and funds, and we know we're on the right track."



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How our bodies feel the world

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

We often take all of our senses for granted. Our sense of touch is no exception. Unlike sight or hearing, which we consciously rely on to navigate the world, touch operates quietly in the background until it's gone or disrupted. Yet touch is arguably the most intimate and emotionally resonant of all our senses. It's the first to develop in the womb and the last to fade in our old age. It connects us to others, grounds us in our bodies and alerts us to danger. In a world increasingly mediated by screens and distance, rediscovering the power of touch is not just a biological imperative it's a cultural and emotional one.

Touch begins with the skin, our largest organ, covering about 20 square feet and weighing roughly 6 pounds. But the magic happens beneath the surface.

Key Players in the Touch System:

Mechanoreceptors: Specialized nerve endings in the skin that detect pressure, vibration and texture.

Thermoreceptors: Sense changes in temperature.

Nociceptors: Detect pain and potential harm.

Proprioceptors: Located in muscles and joints, they help us sense body position and movement.

These receptors send signals through peripheral nerves to the spinal cord and up to the brain, particularly the somatosensory cortex, which maps sensations across the body. The brain interprets these signals to help us distinguish between a gentle caress and a sharp jab, between warm sunlight and a scalding stove.

In Infancy:

Skin-to-skin contact between parent and child regulates heart rate, temperature



and stress hormones.

Gentle stroking can stimulate growth in premature babies.

Touch fosters secure attachment, laying the foundation for emotional resilience.

Touch is not just soothing it's essential. Studies show that infants deprived of physical contact can suffer from developmental delays, weakened immune systems and emotional difficulties later in life.

Emotional touch is like "Social Glue". Touch is a powerful communicator. A pat on the back, a hug or a handshake are gestures that convey trust, empathy and connection without a single word.

Social and Emotional Benefits:

Oxytocin release: Known as the "love hormone," oxytocin surges during affectionate touch, reducing stress and promoting bonding.

Lower cortisol levels: Touch can decrease the stress hormone cortisol, improving

mood and immune function.

Pain relief: Gentle touch can activate pathways that inhibit pain signals, offering natural relief.

In caregiving settings, especially among older adults, touch can combat loneliness and foster dignity. A simple hand-hold can speak volumes when words fail.

What Affects Our Sense of Touch?

Biological Factors

1. Aging
Thinning skin and reduced elasticity can dull tactile sensitivity.

Loss of nerve endings and slower nerve conduction affect how quickly and accurately touch is perceived.

Reduced circulation may impair temperature and pain detection.

2. Neurological Conditions

Peripheral neuropathy (often caused by diabetes, chemotherapy or alcohol abuse) leads to numbness, tingling, or burning sensations.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease can disrupt sensory pathways.

Stroke may impair touch perception on one side of the body.

3. Injuries

Burns, cuts or nerve damage can alter or eliminate sensation in affected areas.

Spinal cord injuries may block signals between the body and brain.

4. Skin Conditions

Eczema, psoriasis or dermatitis can cause hypersensitivity or discomfort.

Scarring may reduce tactile feedback in healed areas.

Environmental Factors

1. Temperature
Cold environments can numb nerve endings, reducing sensitivity.

Heat can cause swelling or inflammation, altering tactile perception.

2. Humidity and Dryness

Dry skin may crack or flake, leading to discomfort or reduced sensation.

High humidity can make

skin more sensitive or prone to irritation.

3. Protective Barriers

Wearing gloves, bandages or prosthetics can dull tactile input.

Calluses from manual labor or athletic activity may reduce sensitivity.

Psychological and Emotional Factors

1. Stress and Anxiety

High stress levels can heighten sensitivity to touch or make it feel unpleasant.

Chronic anxiety may lead to somatic symptoms, including tingling or numbness.

2. Depression

May reduce interest in physical contact and alter perception of touch.

Some individuals report feeling emotionally "numb," which can extend to physical sensation.

3. Trauma and PTSD

Past experiences, especially involving unwanted touch, can lead to touch aversion or hypersensitivity.

The brain may interpret neutral touch as threatening, triggering defensive responses.

Medications and Substances

1. Chemotherapy

Often causes peripheral neuropathy, affecting hands and feet.

Can lead to long-term changes in touch sensitivity.

2. Alcohol and Drug Use

Chronic use may damage nerves and impair tactile perception.

Withdrawal symptoms can include heightened sensitivity or discomfort.

3. Certain Medications

Antidepressants, anticonvulsants and blood pressure drugs may alter nerve function.

Topical treatments (like lidocaine) can temporarily numb areas of skin.

Lifestyle and Habits

1. Physical Activity

Regular movement enhances

proprioception and body awareness.

Sedentary lifestyles may dull tactile feedback due to reduced circulation and nerve stimulation.

2. Nutrition

Deficiencies in vitamin B12, vitamin E or omega-3 fatty acids can impair nerve health.

Hydration affects skin elasticity and sensitivity.

3. Sleep

Poor sleep can reduce sensory processing efficiency.

Fatigue may heighten pain sensitivity or dull tactile awareness.

Social and Cultural Influences

1. Touch Norms

Cultural attitudes toward touch can shape how often and how comfortably people engage in physical contact.

Individuals raised in low-touch environments may have less tactile familiarity.

2. Isolation

Lack of regular physical contact may lead to touch deprivation, affecting emotional and physical well-being.

Older adults and those living alone are especially vulnerable.

Touch is not a luxury it's a necessity. It's how we learn, connect, heal and thrive. In every stage of life, from infancy to old age, touch anchors us to ourselves and to each other.

As we navigate an increasingly virtual world, let's not forget the power of a hand on a shoulder, a warm embrace or the simple act of holding space literally and figuratively for one another. Feeling for a lump or swelling. Noticing temperature changes that signal fever or infection. Detecting texture changes in skin that may indicate dehydration or disease. Touch keeps us attuned to our bodies. It's a feedback loop that promotes self-awareness and early intervention. Don't take your sense of touch for granted.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Metro area moms gathered at the Jackson Medical Mall on August 16 for the Baby & Beyond: A Mommy-to-Be Resource Fair. Hosted by the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, the event provided resources and support to help families prepare for the arrival of their little ones.

The free resource fair featured interactive sessions on breastfeeding, infant CPR, car seat installation, and prenatal yoga. In addition to educational sessions, participants received free diapers, various baby essentials, and door prizes. For more information about the Institute's maternal and child health programs, visit www.minority-institute.org.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.



Isaura Camacho of Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (MIRA) demonstrated how to install infant car seats properly.



Expectant mom Brittany Foster talks to Latasha Rice, Maternal & Child Health Program Manager.

Jackson Violence Prevention Office hits reset with same vision, former director

By Molly Minta
Mississippi Today

Sharon Brown planned to release balloons in neighborhoods where Jacksonians had lost their lives to gun violence after she was hired to lead the city’s fledgling Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery in early June.

Her goal was to show these communities that someone cares enough to meet them where they are. But she never got that far.

Instead, the longtime community activist said she found herself swamped by the demands of the city’s bureaucracy, such as figuring out how to submit a purchase order for pens or reminding the police department to send her the names of relatives of the recently deceased, so she could bring them candles, flowers and a pamphlet with resources.

What Brown did manage to accomplish in her month leading the office — cleaning a city-owned building that will be the site of a youth engagement center downtown — was through sheer will.

“Their process impedes progress,” Brown said of the city.

Acknowledging this reality, Brown was nonplussed when Mayor John Horhn let her go, along with other hires made by the outgoing administration under Chokwe Antar Lumumba, days after Horhn took office July 1.

“I came in doing the work, and I’m going to leave doing the work,” she said.

Jackson officials say the office will continue working to decrease violence in Jackson through non-police interven-



Keisha Coleman, the director of the city of Jackson’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, speaks about working with Jackson State University and other organizations across the metro area to reduce gun violence during a press conference at City Hall on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. Credit: Molly Minta/Mississippi Today

tions under a new name, the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. It will once again be led by Keisha Coleman, a trauma therapist who was allegedly fired in the midst of the city’s peace initiative by Lumumba’s chief of staff for speaking with Horhn at a campaign rally earlier this year.

“We’re aligning with the current mayor John Horhn’s vision, but the mission is the same,” Coleman said, “and that is to create programming and support programming that is already happening in the community to reduce the likelihood of gun violence.”

This restart comes as Jackson has recently experienced a spate of shootings that Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade said are driven by gangs of young men.

One of her first efforts back at the helm, Coleman is working with Jackson State University

and other organizations in the city to host a gala this Friday in partnership with a student club, JSU Votes’ Girls Against Gun Violence.

“If you know someone or if you have someone related to you who you know needs some type of help, come out,” JSU professor Jacobi Grant, who is working with the club, said at a press conference at City Hall on Monday.

The gala will be followed by a brunch Sunday at the Two Mississippi Museums to discuss violence in Jackson’s Black communities.

“Gun violence remains one of our most urgent issues facing families and young people,” Horhn said at the press conference.

Lumumba launched the office in 2023 with \$700,000 in grant funding from the National League of Cities, a nonprofit organization, to tackle the root

causes of violence in Jackson such as poverty and trauma.

But that grant funding will end in September, so Coleman said she is working on more grant applications and a request for a little over \$500,000 from the City Council. Coleman said she hopes to use those funds to host classes focused on parenting and job readiness. She also wants to create a “community consortium” to get input from neighborhood associations, faith leaders, mental health professionals and youth in the city.

“The message that we want to send is there is a seat at the table for every member of the community,” she said.

Coleman said the council allocated \$202,000 last year to renovate the defunct Mary C. Jones center to house youth engagement programming, but that she was unable to spend the funds. She hopes to regain ac-



Sharon Brown, of the Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition, address protesters during a rally concerning the inhumane and violent conditions at Parchman Prison Friday Jan. 24, 2020. Credit: Eric J. Shelton/Mississippi Today, Report For America

cess to that money. Her goal is to get the center up and running by next year — a timeline that she said makes the city’s building maintenance skeptical.

“I’m being optimistic saying we’re gonna be in there mid-fall, but when I say that the people doing renovations kind of give me a side eye,” Coleman said.

When Brown led the office, she experienced similar frustrations with the delay in reopening Mary C. Jones, because she had a hard time finding a company to bid on the project.

So she bought her own buckets and mops and rallied volunteers, including youth who were being mentored by Strong Arms of Mississippi, a credible messenger organization which received a grant from the office under Coleman.

To Brown, the crisis of violence in Jackson is too urgent to wait for government processes

such as requests for proposals or official death notifications.

“If we’re talking about changing the trajectory of violence, people need to know that people really care,” she said. “The conditions have always been the same. We have always been in poverty, but what has changed is people don’t feel connected and loved anymore.”

Since leaving the city, Brown has been working on renovating several homes in her neighborhood, “The Bottom,” to create unofficial respites. She’s linked up with the People’s Advocacy Institute — the nonprofit group founded by Lumumba’s sister, Rukia Lumumba — to start a new organization that aims to tackle violence not just in Jackson, but statewide.

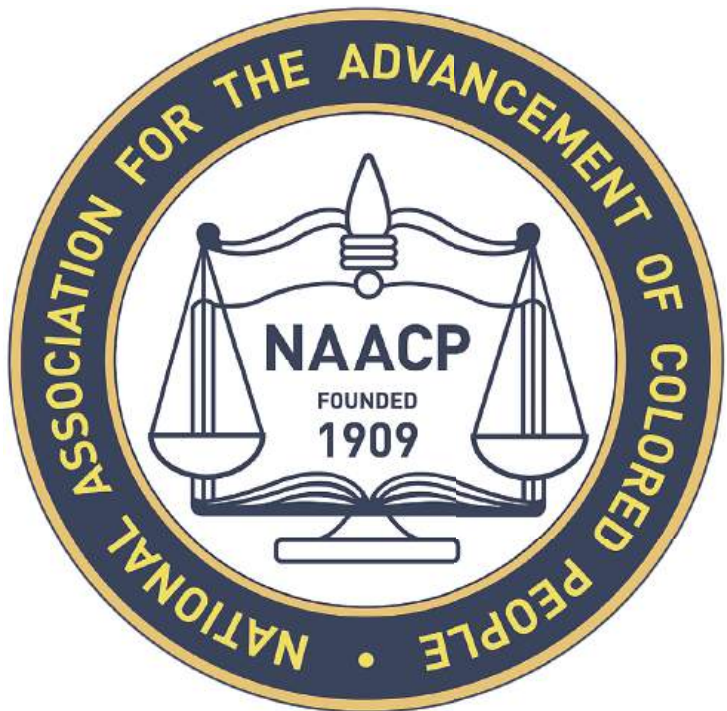
She’s calling it the Mississippi Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery.

Resistance is on the rise during the Jackson NAACP’s Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson City Branch NAACP will host its 97th Annual Freedom Fund Awards & Scholarship Banquet Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the historic M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge, 1072 J.R. Lynch Street, Jackson, MS. This year’s theme, “Resistance on the Rise,” is a call to celebrate the power of resilience, courage, and justice.

“Resistance is not just about saying no—it’s about building a future where justice, equity, and opportunity are real for every family in Jackson. This year’s Freedom Fund Banquet is both a celebration and a call to action. As we honor the legacy of Medgar Evers and lift up leaders who embody resilience, we recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight for civil rights in our city and across Mississippi,” said Nsombi Lambright-



Haynes, President, Jackson City Branch NAACP.

In place of a keynote speak-

er, the banquet will highlight a celebration of arts and activism. The evening will feature

performances by the Jim Hill High School Choir and Montage Theatre of Dance, uplifting the voices of local artists whose work embodies the spirit of change.

The event will also honor community leaders and organizations making a lasting impact:

- Dr. Corinne Anderson – Ineva May Pittman Award. This award, named in honor of the late Mrs. Ineva May Pittman—a trailblazer whose leadership helped shape the soul of Jackson—recognizes an individual who leads with compassion, courage, and conviction. Your tireless advocacy, servant leadership, and steadfast commitment to justice embody the very spirit of Mrs. Pittman’s legacy.
- Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc. — John Dixon Community Service Award. This

award, named for civic leader John Dixon, honors organizations with a longstanding commitment to civic engagement, education, and social justice. Through your tireless dedication to advancing the rights and opportunities of women, families, and communities across Mississippi, you exemplify the enduring legacy of John Dixon’s vision and service.

- Bonita Mosley – Delores Orey Lifetime Service Award. This award honors the legacy of Delores Orey, a fearless servant of the movement who dedicated her life to grassroots activism, mentorship, and resilience. Your lifetime of leadership, sacrifice, and advocacy reflects her spirit and stands as a beacon for generations to come.

This year’s gathering also carries historic significance as it marks the 100th birthday of

Medgar Wiley Evers, Mississippi’s civil rights martyr and icon, whose legacy continues to guide the struggle for justice.

Proceeds from the banquet will support scholarships for local students and sustain the Jackson Branch NAACP’s ongoing advocacy for racial justice, voting rights, and economic equity.

Tickets, tables, and sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, please contact jacksoncitynaacp@gmail.com or (601) 566-4300.

The Jackson Branch of the NAACP has been at the forefront of the struggle for civil rights, justice, and equality in Mississippi. Through advocacy, community engagement, and youth development, the Branch continues to build on its legacy of resistance and resilience.



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The Mississippi Link Newswire

At Jackson Public Schools, our scholars are at the heart of everything we do. Scholar Appreciation Week, September 8 - 12, 2025, is a time to celebrate their curiosity, dedication, and achievements, and to recognize the bright future they are building for themselves and our community.

We encourage all staff, parents, and community members to show appreciation in meaningful ways:

At schools: Share words of encouragement, celebrate successes in the classroom, or

recognize a scholar for demonstrating our core values of Excellence, Equity, Growth Mindset, and Relationships and Relevance.

On social media: Share photos, videos, or shoutouts celebrating the amazing work of our scholars and tag #JPSScholars to spread positivity throughout the district.

Every small act of recognition helps our scholars feel valued and motivates them to reach higher. Let's come together to honor the incredible scholars who make Jackson Public Schools shine!

Howard University President Ben Vinson will suddenly step down as president August 31

By Lauren Burke
NNPA

In a surprising announcement, Howard University President Ben Vinson III, 55, will leave his position as Howard University's 18th President. Vinson's departure comes at a unusual time: The start of the academic year. "We understand that this news may be surprising to some, coming at the start of the academic year," said Leslie Hale, Howard University Board of Trustees chair, on a video posted on Howard University's website. A statement on Howard's website posted before the news of Vinson's departure reads, "As we stand on the threshold of this new academic year, I am filled with optimism and hope for what lies ahead. Let us continue to embrace the spirit of Howard University – a spirit that encourages us to push boundaries, seek justice, and strive for excellence in all that we do."

A campus-wide engagement tour is also posted on the President's page online. Though Vinson's departure happens at a moment when military National Guard troops have occupied Washington, DC, at the orders of President Trump, there is no indication at this time that Vinson's departure is related to DC being occupied by federal



Vinson

police and the military. Vinson became President of Howard only two years ago, September 1, 2023. In 2023, right before he began to lead Howard, Vinson told The Washington Post that, "all of us have been recognizing over the past several years an overall declining faith in the value of higher education. It's been under scrutiny. And so this is a time for all of our institutions to really rise to the moment. What that looks like is going to look quite different in

every particular institution."

Vinson is a former provost at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Former Howard President Wayne A.I. Frederick was selected by Howard's Board of Trustees to return as Howard University's president on an interim basis in ten days. "On behalf of the Howard University Board of Trustees, we extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Vinson for his service and leadership as president," said Hale, Chair of the Board of

Trustees, in a statement issued August 22. "As we move forward, the Board of Trustees and University leadership remain steadfast in our commitment to maintaining Howard's mission of excellence, truth, and service and a vibrant, welcoming, and innovative academic environment where students continue to succeed," added Hale. How long Frederick will remain as interim President of Howard is unknown.

Tougaloo College seeks new president amid faculty and alumni concerns

WittKieffer, a Chicago-based consulting and executive firm, is assisting in the search process

By Candice Wilder
Mississippi Today

Tougaloo College, the private historically Black institution located in north Jackson, is seeking its 15th president in the school's 156-year history. Donzell Lee, the current president, will remain in his role until June 2026.

In an email, Blondean Y. Davis, chair of the presidential search committee, told constituents last week that WittKieffer, a Chicago-based consulting and executive firm, will lead the process. The committee has also created a leadership profile outlining the qualities for a successful candidate.

Earlier this summer, the com-



Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., Tuesday, July 19, 2023. CREDIT: ERIC SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

mittee led community listening sessions for faculty, alumni, board of trustees and students. The college's next leader will be

expected to expand enrollment, help with financial sustainability and elevate the national profile, according to the job profile. Ap-

plications for the role will be accepted through Oct. 10.

Faculty and alumni have been dissatisfied with the school's leadership for years. In March, the college's faculty senate issued a series of no confidence votes for Lee, the office of the provost and registrar.

In a memo, faculty cited lack of communication from Lee as well as failing to acknowledge lingering concerns about provost Josiah Sampson III and registrar Pam England. The faculty senate voted no confidence in Sampson and England in May 2024. Lee was interim president of the university at the time.

In April, Lee told the Clarion

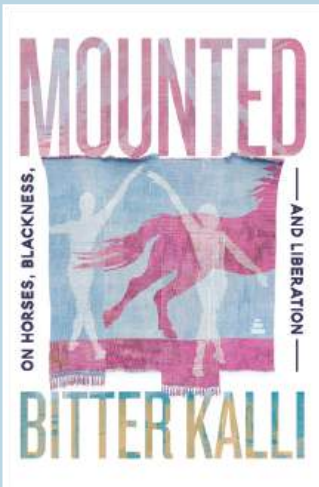
Ledger, the administration reviewed the concerns and worked toward "an appropriate path forward." It is unclear if issues were resolved.

In 2022, students voted no confidence in the leadership of Carmen Walters, the college's 14th president. That same year, a group called the Tougaloo College Alumni Coalition for Change created an online petition calling for Walters' removal that garnered more than 1,500 signatures.

The petition claimed the college had been without a full-time registrar for years. Faculty were leaving in a "mass exodus" and enrollment had fallen to its low-

est point in 40 years. Enrollment under Walter's tenure dropped to 713 students in Fall 2021, down by 8% from the previous year, Higher Ed drive cites. In Fall 2023, there were 725 students enrolled at the college according to federal data.

Founded in 1869, the college is recognized as an important institution in the Civil Rights Movement, serving as a refuge for activists and gathering space for organizers in Mississippi to plan sit-ins, protests and voter registration drives. The college currently serves roughly 600 students and offers more than 30 programs of study.



BOOK REVIEW:

MOUNTED: ON HORSES, BLACKNESS, AND LIBERATION

BY BITTER KALLI

C.2025, AMISTAD

\$22.00 • 192 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

One thousand, two hundred pounds and four legs.

Put that between your knees and you'll find out what real horsepower is. You're five feet off the ground, moving as fast as a car on a downtown street, hooves pounding as hard as your heart. Dangerous? Maybe. But as you'll see in "Mounted" by Bitter Kalli, your ancestors did it and so can you.

When they were a young child, "around the age of six or seven," someone gave Bitter

Kalli a set of "pony books," the kind that appeal to young girls, mostly white ones. Kalli wasn't entirely comfortable identifying as a girl then but they adored the books, in part because the stories featured the kinds of friendships and acceptance Kalli wanted. After devouring those stories, they begged their parents for riding lessons from a nearby Brooklyn stable.

Fast forward to 2014, when Kalli was seventeen years old, an experienced equestrian, a trans individual, and a protester at college. During that protest,

they watched the horses that carried the police, and wondered what those animals saw in the crowd.

For that matter, what did horses see throughout Black history?

In times of slavery, it was not uncommon for fleeing slaves to steal a horse or two to get away faster. Kalli shares heart-pounding tales of escape, sharing examples of how human chattel was often compared to that of equines in newspaper ads, as slaveholders mourned the latter loss much deeper than the former.

Many Americans are unaware of the rich contributions that African Americans made to the settling of the West. Kalli examines a popular movie, deconstructing it and adding real history to the Hollywood tale.

"What we know as the Wild West would not exist without the 182,000 enslaved people living in Texas in 1860..." they say.

Horses are featured in many of the world's religions. Horsery language lends itself to the erotic. Even, says Kalli, "Black and brown youth in Brooklyn" understood the appeal of a good-

looking Polo pony...

Take a good study of the cover of "Mounted." Appreciate the artwork, notice the design. Then add this book to your "Things I Never Really Thought About" list, because you'll think about it now. And you're going to want to read every delicious word.

Horses have been hiding in plain sight in Black history for centuries, but author Bitter Kalli pulls them to the forefront, turning each facet of the subject over for deeper examination and additional thought. Happily, you won't feel forced to do that;

their writing comes across like an invitation to a warm, intimate conversation, the kind you get while casually hanging out with a new group of friends on the patio. What you learn is highly intriguing, and you won't ever see horses in the same way again.

Beware that this book has one explicit chapter inside, but it fits the narrative and you won't mind. You'll be too busy enjoying what you read and wanting more. For horse lovers and history lovers alike, "Mounted" is the perfect ride.





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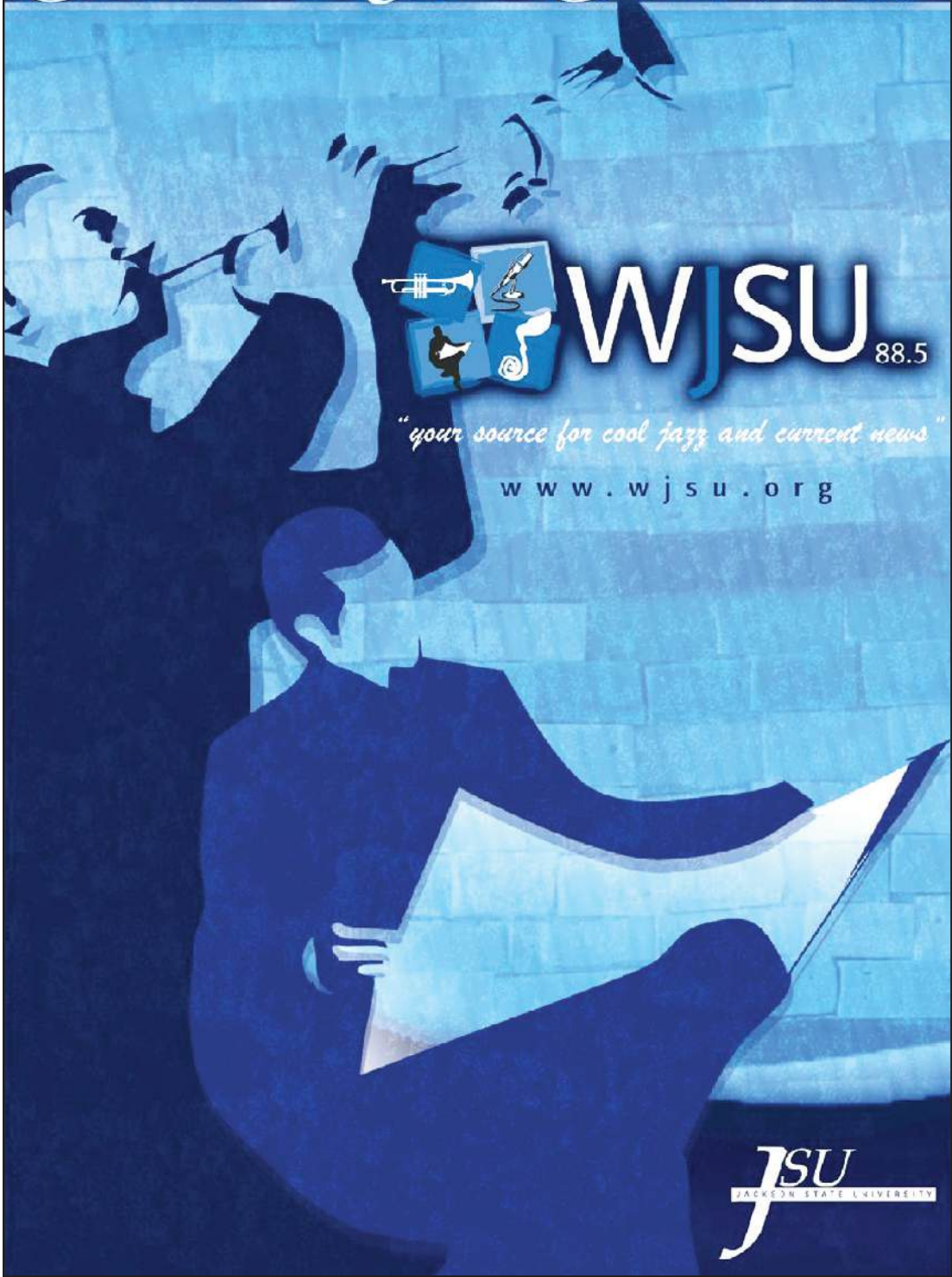
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Semi-pro Women's Hoops at Tougaloo College for a great cause

PHOTOS BY JAMES AND JACKIE HAMPTON

By James Hampton III
Contributing Writer

It was gameday Sunday, August 24th, as the Mississippi Queens took on the Midwest Sound in an exciting semi-professional women's basketball marquee matchup. Fans filed into the Kroger Gymnasium on the campus of Tougaloo College for 1:00 PM tip off. The game was part of a Stop the Violence, Start the Love event against domestic violence. Along with the good cause of the event impressed upon the audience by announcer Rob Jay, the crowd was also hyped-up to see some great hoop action. And they were not disappointed. The Mississippi Queens fans were out in force cheering on the home team. It was a hard-fought offensive battle in the first half with multiple lead changes. But thanks in large part to the mid-range and long-range sharp shooting of Midwest Sound standout Sonia Morris it was the away team that took a five-point lead into halftime.

Eva Jones, founder of Butterflies by Grace Defined by Faith a longstanding non-profit organization against domestic violence was honored at halftime in recognition of her ongoing efforts in that struggle. Ward 3 Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes presented her with a plaque at mid-court. Jones also received a bouquet of flowers and various other tokens while the audience took the time to

appreciate her and the significance of the afternoon's event before turning their attention back to the game.

It turned out that the game was a tale of two halves. The Midwest Sound played hard but energetic defense by the Mississippi Queens took its toll on their offensive continuity in the third quarter. The Queens were particularly spurred on by cat-quick defensive reflexes of guard Aja Williams and her relentless transition attacks to the basket. The home team took the lead in the middle of the third quarter and despite more hot shooting by the Sound's Sonia Morris in the fourth, the Mississippi Queens were able to grow that lead for a final score of 104 to 88. Mississippi grown WNBA and USA Basketball legend, Ruthie Bolton, suited up as a special guest player. She played just sparse minutes for the home team, but despite being a couple decades past her prime she was able to show she still had some game while competing with the plethora of young talent on the floor.

The concession stand gave away free hamburgers and hot dogs during the event. The Jacktown AllStar Band as Tougaloo's newly established band program partners were in the stands keeping the crowd rocking with great sounds during halftime and whenever there was a lull in the action. Overall, it was a great event for a great cause full of music, food, fun,



and exciting hoops action.



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Superintendent Dr. Mitchell Shears addresses Byram Chamber of Commerce meeting

The Byram Chamber of Commerce held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, welcoming Dr. Mitchell Shears, the newly appointed Superintendent of Hinds County Public Schools, as the guest speaker.

Shears expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to introduce himself to Chamber members and shared his enthusiasm for serving the Hinds County School District. He emphasized the importance of fostering a strong partnership between the school district and the local business community, encouraging collaboration to support student success.

Highlighting the value of community involvement, Shears invited Chamber members to engage with the district by sharing their success stories and offering internships to Hinds County students. These opportunities aim to provide students with real-world experience and better prepare them for future careers.

In appreciation of his time and inspiring vision for the district, Executive Director Linda Collins presented Shears with a personalized drinking tumbler as a token of thanks.

The Chamber looks forward to continued collaboration with Shears and the Hinds County School District to strengthen educational and business ties within the community.

